



QUALITY OVERSIGHT GROUP: 11th MAY 2023

TELEPHONE CONFERENCE MINUTES

PRESENT	Anthony Smith (Chair), Nana Brew, Mark Isherwood, Asfa Sohail (for items 1-3), Nicole Morgan, Angela Herbert
IN ATTENDANCE	Pablo Lloyd, Kurt Hintz, David Dangana, Jackie Chapman, Graham Drummond (Clerk), Stewart Cross, Jonathan Silman (items 1-3), Adam Beral (items 1-3)
APOLOGIES	Amelia Sussman, Simon Horne, Susan Benhene, Chanel Crooks

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| 1. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 29th MARCH 2023 | Action |
| The minutes of the previous meeting were accepted as an accurate record. | |

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| 2. MATTERS ARISING |
| All matters arising had been actioned or were included within the agenda. |

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| 3. CURRICULUM AREA UPDATES |
| The Executive Principal introduced this item by explaining that as part of the curriculum strategy centres of excellence have and are being developed across all three colleges. There are four GLA sponsored skills academies in Green Skills, Digital, Creative (Film & TV) and Hospitality the details of which had been presented to the committee at its previous meeting. The Group also has skills academies in welding, construction and accountancy. Details of two further centres of excellence, the Centre for Applied Science and the Sports Academies had been included within the papers for the meeting. |

Centre for Applied Science

Adam Beral (Deputy Director of Centre for Applied Science) presented key aspects of the approach that had been taken to develop the centre. The following was noted:

- The total number of students enrolled at the centre has increased from 800 five years ago to 1200 (of which around 200 are adults), and there are plans for further growth over the next five years;
- The centre offers a variety full time courses for 16-18 students and adults, alongside short courses for adults and has a strong track record in helping employers meet the skills gaps in science related employment markets. For example the centre will be offering a T level in Laboratory Science from September onwards which has been developed in partnership with the Francis Crick Institute and NHS trusts;
- The centre's curriculum offer has been refreshed and rebranded into the following areas:
 - Animal Academy
 - Science Academy
 - Medical Academy
 - Health Academy
 - Engineering Academy
 - Crime Academy
 - Access and HE Academy

The chair invited members to ask questions and the following was further noted:

- As T levels become the first choice vocational qualification, level 3 diplomas such as the BTEC in Applied Science will be come defunded and will not be offered;
- There are opportunities to develop further courses at level 4 and above, particularly degree apprenticeships;
- In response to a question as to whether there is sufficient employer demand for students to progress into forensic science roles it was noted that the skills developed as part of crime scene investigation courses are transferrable to other science related employment opportunities and students are made aware of alternative employment options before and during the course;

- In response to a question about whether there were challenges with respect to recruiting and retaining staff with the correct skills it was noted the centre is fortunate to have a number of highly committed teachers who are dual professionals and have strong links with the relevant industry. The staff development policy also allows teaching staff to develop their industry relevant skills so that they keep up to date with professional practice;
- In response to a question as to whether students from a diverse background are sufficiently prepared for the challenges that they might face during a career within the police force and the NHS, it was agreed to consider this issue outside of this meeting;
- The centre's leadership team monitor and review its short course offer to ensure that it remains relevant and that there are full time progression route opportunities.

AB/AH

Sports Academies

Jonathan Silman (Deputy Director of Centre for Applied Science) gave a presentation on the key aspects of CCCG's sports academies. The following was noted:

- There are currently academies in the following sports:
 - Football
 - Basketball
 - Athletics
 - Volleyball
 - Netball
 - Esports
 - Martial Arts
- The Group's male football team competes in the category 1 AoC championship, for which 6 players have semi-professional status through Enfield Borough. This has generated considerable interest and profile;
- The male basketball team recently won the category 1 AoC gold;
- This has been the first year of the Netball academy and already the London regional championship was won by CCCG;
- All academies compete in AoC league tables and collectively CCCG are in the top 10 sporting colleges;
- Cross college tournaments within the group also take place. There is considerable opportunity for growth and further expansion of sporting opportunities;
- Included within the presentation was data showing that students who participate within the academies demonstrate strong retention and achievement outcomes for their courses;
- There are 8 students who are benefitting from the Talented Athlete Scholarship Scheme which have meant that they have gained scholarships at University either in the UK or America;

The chair invited members to ask questions and the following was further noted:

- The Group has links with a number of football clubs e.g. West Ham, however links with lower league clubs through a semi-professional route have traditionally been more helpful to the development of players;
- CCCG is looking to further develop its links with Basketball clubs e.g. with the London Lions and EA Sports;
- The Group's facilities e.g. at Enfield (which has a 3G pitch) are used by local community and youth groups and has a high utilisation rate (78%).

4. ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

There is a requirement that an accountability statement is submitted to the DfE by the end of May. The statement should make clear how the College contributes to national, regional and local skills priorities. The following as noted:

- Included within the statement are 8 objectives which are based on CCCG's curriculum strategy;

It was agreed to recommend to the Board that the accountability statement is approved for submission to the DfE.

5. QUALITY UPDATE

A report was considered and received. The following as noted:

- All age attendance is at 87.5% and retention is at 95.3% which is above the previous year's level and in line with expectations;
- Quality assurance processes are currently being conducted by awarding bodies;

- A forthcoming professional development day will be looking at the impact of AI on teaching, learning and assessment;
- Details of quality assurance checks that have taken place on teaching and learning which is provided through subcontracted arrangements were included within the report and provided within appendix 3. It was noted that one sub-contractor had not met the Group's quality assurance requirements and would therefore no longer be used;
- Due to the pandemic, students in year 13 did not sit GCSE exams and therefore levels of anxiety are high amongst this year group. There has been an increased amount of exam preparation to mitigate this anxiety.

The committee expressed considerable concern that the number of applications were down as compared to the previous year. The following was noted:

- Applications count for about a third of conversions to enrolments, with internal progressions and 'walk-ins' accounting for the remaining two thirds. It was further noted that internal progressions are strong;
- The fall in 16-18 recruitment in this year has also been experienced by other London colleges and college groups, as schools have become more successful in retaining students in their own sixth forms;
- The amount of school liaison work has increased, as this has most impact on influencing the course choice made by pupils in year 11;
- Whilst there is considerable marketing activity which is taking place to mitigate the fall in the number of applications, the Group is targeting a stable level of recruitment as compared to this year.

It was agreed that where possible and without additional amounts of work for senior staff, data would be provided within respect to diversity.

It was noted that the next meeting will take place on Thursday 22nd June at 5:00pm