

STRATFORD-UPON-AVON COLLEGE CORPORATION

MINUTES OF STANDARDS & PERFORMANCE MONITORING COMMITTEE THURSDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT:	Jeremy Moore	Committee Chair
	Julia Morris	Governor
	Andy Tyers	Teaching Staff Governor
In attendance :	Charles Anderson	Deputy Principal
	David Jackson	Clerk to Corporation
	Hazel Skwirzynska	Vice Principal Corporate Services

1. WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS / APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Martin Penny.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members were invited to declare any interest in business to be discussed at the meeting, following which Julia Morris reminded members that she was Head of Kington High School.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 8 July 2010 be regarded as correct and signed by the Committee Chair.

4. MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising identified for this meeting.

5. COLLEGE SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT FOR 2009/10

Charles Anderson, Deputy Principal, presented the draft College Self Assessment Report for 2009/10 as it currently existed. He started by outlining the process that had been followed to prepare the plan including the internal validations. He pointed out that this year there had been no external validations.

The Chair commented that in his view the plan was well structured with good diagrams and recognised that there were some formatting issues at this point. The Deputy Principal then went on to comment particularly on success rates which had fallen from 82% to 74% at this point in time and indicated that there was a fairly consistent picture of decline across most area of College provision with the exception of Employer Responsive provision which continues to improve. He felt that the fall in success rates would mean that the College would have more Grade 3 provision when it had been hoped to reverse this trend. He then outlined the likely grades for each of the areas. Mathematics remains a cause for concern and by itself would have been graded Grade 4. Extensive work is going on with the Maths lecturers and he outlined to the committee the actions currently being taken. The problem for Stratford is felt to be no different to other Colleges in the country.

The Deputy Principal then explained and discussed with the Committee in depth the various strategies and actions being taken to halt and reverse the trend. Consultants are now working with the staff in the hope of raising standards. The Committee then went on to look at the trends over the last three years and discussed the possible impact on learners from the Restructuring and Redundancy Programmes of the previous two years. The Chair commented that the Learner Conference had been very positive and this was supported by Head of Learner Services, whereas last year the feeling had not been at all positive. The Deputy Principal went on to say that the message from Managers this year was all about student success as opposed to financial issues. The Committee expressed some regret that they had not identified the potential for a fall in success rates. The Deputy Principal indicated that the College Management had thought that due to changes around data gathering there would have been a 2% fall nationwide with the removal of non-funded courses. Although these students

have been removed from the data the Committee recognise the significant achievements in HE and international students.

The Committee then went onto explore other aspects of the report particularly around equality and diversity and the new arrangements for gathering student opinions, both in terms of the proposed Learner Conferences in 2010/11 and the observers talking to students as part of the lesson observation process. The Committee expressed its thanks to the Deputy Principal and all those involved in the preparation of the report. After further discussion

It was resolved **THAT:**

- a) The Self-Assessment Report be endorsed by the Standards committee and recommended to the Corporation with the inclusion of an introductory paragraph around success rates and what College management are doing about it;
- b) A copy of the final Self Assessment Report be forwarded to the Chair of the Committee before the meeting of the Corporation.

6. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was resolved **THAT:**

The Committee meet again on **Thursday 2 December 2010 at 8.30am.**

Signed :(Committee Chair)