

Minutes



Corporation Board

Wednesday 26 March 2025 17:00-19:00

University Centre Rotherham seminar room U115/116

Membership:	Janet Pryke (interim Chair); Paul Lomas (Chair designate); Jason Austin (CEO); Katie Asgari (Staff Governor); Simon Ashton; Stephen Bulley; Margaret Cobb; Donna Clifford; Shirley Collier; Sally Gillborn; David Grimes; Debbie Marshall; Kay Mulcahy; Jack Pike; Fatima Sabir; Carol Stanfield; Ian Sutherland; Hayley Tingle; Louise Woodcock; Sohil Zokari
Attendance:	Tracey Mace-Akroyd (Deputy CEO); Phil Curtis (Executive Director Finance and Estates); Jane Hartog (Executive Director Marketing, HR and OD); Cath Mollart (Executive Director of Strategic Planning and Corporate Services); Sarah Connerty (Director of Governance and minutes)

1	Welcome, introductions and apologies The Chair welcomed colleagues to the meeting. Apologies received from Paul Lomas, Donna Clifford and Sally Gillborn. Fatima Sabir did not attend the meeting. Sohil Zokari was due to attend the first part of the Board but there were technical issues. David Grimes is on sabbatical.	
2	Declarations of interest There were no declarations received.	
3	Minutes of the meeting held on 11 December 2024. RESOLVED: The minutes of the meeting held on 11 December were agreed as a true and accurate record. RESOLVED: The minutes of the extraordinary meeting held on 5 March 2025 were agreed as a true and accurate record The following written resolutions were ratified: Loan reclassification – 16 December 2024 Governor sabbatical – 13 February 2025	
4	Matters arising Actions are completed or in progress as follows: ACTION 1 from the Student Governor Report – CLOSED: the Student Union, support for students and student voice has been included as a priority area in the Quality Improvement Plan. The Personal Development Programme for students was shared at the Quality and Standards Committee and is included in the papers. ACTION 2 – CLOSED: The Student Governor has focused on her studies and sport outside of college so introducing a programme of sport for girls through the Student Union is not being taken forward at present ACTION 8 – UPDATE: The Director of Quality and Academic Standards is working with Student Services to bring a HE student onto the HE Strategy and Focus Group for the next meeting in April ACTION 9 – UPDATE: Committee membership is being considered at the May 2025 Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee. ACTION: A further reminder will go out beforehand for any further expressions to move to another committee ACTION 2 from 22 October 2024 – a student award in memory of Jenny Worsdale is on the CEO report at item 9 ACTION 1 from October 2024 – a Health and Safety training session for governors is pending a new date from ED Finance and Estates. This was previously deferred to give time for the new interim H&S manager to get into post. The postholder has decided to move on to a different opportunity and the Exec are looking at how H&S will be delivered. The H&S policy is now completed and will come to the Board (see item 10.3.8).	Dir of Gov
5	Chair appointment The Board considered the paper and recommendation to approve the Chair designate as Chair and this was unanimously agreed. RESOLVED: The Board approved the appointment of Paul Lomas as Chair of the Board effective from 1 April 2025 for a two-year renewable term of office (of up to six years). The Chair noted that opportunities for a new Vice Chair to join Donna Clifford and a Chair of Finance and Resources Committee have been circulated for expressions of interest with a closing date of 1 April 2025.	
6	Student Governors open session The student governor (Jack Pike) reported that it has been a challenge to get the North Notts College (NNC) Student Union up and running. It has improved lately with a lot more support from the Group, but lack of activity from SU members at the start has delayed progress. It is	

	<p>now becoming a lot more functional and improvements including a student voice email are set up.</p> <p>The new facilities are really good at NNC and are being enjoyed by the students in hair and beauty and computing.</p> <p>The student governor reported that his next steps are to go to University at either Nottingham Trent or Lincoln. The careers advice was good and supportive and Jack gave two suggestions for improving this service. Careers advice being more integrated into the classroom would have been beneficial as a lot of the support was independent of the course. More support from day one within the class to provide support would prepare students better as careers advice started in year two and some students felt rushed.</p> <p>The staff governor asked if students knew where to go for help for completing UCAS forms and the student governor confirmed he did and went through the form tutors or careers advice.</p> <p>The DCEO reported that the HE focus and strategy group was looking at this and ways to change how HE careers advice is given as currently it is very FE orientated. There are ideas to bring in some external agencies to provide support to students. The student governor agreed that this would be beneficial to students as more support for the financial side and budgeting at university would help students to prepare for their next steps.</p> <p>[The student governor departed at 17.19]</p> <p>The Director of Governance noted that she had met with the student governors last week to discuss the Board papers and areas they would like to discuss with the Board.</p> <p>In the absence of Fatima Sabir, the Director of Governance updated on Fatima's work. The Student Union at NNC is well established and has been a positive experience with engagement from students. It was agreed that this could have supported the NNC Student Union. There are no new facilities at Dearne Valley College (DVC) and students are happy with the facilities they do have. Fatima has another year at college and is enjoying her experience and her course.</p> <p>Feedback around students' preparation for assessments is being passed back to the Group for follow up.</p>	
7	<p>Safeguarding and Prevent and Equality, Diversity and Inclusion</p> <p>The Committee received and noted the following reports and plans which had been presented by the Head of Safeguarding and Student Support and considered in detail at the recent Quality and Standards Committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safeguarding update report • Prevent Action Plan • Equality Diversity and Inclusion Report • Fairness, Respect, Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Engagement (FREDIE) action plan <p>The DCEO shared key updates including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There have been an increased number of referrals to the safeguarding team • A safeguarding concern at Dearne Valley campus went back to local police twice to have action taken and this was followed up • The team has heightened its work around knife crime in response to local and regional incidents, including a local school close to DVC that went into lockdown. This is a priority area for the Group • There is a focus on partnership working in around early years which has been developed by the DCEO and adopted by Rotherham Council. The sharing of information pilot has gone out to local heads. It was agreed this is a breakthrough for Rotherham and will 	

	<p>Following an internal audit on fraud there was a recommendation to include a fraud risk register and this is included in the papers.</p> <p>The Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee have been working on updating the governance risks on the register and these have been drafted by the Chair of the Finance and Resources and Audit and Risk Committee and Director of Governance, and agreed by the Committee and presented to the Audit and Risk Committee, and included in the papers.</p> <p>ACTION: One governor noted that there had been a discussion at the Audit and Risk Committee on whether to take the public status of colleges off the risk register as this is now a known and managed area of the Group's work and would support keeping the strategic risk register as short as possible.</p> <p>The Board agreed with the current risk register and additional fraud and governance risks and noted the plan to progress risk management reporting now that the 4risk system is up and running.</p>	ED Finance and Estates
9	<p>CEO and Principal report (see presentation for details)</p> <p>The CEO and Principal presented to the Board. Key points included:</p> <p>HE – the Group has met with Bassetlaw authority, is waiting for a contact with Nottingham Trent University, and has met with Sheffield Hallam University's Vice Chancellor to explore opportunities around HE. This is work in progress and the HE Strategy and Focus Group has clear actions to take forward.</p> <p>One governor asked for assurance that the HE provision is not a franchise and it was confirmed that the Group delivers provision which is accredited.</p> <p>IAG Matrix - the Group has recently had its Information, Advice and Guidance Matrix re accredited.</p> <p>Retford Educational Centre – the Group continues to look at exiting the provision. All parties are happy to agree and it is awaiting a letter from the Council. Governors asked if there are any students remaining at Retford. There are no FE learners and less than 20 school links. ACTION: The CEO and Principal confirmed that he would keep governors up to date on progress and will circulate the original documents and letter when received.</p> <p>One governor asked if the Group are subject to any other PFIs and it was confirmed it is not.</p> <p>Insights Discovery Leadership training – this has been well received by the management team and there is sharing of profiles between the Exec and SLT. ACTION: The Board has an action to look for a date for governors to complete the training when the new Chair is in role and this will be taken forward next month for a date in 2025-6.</p> <p>Jenny Worsdale award – the Exec has looked at the criteria for a student award in Jenny's memory. In line with Jenny's ethos and dedication to opportunities for everyone, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds, the award will be inclusive and open to all students who have overcome adversity and barriers. It was agreed it is encouraging that all students can apply for an award. The Board agreed with the award and criteria and considered their fiduciary duty in awarding an ongoing annual award of £250. It was agreed that as long as this is budgeted correctly by the ED Finance and Estates this would be a fitting tribute for Jenny and her family and a positive and rewarding experience for students.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved an ongoing annual student award of £250 in memory of Jenny Worsdale, governor and Chair of the Board</p>	<p>CEO</p> <p>Chair/ ED HR</p>

The award will be run along a similar line to the fees award.

Joint venture with Iprosurv – [confidential item]

The CEO and Principal reported that John Healey, the minister for defence had visited DVC last week and was very happy to support as the local MP if this is what the Group wants. **ACTION:** The Exec to continue discussions on how to take forward and report back to the Board

Application data - this is the first report of the year. Open days have been very busy and there are +191 on 16-18 study programmes compared with last year. There is a similar pattern to last year across the campuses with lower numbers at DVC which then recovered.

Based on conversion rates and historical data the Group is around 200 up from last year with a positive picture for 16-18s. There is capacity at sites both with existing classes and new classes. HE is only three down on last year.

An action from the last meeting was around market share and currently the Group's market share is where the Group should be as an anchor institution.

One governor asked where the colleges stand around demographics. Rotherham will reach its peak next year and NNC in 2028, although at NNC there is a lot of house building which may affect the catchment area.

Exec

Applications Summary – Year Comparison up to 24 March 2025

	Group 2025/26	Difference from 2024/25	DVC	NNC	RC
Application Type					
Study Programmes	3279	+191	531 (-9)	855 (+63)	1893 (+137)
Adults	226	-50	94 (+26)	68 (+14)	64 (- 90)
Higher Education	245	-3	76 (-24)	8 (-4)	161 (+25)
Part Time	649	-43	107 (-29)	71 (-61)	471 (+47)
Total	4399	103	808 (-36)	1002 (+12)	2589 (+119)

Annual Strategic Conversation – 10 March 2025 - the meeting went well. The Group were able to demonstrate engagement with strategic partners to meet local needs duty and how this is working in practice. There was a discussion about the new strategic plan and ensuring the right mix of provision to meet local, regional and national priorities and the Group's key strengths,

	<p>challenges and opportunities around estates and finance, and successes and innovative practices.</p> <p>A number of actions were suggested for the Group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implement the proposed 3-year plan for High Needs curriculum provision and identify specific KPIs to monitor 2. Keep DfE informed on the progress with the Dinnington Land disposal 3. Try to link the Accountability Statement with the first year of the new Strategic Plan 4. Provide DfE with details of any gap in the 2025/26 ASF funding as a result of Devolution 5. Identify good practice case studies for Apprenticeship provision (following the good progress made) 6. Consider NLG support for the newly appointed Chair of Governors <p>The Group were congratulated on the improvements on apprenticeships and have been asked to share experiences as a case study.</p> <p>ACTION: The Annual Strategic Conversation letter will be circulated to the Board when received.</p> <p>Annual accountability statement – the current statement is focused on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating a digital skills passport to bridge the gap between education and the skills employers need • Supporting Skills for Green jobs • Develop learners’ employability skills and work readiness • Introduce further T Levels across the Group from September 2024 (construction, engineering, business and finance, foundation level, health and science, childcare, digital) • Aligning and expanding Higher Technical Skills • Supporting young people who are not in education, employment or training <p>The Board considered the progress made and the areas that are working well, and further work required (see pages 17-19 of the presentation for details).</p> <p>The Board considered the South Yorkshire Collaborative Annual Accountability statement, agreeing that collaborative working across the SY colleges is positive for the colleges, employers and staff and students.</p> <p>John Healey visit – the local MP and Minister for Defence visited Dearne Valley College on the 18 March 2025 to meet with students and the visit was a great success with John spending a lot of time with students. There was a visit to the Esports course and one of the 8 F1 Williams racing simulators.</p> <p>Launch of Construction and Digital facilities at Rotherham College – will take place on Thursday 27 March 2025, 17.00-19.00 and all governors are warmly invited to attend in the Wentworth building. The mayor of South Yorkshire, Oliver Coppard, is in China, and another member of the South Yorkshire Combined Authority (SYMCA) will attend. The Deputy Lieutenant of South Yorkshire Mac McPherson will provide a welcome address alongside the Principal and CEO.</p>	<p>CEO/Dir of Gov</p>
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Business breakfasts – these are going well. Employers are coming along to a lot of events, including the Apprenticeship and Employer awards, and events are being reviewed to ensure employers are not overstretched and it is a good experience for all involved.

Inter college competition – RNN versus Grimsby - on Thursday 13 March the Group held its inter-college competition 'RNN v Grimsby'. Staff competed in 36 areas across the Group and ended the day with an amazing celebration at the Civic Theatre. RNN took the trophy winning 53 points.

There were fantastic skills demonstrated from students across the colleges.

Marginal gains – the SLT are taking responsibility for different areas of the Group to improve performance in the following areas:

- Foster open communications
- Prioritise staff wellbeing
- Positive student engagement
- Ensuring an inclusive and diverse environment
- Creating a positive 'College' environment

One governor noted the FE week article about the government discontinuing T levels and asked if there is any impact on the Group. The VP Curriculum is fully aware and the Group will continue this year and review the position. Areas of concern are digital, construction, hair and beauty and hospitality. There are some additional Level 3 quals which are funded and this has been added to the curriculum plan as alternative provision.

One governor noted the Get Britain working campaign and the changes with the new government and the lead taken from the DWP and the local authorities. A lot of work is happening in priority areas and it is a key area for the Group to keep an eye on.

The Group has been asked to submit a SYMCA construction skills boot camps bid by Thursday. The timing around government announcements and the opening of the construction and digital facilities is very good for the Group.

Finance update

- Growth funding indicative allocation £1.3m (£1m plus £0.3m for T-Levels) forecast £1.4m NIL for T-levels. The statement circulated was for colleges to receive only two thirds of their student numbers, but this has increased because of the higher level funding for T-levels
- 2025/26 DfE 16-19 allocation £30.6m. 2024/25 £26.4m excl Growth above.
- Employer national insurance grant forecast £100,000 - £160,000 April – July 2025 against a cost of £200,000 (£600,000 annual)
- Budget Grant Allocation (the share of the £50m) £250,000 - £300,000 April – July 2025
- Capital Allocations c£1m although DfE are unsure on method or exact amounts
- Chancellor has announced £600 million worth of investment to train up to 60,000 more skilled construction workers
- 2025/26 EMCCA ASF Allocation

The ED Finance and Estates had estimated very closely to what has been received.

	<p>One governor asked about allocations and the CEO and Principal confirmed that the SYMCA allocation is the same as last year. EMCCA will roll over 23-24 allocation but only fund the equivalent students from the region, which will mean the Group looking at a £1m compared to £2m. The ESFA have been asked for further details. It was noted that there are the costs of delivery so the figure will be less than £1m and it was agreed that there must be students from outside a combined authority.</p> <p>The Board agreed that there are some risks for next year which will require consideration. It was noted that curriculum planning is pushing back on Level 3 and that has been introduced in the next round to mitigate risk and there is a risk around the delivery of t-levels and clawback.</p> <p>The Chair thanked the CEO and Principal for the report.</p>	
10.1	<p>Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 22 January 2025</p> <p>The Board took the report as read.</p> <p>ACTION: One governor asked about the Board's oversight of stakeholder engagement and suggested that there is further work to do around governor involvement with stakeholders and holding the Exec to account in this area. Gateshead college was given as a good example of where this is done well.</p> <p>The DCEO reported that the governor links with areas, like CEIAG, has been really well received by staff who welcome the support, and agreed that further work can be done for stakeholder engagement. There are employer advisory boards which include key stakeholders and the focus is on the needs of our employers and stakeholders. This forms the intent and curriculum planning of the Group and this would be a good area for governors to have an insight into. At the last Quality and Standards Committee the Stakeholder Engagement Strategy came for discussion and further work is being done in time for the next Committee and Board and will fully include SYMCA and EMCCA.</p> <p>The Director of Governance noted that stakeholder engagement is an area for further work arising from the review of the AoC Code. At the next Search, Governance and Remuneration Committee there will be an item on areas for next year's Governance Improvement Plan and stakeholder engagement is included and is an area the new Chair is keen to focus on.</p> <p>Progress against the Governance Improvement Plan</p> <p>This is going well and all actions are expected to be completed by July 2025. Items for the Governance Improvement Plan for 2025-6 will be discussed at the May Committee to come to the June Board. There are areas of the AoC Code (stakeholder engagement, environment and sustainability and social responsibility matters, equity, diversity and inclusion) that the Committee would like further oversight and focus on.</p> <p>RNN Group Board Meeting Schedule 2025-6</p> <p>The Committee reviewed and agreed that the streamlining and reduction of meetings this year has worked well and the schedule follows the same cycle. It has been drafted in consultation with the Exec and Chairs.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the RNN Group Board Meeting schedule for 2025-6</p> <p>Board and Committee membership 2024-5</p>	<p>Chair/ CEO/ DCEO/ Dir of Gov</p>

	<p>The only changes to report since the last meeting are the sabbatical for David Grimes of up to a year from February 2025, and the upcoming changes with the Vice Chair and FRC Chair role.</p> <p>The Chair noted that work is continuing to streamline and improve Board and Committee papers.</p> <p>The Chair noted that there has been a real positive step change from last year around governor engagement in board development and training and visits to the colleges and engagement with staff and students.</p>	
10.2	<p>Audit and Risk Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 13 February 2025</p> <p>The Board took the report as read and the Chair of Audit and Risk Committee reported that a risk management session had been run by the Group's internal auditors, there had been a good session on risk management, and the position with 4risk and a more detailed risk management report will come to the next meeting, including dashboards.</p> <p>All governors are welcome to attend the next risk scrutiny session on civil unrest on the 15 May 2025.</p>	
10.3	<p>Finance and Resources Committee</p> <p>Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 5 March 2025</p> <p>The Board took the report as read including the finance summary, January 2025 management accounts, budget initial assumptions and gender pay gap report 2023-4 and Margaret Cobb (standing in for the Chair of FRC) reported that the adult skills framework of providers to deliver 16-18 apprenticeships has now gone out for procurement and work on apprenticeships is going very well.</p> <p>Policies:</p> <p>1. Capability Policy and Procedure</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the Capability Policy and Procedure noting that there are no major changes</p> <p>2. Treasury Management Policy</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the Treasury Management Policy noting that there are no major changes</p> <p>3. Reserves Policy</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the Reserves Policy noting that there are no major changes</p> <p>4. Health and Safety</p> <p>The ED Finance and Estates reported that the policy has been impact assessed this week and is ready for Board approval. As the policy is deferred from last year because of the changes in the H&S lead the Board asked if the preference is to have the policy in place as soon as possible for staff, or to wait until the next round of meetings. The ED Finance and Estates confirmed an early approval will be welcome, explained that there are no significant changes, and he will provide a summary of the changes to accompany the policy and resolution. ACTION: The ED Finance and Estates to send through the updated H&S policy and summary of changes and the Director of Governance to circulate as a written resolution.</p> <p>National Living Wage</p> <p>It was noted that the Committee had considered the position of staffing and pay scales and the impact of the NLW changes coming into force on the 1 April 2025. With the changes some staff will now be on the same salary scale as their managers/supervisors. The Committee had supported a shift of pay for a small number of staff at a cost of £39k while awaiting further</p>	ED Finance and Estates/ Dir of Gov

	<p>information on funding. This has now been received and the Board is asked to consider if the allocation could be widened to a further group of employees.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the recommendation, to put a degree of salary differentiation back into the salary scales, for junior roles (see paper for full details of scales and percentage increases). It was noted that the increase is based on a percentage increase, but this varies depending on the spine point. The rationale for this approach is that this will maintain a degree of differentiation next year.</p> <p>The Board agreed with the proposal to consider roles up to spine point 24 due to the two holiday schemes in place for support staff.</p> <p>Dinnington – the ED Finance and Estates reported that the site is now out with the market and there is good interest.</p> <p>One governor noted the benchmarking report in the Finance and Resources Committee pack and asked why the Group is not earning as much on apprenticeships compared to the data from other South Yorkshire colleges.</p> <p>The DCEO explained that this relates to the higher level and higher income apprenticeships. The Group made a decision because of staffing that it can only provide a certain number at a good standard. It is growing numbers elsewhere while establishing a firm and sustainable staffing base.</p> <p>There is one Level 7 apprenticeship running which will be offered as a commercial qualification if Level 7s are defunded. There are other providers and local competitors offering higher level apprenticeships which support the local area and there is no plan to compete with this.</p> <p>It was noted that the Finance and Resources Committee have agreed to advertise for a financially qualified co-opted governor to join the Committee alongside current financial experts.</p>	
10.4	<p>Quality and Standard Committee Chair's report of the meeting held on 11 March 2025</p> <p>The Board took the report as read and Carol Stanfield (standing in for the Chair of Q&S Committee), and the DCEO provided the following updates.</p> <p>Quality Improvement Plan and Risk Report</p> <p>The DCEO reported that there is a focus on the big hitting areas. There are a lot of action plans in place underneath the top risks which are managed and monitored by staff. Focused areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • English and maths • High Needs and EHCP provision. Personalised learning and skills plan are in place and a new project-based plan has been introduced from September focused on SEMH • Level 1 provision following a transition programme that had not been as effective as it could have been • Innovation and taking risks • The Student Union where really good progress has been made • Animal care and land-based provision <p>One governor asked what the biggest risks are and the DCEO confirmed these are E&M and animal care.</p> <p>In aviation and business there was a risk around staffing but the Group has now recruited. For wellbeing support progress is being made each month.</p>	

	<p>One governor asked if the plumbing apprenticeship is a risk area and the DCEO confirmed this is a risk area with the agency staff member no longer with the Group. NNC staff are currently supporting Rotherham College staff and HR recruitment are focused on recruiting a replacement.</p> <p>The DCEO noted that the risk report focuses on risks that emerge month by month.</p> <p>The Board noted the Higher Education strategy.</p> <p>The Board considered the HE Self-Assessment Document (HE SED). One governor noted the discussions on the HE SED at Q&S Committee and passed on thanks that the changes have been made that the Committee suggested.</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the HE Self-Assessment Document</p> <p>English and Maths Task and Finish Group terms of reference</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the English and Maths Task and Finish Group terms of reference</p> <p>Student Union Constitution</p> <p>RESOLVED: The Board approved the Student Union Constitution</p>	
10.5	<p>Capital Projects Steering Group postponed from 27 February 2025</p> <p>The ED Finance and Estates reported that the meeting was postponed while the final invoices were closed down. All invoices are now in and as of Monday have been submitted. The final CPSG meeting to sign off the project can now be arranged and a suitable date will be circulated.</p>	ED Finance and Estates/
11	<p>National Fluid Power Centre (NFPC) minutes 12 March 2025</p> <p>The Board noted the minutes and the CEO and Principal provided an update on key items. Business levels and demands for the Centre's services continues to grow and the Centre is established as the key training provider for many large national and international companies. The Business and Strategic Plan for 2025-6 was discussed at the last meeting and there are three priorities – 1-space, 2-staffing, 3-more rigs. A meeting is taking place with John Savage tomorrow to look at opportunities.</p> <p>The Board supported an increase to staff salaries to bring them more in line with the market and the Centre is working with the Group's finance and HR teams to take forward.</p>	
12	<p>Governor link visits and engagement</p> <p>The Chair thanked governors for all the time engaging in activities outside the board room, and noted that this is an opportunity for governors to informally share their experiences of link visits, learning walks, college meetings and events.</p> <p>The link governor for safeguarding and SEND noted that he had visited DVC and NNC and been on learning walks around animal care and English and maths. There had been opportunities to speak to students and staff at DVC. At NNC there are some really good facilities and the opportunity to meet with childcare students and hear about their placements.</p> <p>Today there had been a SEND link visit and the opportunity to meet with the team and students. Students had shared their journey and how they joined with low confidence and are thriving at the college. The three year plan for EHCP students is a great system and reassuring for governors to know that this provision is well planned to support vulnerable students. The</p>	

	<p>experience of staff in this area is excellent and there is a positivity about Level 1 provision and SEND.</p> <p>The link governor will be doing more work and visits over the coming months with the Head of Safeguarding and Student Support.</p> <p>The newly appointed link governor for Health and Safety and Environment and Sustainability is in discussions with the ED Finance and Estates to join the colleges' H&S committees, walk around, and speak to students and staff to get a perspective and understanding of these key areas. This will be particularly important with the current absence of a lead on H&S following the resignation of the current lead.</p> <p>The link governor for adult contracts, apprenticeships and member of the E&M task and finish group reported that she meets with the Director of Adult Contracts and Estates and the Director of Business Development and Apprenticeships and has joined a meeting with employers/subcontractors. The work that has been done to raise standards and numbers has been brilliant and there is assurance that the leads have are focused and have an eye on the ball.</p> <p>The Chair noted that the Director of Adult Contracts and E&M had represented the Group very well at the recent Annual Strategic Conversation.</p> <p>The link governor for Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) noted her new commitment to be more present. The Group has a commitment to provide CEIAG to over 11000 students which is a very big ask. The link governor meets with the VP Curriculum and his team and has been looking at AI and jobs for the future. She highlighted the importance of employer academies and had a useful conversation with the Director of Business Development and Apprenticeships on the Group's Skills Academy and Employer Academy for every area and the intent, implementation and impact at every stage. This is a rich scene to be exploring for the Group and governors and there is a growing list of managers studying the Leadership and Governance Level 7. ACTION: A Board development session on employer academies to be organised</p> <p>It was agreed this a good opportunity for governors to feedback on their insights and opportunities to meet with staff and students.</p>	Dir of Gov
13	<p>Any other business</p> <p>No items raised.</p> <p>The CEO and Principal and Chair reminded governors that tomorrow is the launch of the construction and digital facilities at Rotherham College and all governors are warmly invited to attend.</p> <p>The CEO and Principal noted that the Exec are currently reviewing the Senior Leadership Team structures. Currently there are two SLT plus one role – the VP Curriculum and the Director of Marketing and Learner Recruitment. A further role is being considered to meet the government priority agenda on skills and the shifting priorities in the sector. [confidential item] ACTION: Details will come to the Board as the Exec discuss further.</p> <p>The Director of Governance noted that she and Shirley Collier have been asked for support around governance from managers on the Level 7 leadership and governance course. The triumvirate agreed that the opportunity to observe a committee would be offered to managers in agreement with the Committee Chair and this has been well received.</p>	CEO

	<p>The Director of Governance passed on thanks to governors for all the additional visits and activities to the colleges which is well received by staff and students, and for the training being completed.</p> <p>The Board thanked Janet Pryke for stepping into the role of interim Chair at a difficult time for the Board and for leading the process for the appointment of a new Chair. Paul Lomas will join as Chair from 1 April 2025 and all agencies will be informed.</p>	
14	<p>Date of next meetings: Wednesday 25 June 2025, 17.00-19.00 in person.</p> <p>The Chair asked governors for thoughts on where to hold the next meeting. Governors agreed that subject to a suitable room they would like to visit NNC.</p>	

Meeting closed: 18:50