

The Manchester College Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 2nd July at 10:04am via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Jenifer Burden MBE, Justice Ellis, Mark Fletcher, Catherine Hill OBE, Philip Johnson, Lisa O'Loughlin (Principal) and Pauline Waterhouse OBE (Chair).

Apologies: Cllr John Hacking and Nikaeya Ridyard.

In Attendance: Barry Atkins (Vice Principal – FE Curriculum), Amy Avery (Assistant Company Secretary and Solicitor), Rachel Curry (Deputy Principal), John Evans (Vice Principal - Quality and Standards), Jennifer Foote MBE (General Counsel & Company Secretary), Christine Kenyon (Deputy Principal), Debbie Sanderson (Divisional Finance Director - College and Income Team), Marie Stock (Vice Principal – Student Experience and Support) and Michael Walsh (Vice Principal and Dean - HE and Higher Skills).

Andrew Hulme (Director of Special Educational Needs and Disability) and Annette McCone (Director of Learning Support) for Minute No. 20/21 only.

No declaration of interests were received.

The Board expressed its thanks to John Evans for the College's significant improvements in quality over the past 7-8 years, as this was his last meeting in his role as VP – Quality & Standards, following which he would continue to assist the College on a part-time basis.

Part A

14/21	<p>Part A minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2021</p> <p>The Part A minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2021 were received, approved as a correct record, to be signed by the Chair in electronic form.</p>
15/21	<p>Nomination of Chair</p> <p>It was agreed to nominate Pauline Waterhouse OBE for the position of Chair for 2021-22.</p>

16/21

QIP 2020-21 progress update

The Board received an overview of the improvement priorities articulated in the TMC QIP for 2020-21. The annual review of the progress made, as at mid-June 2021, was tracked against the 17 Areas for Improvement (Afls) to illustrate historic progress towards the objectives and targets.

The good progress in relation to the below Afls, which were RAG rated green, were noted positively:

- **Afl 1:** *Teachers' confidence and ability in providing online and other remote forms of teaching, learning and assessment and managing independent study due to the extensive provision of training and support continuously since March 2020.*
- **Afl 14:** *The development of leadership of learning skills, an unplanned for consequence of the pandemic and the need it created for managers to quickly develop their ability to adapt and regularly adjust their curriculum delivery models, work experience planning and approaches to aspects such as safeguarding and school liaison work.*
- **Afl 16:** *Keeping the estates strategy securely on track to successfully address the severe disadvantages of the large number and current configuration of campuses.*

It was understood that progress in most of the areas (set out below) were RAG rated amber. The context was explained to Members that this was partly due to the impact of Covid on teaching, learning, assessment and management priorities and because some areas required longer for the improvements to be fully embedded:

- **Afl 2:** *developing teachers' abilities in using metacognition.*
- **Afl 4:** *improving assessment feedback and target setting in specific curriculum areas.*
- **Afl 6:** *proportion of students achieving high grades.*
- **Afl 8:** *student attendance and punctuality.*
- **Afl 12:** *improvement of the granularity and reliability of intelligence about students' destinations over time at curriculum area level to better inform managers' evaluation of the effectiveness of their curriculum.*
- **Afl 13:** *continued development of the role of the individual performance review (appraisal) process.*

The meeting was pleased that none of the Afls were RAG rated red due to progress being made in relation to all the Afls.

In response to a query, it was clarified that the pandemic had prevented the College from being able to address some of the Afls as quickly as it would have liked. The Board was assured that the College's plan was still on track to achieve the necessary advancements in quality required to achieve a Grade 1 (outstanding). The position that teams had progressed more quickly than was expected in 2020-21 was noted positively.

	<p>It was articulated that another positive was the tangible upward trajectory in relation to high needs destinations, despite management being considerably distracted by the pandemic. However, the biggest disappointment was highlighted as the progress made in relation to high grades.</p> <p>It was understood that most of the AfIs would be carried over to 2021-22.</p> <p>The most challenging AfIs that remained were attendance in all subjects and campuses; the critical roles relating to the new framework; increasing high grades; and ensuring that destinations informed curriculum planning.</p> <p>The meeting debated the challenges caused by the school inflated assessments, which had resulted in a national problem for colleges, both in 2020-21 and in 2021-22. It was flagged that after the College's student assessment, some learners might be better suited to studying a L1 (as opposed to a L2) course. The Board was assured there was a plan in place to address the issue.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding the need to reduce the substantial administrative burden on the teaching and curriculum staff, the Board was assured that a project was underway to streamline systems. This was starting to relieve the problem and it was anticipated that from January 2022 it would ameliorate the issue more fully.</p> <p>The Chair noted that although the QIP did not specifically mention culture, it was transparent throughout the QIP that the College's culture was shifting in the right direction. This was critical to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Positive and energetic teams and leaders were now in place to make the progressive changes for the College to succeed in its improvement journey.</p>
	<p>RESOLVED that as the items to be considered are deemed commercially sensitive, the Board moved into confidential session.</p>
	<p>----- Chair</p> <p>----- Date</p>

The meeting closed at 12:45pm