

**MINUTES OF THE LEARNER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE
HELD ON 8 DECEMBER 2011 at 17.30**

Present:	Ian Sinker	Chair
	Helen Clayson	External
	Margaret Burrow	External
	Phillip Johnson	Staff
In Attendance:	Mark Nicholson,	Deputy Principal - Curriculum & Quality (C&Q)
	Zee Walker	
	Gareth Catterson	Clerk to the Corporation

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

L/12/01 None

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

L/12/02 The Chair reminded governors of the requirement to declare their interests in any agenda items. For any such declaration Governors would not be eligible to speak or to vote on the matters under discussion.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 14 JUNE 2011

L/12/03 **Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th July 2011 be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

L/12/04 With respect to the Actions from the last meeting:

- The Deputy Principal reported that 50% of BEng (hons) students had achieved 1st Class Degrees. The major reason for the high percentage was the maturity and experience of the students concerned.

SELF ASSESSMENT REPORT (SAR)

L/12/05 The Deputy Principal (C&Q) informed the Committee that the College self assessment process was continuous and based around continued review of performance across the college at both curriculum area and support unit level. It was a summary of judgments that the college had made of itself over the 2010-11 academic year. Since the college had been inspected by Ofsted in 2010-11, the

judgements contained within the inspection report had been included in the development of the report.

- L/12/06 Overall college success rates during 2010-11 had fallen by 0.4% but were not significantly different from 2009-10 and which were at the 75th percentile of results for similar colleges. Long course success rates had improved from 77% to 78% in 2010-11 with a significant improvement in 16-18 long course success rates on the previous year. It was expected that the long course success rate will be at the 75th percentile for similar colleges.
- L/12/07 When judged against Socio Economic Performance Indicators (SEPI) 16-18 success rates were significantly above the national for learners from similar backgrounds and could now be judged as outstanding. Timely success rates on apprenticeship programmes had improved from 63% to 74% between 2009-10 and 2010-11 and were now significantly above the national rate.
- L/12/08 The main area for improvement in the college is the 19+ retention rate which was below the national rate and had declined between 2009-10 and 2010-1.
- L/12/09 The Deputy Principal outlined the areas for development as:
- Success rates on foundation programmes.
 - Work Based Learning (WBL) timely success rates.
 - Increase proportion of good and outstanding lessons (not one college was awarded outstanding for teaching and learning by Ofsted in 2010/11).
 - Emphasis on challenging all learners to reach higher standards and on checking their understanding.
 - The quality of assignment briefs, grade criteria, marking and feedback
 - The quality and relevance of learners' targets in their Individual Learning Programmes (ILPs).
 - The quality of self-assessment.
 - A summary of overall performance at college level and at curriculum area level.
- L/12/10 The Committee expressed the view that the Report was good when considered against the background of what had been happening locally. Whilst the College was below the national rate for retention rate for 19+ there was an expectation that the gap would close this year as a result of changes being made.
- L/12/11 In answer to a question regarding timely success rates, the Deputy Principal (C&Q) informed the Committee improvements were due to restructuring, attention to detail, more rigorous target setting, and the appointment of lead assessors.
- L/12/12 The Committee asked for a general update about the threat of UTCs and were informed that the College had sought advice and whilst there may be an opportunity in the West of Cumbria it would be more likely to threaten Lakes

College than Furness College as it was expected that the Academy would probably be deemed to be filling this role.

L/12/13 **Resolved** that the SAR be **recommended** to the Board for approval.

COLLEGE PERFORMANCE (RETENTION, ACHIEVEMENT AND ATTENDANCE) 2010/11 VS TARGETS FOR 2011/12

L/12/14 The Deputy Principal (C&Q) explained his methodology for the suggested targets as follows:

- College < national average - national average is target
- national average < College < 75 percentile - 75 percentile is target
- 75 percentile < College < 90 percentile - 90 percentile is target

L/12/14 The Committee discussed the suggested targets and after further questioning agreed that they were both challenging and realistic whilst also being simple and direct.

L/12/15 **Resolved** that the College Performance Targets for 2011/12 be **recommended** to the Board for approval.

REVIEW OF CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

L/12/16 The Clerk considered that there were no confidential items.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING - 22 February 2012 at 17.30

Minutes approved:

Signed _____ Ian Sinker, Chair of Learner Experience

Date _____

Subject to Amendments / No Amendments

FURNESS COLLEGE – LEARNER EXPERIENCE COMMITTEE – 11 JUNE 2011

ACTION	Ref MINUTE	WHO	BY WHEN