

The Manchester College Board

Minutes of the meeting held on 14th May 2021 at 9:30am via Microsoft Teams.

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

Apology: Nikaeya Ridyard

In Attendance: Barry Atkins (Vice Principal – FE Curriculum), Rachel Curry (Deputy Principal), Katy Elliott (Assistant Company Secretary & Legal Officer), 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).

No declaration of interests were received.

Part A

05/21	<p>Part A minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2021</p> <p>The Part A minutes of the meeting held on 5 February 2021 were received, approved as a correct record, to be signed by the Chair in electronic form.</p>
06/21	<p>Curriculum Strategy</p> <p>The Principal provided an overview of the curriculum strategy to the Board. Key areas highlighted included ensuring growth for learners, support for employers as linked to the industrial strategy for Manchester and providing a timeline for key strategies and projects.</p> <p>Key aims were to invest in people, partnerships, estates and quality whilst remaining competitive.</p> <p>In response to a query regarding the curriculum strategy and the FE white paper, the Principal confirmed the college was in a strong position to respond to the potential FE reform agenda. The ESFA had provided positive feedback on the direction of travel and the Board was confident that the offer proposed, particularly with its focus on T levels, would be highly reflective of the needs of the community in the future.</p>

Building Industry Excellence

The Board reflected on the current position in the second half of the resilience financial model and explored the student journey timeline. The Board was presented with the delivery plan for the Centre of Excellence Manchester and the Industry Excellence Academy Manchester. From September 2021, T-Levels would be offered in construction, computing and digital marketing, education and childcare and health and science.

The focus was now on realigning curriculum departments for the best chance of success in addressing QIPs and moving to Grade 1. The curriculum elements were now established, and the Board explored the next steps in the following areas:

- Study programme
- Transition
- T Levels
- Other
- Adult

The Board challenged the team to provide further information on the progression routes between FE and HE, in particular how this would operate between TMC and UCEN Manchester. It was accepted that a co-ordinated approach was necessary to drive a seamless response to learner need at L4/5. A report would be presented to a future meeting on internal progression.

In response to a query, it was confirmed that employers had started to re-engage. The college had worked hard to secure extended work placements with a view to building on the credibility already achieved. This had been recognised and the college's reputation for work readiness and employer engagement would benefit from further planned investment in this.

QIP

The Board were presented with the QIP update. The meeting focused on the six Areas for Improvement (Afi) centred on: the provision for students with high needs and learning support needs in mainstream provision, student attendance and punctuality, student destinations, appraisal and leadership of learning.

The team had demonstrated success in achieving and sustaining improvements in teaching and learning and were confident meeting EIF expectations in respect of curriculum delivery (implementation). Deficiencies which emerged in tutorials, enrichment and learner voice were highlighted as relatively straightforward to improve. Achievement gaps were very closely monitored and high grade achievement, including in GCSE English and maths, were on an upward trajectory.

Journey to outstanding

The Board reviewed the six AFI's below in great depth and explored the current position to projected future position:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Afl 3: Teachers’ planning and management of learning within lessons which included students with high needed to take full account of information recorded in students’ EHC plans and their personal objectives and contribute more to those students developing the skills needed for adult life rather than focusing too narrowly on the qualification. This would also need the support of a reliable process to monitor, measure and evidence progress in developing those attitudes, behaviours and skills that prepared learners for work and adult life. • Afl 8: Continued improvement in students’ attendance and punctuality • Afl 12: Continued improvement in 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 and its contribution to improving standards and the student experience. • Afls 14 & 15: Leadership of Learning <p>Leadership of Learning</p> <p>In respect of Afl 14 and Afl 15 (leadership of learning), the Board explored the barriers faced by curriculum managers and which challenged them to be true leaders. The meeting noted current ways of working and administrative burdens that could be alleviated by systems and process improvement.</p> <p>A matrix of improvement measures had been invested in, including a core development programme led by FE Associates, individual development provided by Xenonex, action learning sets and inspirational training days.</p> <p>After discussion the Board asked to see a report which reflected the impact of online attendance in comparison to face to face when covid restrictions lifted as anticipated later in the year.</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 12:06pm