

MINUTES OF FULL CORPORATION MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY 08 SEPTEMBER 2022 – 14:00HRS VIA TEAMS & CREWE CAMPUS

Governors in attendance in person or via Teams as stated:

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Dame Pat Bacon	(PB)	Chair of Governors	Crewe
Mr Fintan Bradley	(FB)	Chair of Audit & Risk Committee	Crewe
Mr Mike Braun	(MB)	Associate Governor	via Teams
Mrs Debbie Bryce	(DB)		via Teams
Mr Len Closs	(LC)	Chair of the Management & Performance Committee	Crewe
Mr Paul Colman	(PC)	Associate Governor	via Teams
Mr Jasbir Dhesi	(JSD)	Principal/CEO	Crewe
Ms Isla Douglas	(ID)	FE Student Governor	via Teams
Mr Jerry Green	(JG)		Crewe
Mr Shane Guildford	(SG)	Academic Staff Governor	Crewe
Mrs Sue Harrison	(SHar)		Crewe
Mr Sean Herbert	(SHer)	Non-Academic Staff Governor	Crewe
Mr John Kiely	(JK)	Chair Elect – Finance & Resources Committee	Crewe
Mr Davinder Lotay	(DSL)		Crewe
Mrs Carleen Osborne	(CO)	Associate Governor	via Teams
Mr Clive Roberts	(CR)	Associate Governor	Crewe
In attendance:			
Mrs Michelle Huntley	(Clerk)	Clerk to the Board	Crewe
Mr Gareth Jones	(GJ)	Chief Financial Officer	Crewe
Mr Chris Baggs	(CB)	Director of Learning & Learner Services – Items 01& 02	Crewe
Mrs Nim Mistry-Miah	(NMM)	Assistant Principal – Learner Services – Items 01 & 02	Crewe
Mr James Eagney	(JE)	Assistant Principal Quality, Foundation English & Maths - Item 03, 04 and 05	Crewe
Mrs Jordan Swift	(JS)	Director of Marketing & School Partnerships – Item 04	via Teams

PART A MINUTES

Minute Reference				
FC 30/22	Governor Training: Safeguarding including Prevent			
	The Chair welcomed all attendees and noted that the meeting was starting with a training session on safeguarding delivered by Mrs Nimisha Mistry-Miah and Mr Chris Baggs.			
	 This is an annual safeguarding update for governors. Keeping Children Safe in Education (2022) (KCSiE) – Part 1, will be issued to all staff and governors w/c 12 Sept to be read and signature required to confirm understanding. Ofsted monitor the awareness of staff and governors via this record. Governors noted the updated definition of safeguarding, the main categories of abuse and the list of national legislation and statutory guidance. The College falls within the remit of two main local boards: Cheshire East and Cheshire West and C Baggs sits on both. Governors noted the key changes in KCSiE 2022, and the responsibility of all staff to be aware of the requirements to protect all children. 			

- The definition of child abuse has been updated; changes have been made to both sexual and sexual harassment categories.
- The College will build training/awareness of learners of these changes into personal development sessions.
- Ofsted will ask learners where they feel unsafe. Staff are being encouraged to visit student toilets, corridors etc.
- The smoking area at Crewe was moved to mitigate the vulnerability of users.
- Recent training for safeguarding staff mentioned 'local lines' as well as county lines.
- The learning services team are conducting analysis of data of incidents to identify vulnerable groups.
- Updated training for Prevent will be rolled out to all staff and governors in 2022/23.

Q: How many referrals were made by the College in 21/22?

A: 2

- Staff have received training about professional boundaries to mitigate some concerns in 2021/22 that some staff were behaving inappropriately. Collusion could be perceived if staff do not challenge inappropriate behaviour or language.
- All members of the Be Safe Team are members of Learner Services Team, and they are
 experienced in handling concerns. There are now 16 people in the Be Safe Team across all 3
 campuses.
- There is a section on Pro-Monitor so that any staff member can record any concerns for the Be Safe Team to follow-up.

Q: There is reference to the likelihood of the number of cases going up yet the specialist team is smaller, how will you guard against delays in handling concerns?

A: When we had a larger team there were more people picking up smaller actions. Now the 16 team members have it in their job descriptions. The team includes 2 Safeguarding Officers who are the main people who deal with concerns raised. We have noted that Cared for Learners account for the majority of cases.

- There is an area on MyDay for all staff which provides guidance and support for all.
- As part of the welcome back sessions, we have reminded all staff of the ways to report concerns:
 - o safeguarding concerns can be raised via MyDay;
 - o there is a behaviour incident log facility;
 - o there is a low-level concerns form and
 - o serious concerns go direct to NMM, CB, AB or LW.

The meeting noted that this is the clearest training session provided for governors about how the College is dealing with safeguarding. A copy of the slides will be available on GovernorHub after the meeting.

Action: Clerk to put a copy of the safeguarding training slide deck on GovernorHub and remind governors of the availability via the next Clerk's Email.

Q: As children transition from age 18 to 19 what happens?

A: During the transitional period 17/18/19 each young person counts as a 'child'. If a learner has a social worker/care experience/learning needs, they are all included in the group for support.

Q: What happens when the most vulnerable learners move on? Do we ensure continued support?

A: We share our safeguarding record within 5 working days of the vulnerable learner moving on. We transfer our records to any known HE organisation including universities. Mental health issues are the most common and we always try to support our learners (irrespective of their age) as they transition to other places. We recently made a police welfare call for a 40yrold learner for whom we had concerns.

Q: It is a big change that people can't resign and avoid an investigation. Is this change made clear in the staff training?

A: Poor behaviour was listed in staff briefing. It was clearly explained how the use of inappropriate language is not acceptable. Previously organisations often closed ranks around staff at the expense of learners — this isn't the case now.

A governor commented that when they attended International Women's Day events with learners across campuses the topic of sexual orientation awareness was discussed.

Q: What, if any, changes have been made this year to ensure that learners are aware of their rights/recent changes?

A: We have updated the tutorial programme including respect and safeguarding for all learners. We are tracking both tutorial and whole curriculum session to see what themes are covered. We have arranged for Cheshire East Looked After Children's Team to be located outside the student Hub each month to pick up any learner's concerns.

Q: How are we equipping employers about safeguarding for learners in their settings?

A: The Work Based Learning (WBL) team use materials to explain an employer's duty of care. It is not easy to monitor safeguarding as closely as it is monitored within college, but work is done at the start of any work placement.

Q: Is awareness raising done by assessors too?

A: Yes. K Roberts (KR) will work with employers. We have updated the slides used for apprenticeship placements. We will work with KR to shape the training for employers in respect of safeguarding, prevent and for learners with SEND needs.

Q: Have there been any incidents with learners involved in work experience?

A: Yes. There has been one referral and 2-3 others are being investigated. There was a death of an apprentice in year. We will talk with learners about safeguarding and support available as part of the tutorial programme. We do make sure that employers know who to contact if they have any safeguarding concerns.

The Chair thanked Nim and Chris for an excellent session.

FC 31/22 Annual Safeguarding (including Prevent) Report

The meeting noted the paper which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. Mrs Nimisha Mistry-Miah, Assistant Principal Learner Services and Mr Chris Baggs – Director of Learning & Learner Services responded to the following questions:

Q: Is the data in table 3 sufficiently detailed or not?

A: In the Child Protection Online Management System (CPOMs) there is sufficient detail for management to look at each case and monitor for patterns of cases and people involved.

Q: In the report, point 4.5 has a category 'reason didn't make sense' what does this mean?

A: Very often learners use colloquial language when they are reporting incidents/concerns and a staff member may struggle to understand what they are saying for example learners may use the expression 'beef innit'. During training, staff are trained to use the language used by learners even if they don't understand it. Staff would then ask for clarity. Language is often linked to local areas.

Q: You have shared lots of detail and data, but how does the College compare to other local colleges/schools?

A: No, this data is not available. We do have some comparative data from the local authority for the future. We can compare child protection numbers. Schools have recently shared a significant number of concerns about eating disorders.

The meeting noted several corrections to typing misprints in the report.

Q: In the safeguarding policy, point 09 lists the responsibilities of the Governing Body and it would be useful for these to be covered in next year's annual report with evidence.

A: We can do this.

Action: NMM to ensure that the safeguarding annual report for 2022-23 covers the points 9.1.1-9.1.14 in next year's report.

Governors noted the excellent annual report and APPROVED the Safeguarding Policy.

Action: Clerk to advise JH that governors APPROVED the Safeguarding Policy.

The Chair thanked Nim and Chris for their work and they left the meeting. **Mrs Carleen Osborne and Ms Isla Douglas left the meeting.**

FC 32/22

Welcome, apologies for absence and declarations of interest

Attendance was as recorded above – apologies had been received from Mr Kenny Murray, Mrs Gillian Taylor, Mrs Sharon Wallace, Mrs Helen Nellist and Mrs Ruth Szolkowska. The meeting was quorate.

Mrs Carleen Osborne will leave at 15:00hrs, Ms Isla Douglas will leave at 15:00hrs but will return at 16:00hrs and Paul Colman will need to leave the meeting at 16:00hrs, by prior arrangement with the Clerk.

There were no declarations of interest made.

FC 33/22

Results 2021-22 - Early Indications

Mr James Eagney – Assistant Principal, Quality, Foundation English & Maths joined the meeting. James gave a presentation to the meeting and the following points were noted:

Background context to summer 2022 results

- Usually at this point in the year governors receive the early indications of results for the previous academic year.
- Summer results are expected for those studying A levels, vocational/technical qualifications and apprenticeships.
- Vocational/technical qualifications included the recently introduced T Levels and reformed BTecs which now include some compulsory exam units.
- There were several key events in 2020-22 which have impacted the outcomes of learners in summer 2022.
- In 2019, the Regulated Qualifications Framework (RQF) was introduced, but with Covid these exams were never sat.
- In March 2020 with the pandemic and lockdowns the DfE introduced the awarding of Calculated Grades (CAGs): when teachers submitted their evidence to support a grade.
- During 2020-21 the College used 'flip' remote learning, enabling learners to study at home and for some learners to come onto campus in small groups.
- During 2020-21 Teacher Assessed Grades (TAGs) were introduced and there was significant quality assurance around these.
- In summer 2022, we had learners sitting exams some of whom who entered courses 2yrs ago with CAGs and learners who entered courses 1yr ago with TAGs.
- Due to being unable to quality assure CAGs and TAGs consistently the government withdrew the institutional level of national data for 2019/20.
- Benchmarking and national comparators are very difficult to find.
- In summer 2022 there were more examined units within the new qualifications and administration of examinations has been an issue.

Early indications

- Nationally overall achievement is expected to fall and we are expecting our overall achievement to fall 5%.
- Nationally, the number of A-level learners achieving high grades has improved compared to 2018-19; CCSW A Level results are likely to be in line with 18/19 results.
- Nationally, the number of GCSE learners achieving high grades has improved compared to 2018-19; CCSW GCSE results have also improved compared to 18/19 results.

- There is no reliable comparator for BTec qualifications. Overall BTec achievement has decreased.
- The management team will complete a full analysis of outcomes by the end of the first week in October and a detailed report will be made to the Management & Performance Committee (M&P) in October and results will be included in the SAR reported to governors in November 2022.

Jordan Swift joined the meeting at 15:36hrs

Q: When will we get apprenticeship results?

A: There was a report in July and one final report to come.

The meeting noted that whereas GCSE results were previously a national platform the use of CAGs and TAGs meant that the College was unable to start with a nationally recognised baseline and consequently the 2022 exam sitting cohort contained learners from different starting points. Consequently, the value-added platform is not secure.

The meeting noted that link focus meetings with staff also highlighted the need for additional work to be done with learners who joined the College in Sept 2020 and Sept 2021.

The Chair thanked James for his presentation.

FC 34/22 | Enrolments – Early Indications

Mrs Jordan Swift, Director of Marketing & School Partnerships made a presentation. The learner number trend data was recorded as commercially sensitive information – see Part B, FC34/22. The following non-confidential points were noted:

The College has been open to learners for 4 days in this academic year.

- Full time 16-18yr old learners make up the College's largest cohort and the enrolment target is set by our funding organisation.
- During the next three months the College will continue to gain and lose learners and it has structures to manage this. The College is adaptive and is actively managing attendance which is an indicator for retention.
- Enrolment continues beyond the start of term. The College will continue to monitor
 enrolments daily throughout September. The College also monitors its strategies for
 retention (beyond 42days period) in order to reduce the number of learners who withdraw.
 The College will submit a return to the ESFA on 7 Dec 2022 with final enrolment figures for
 2022-23.

Mr P Colman left at 16:00hrs.

Q: You mentioned that you are not able to give early numbers of enrolments for HE, Adult and Apprenticeships, but do you have targets for these areas?

A: Yes. These areas are income driven so whilst the number of learners don't affect income per capita we do require sufficient learners to make course viable. We will report HE & Adult learner figures much later in the year. Apprenticeship numbers are different again as learners roll on and roll off each month. Apprenticeship figures are where we expect them to be.

Q: Can you give us an update on the current 16-18 demographic drift? Is it increasing year on year?

A: There is still an upward trajectory for 16-18yr olds in the local area, but the trajectory does vary across Cheshire East and Cheshire West. Even though the 16-18yr old cohort is growing the national economic environment is also impacting learner numbers

 JS will provide data on cohort later in the term. We recruit from a large geographical area – so difficult to get accurate figures.

Mrs Jordan Swift left the meeting at 16:10hrs.

The meeting adjourned for a brief comfort break.

Ms Isla Douglas re-joined the meeting.

FC 35/22 Chief Executive's Update

There was no paper for this item as agreed previously with the Board. This enables the Principal to provide the most up to date position to the Board. Some elements of this minute were recorded under Part B, FC 35/22. Mr Jasbir Dhesi presented to the meeting and the following points were noted:

Estates/Capital Projects:

- £6m worth of projects have been undertaken during the summer break, the biggest investment in a single year since the 3 campuses were built.
- At Ellesmere Port there has been new building work and refurbishment work. All areas are
 now being used although there is still some snagging work to do and there have been some
 equipment delays.
- At Chester the refurbishment work has been completed subject to some snagging work and the conference facility is operational.

Q: Are students being briefed at Chester?

A: Yes. Last year students are impressed with the refurbished facilities, but there is still some equipment which is not available.

At Crewe the new business hub is operational but with some temporary partitions. There
has been significant de-carbonisation work undertaken including the replacement of
radiators. The work is on schedule, although the decision was taken to stop works during
w/c 05 Sep. The college is still awaiting planning permission for the air source heat pumps.

Political changes:

- There was very little mention of skills during the recent leadership campaign.
- It is likely that the FE sector will see cuts in the next spending review. This will be serious for colleges.
- The FE Skills Bill has been enacted, but the lack of investment will be an issue.

Cost pressures:

- There is significant cost of living pressure.
- Staff turnover is an issue and economists are predicting that a recession is coming.

Ofsted:

• 3 CCSW staff are Ofsted inspectors. This is beneficial for the College in terms of preparing for our own Ofsted inspection.

Petty Pool College:

• One trustee has resigned.

Teaching & Learning:

- Attendance is of critical focus.
- Staff are focused on learners' behaviour and attitudes.
- |SD is meeting all learners across all campuses over first two weeks of term.

The Chair thanked Dhesi for his informative presentation.

Ms Isla Douglas left the meeting.

FC 36/22 Pay Award 2022-23

This full minute was recorded as confidential business. **See Part B minute FC 36/22.** The Student Governor was not present, but all other governors, including Staff Governors were present for the full agenda item.

As the meeting had over-run significantly it was agreed to deal with the remaining agenda items focussing on required approvals.

FC 37/22 Subcontractor Ratification

Mrs Sue Harrison left at 17:38hrs.

The meeting noted the detailed paper which had previously been reviewed by the Chairs' Committee.

There were no questions, and the Board RATIFIED the subcontracting agreement which the Chairs' Committee had reviewed and APPROVED.

Mr John Kiely left at 17:39hrs.

FC 38/22 Clerk's Report

The meeting noted the paper which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The following points were noted from the paper:

External Board Review Recommendation

The paper in the board pack went to the External Board Review Working Group (EBRWG) – Pat, Fintan, Gillian, Dhesi, and Mike Braun and they met and interviewed Mr Ian Ashman on 31 August.

Q: This proposal is very generic. I would like to see something about capital spend as part of the review.

A: We can include this topic in the survey with governors

JG indicated that he would be happy to be involved in the EBRWG.

The Board APPROVED the recommendation from the EBRWG to appoint Mr Ian Ashman to undertake this piece of work.

Action: Clerk to contact IA with Board decision and take next steps to facilitate EBR.

Action: Clerk to note subject of capital spend to be included in the survey for governors.

Annual report - Governor Attendance 2021-22:

- In 2021-22 we achieved:
 - 81% attendance for Full Corporation Board meetings (83% in 2019-20); (91% 2020-21)
 - o 87% for Committee attendance (all committees) (91% in 2019-20); (92% 2020-21)
 - o 85% for total meetings attendance (88% in 2019-20); (92% 2020-21)
- By Committees, attendance was:
 - o Chairs: 90.48% (98.28% in 2019-20; 94.29% in 2020-21)
 - O Audit & Risk: 96% (85% in 2019-20; 100% in 2020-21)
 - o Finance & Resources: 84% (76% in 2019-20; 86% in 2020-21)
 - o Management & Performance: 79% (85% in 2019-20; 88% in 2020-21) and
 - o Remuneration: 100% (100% in 2019-20; 100% in 2020-21)
- The figures for 2020-21 and 2021-22 include both in-person and remote attendance via Teams for both Board meetings and Committee meetings.
- Governors may continue to join meetings via Teams by prior arrangement with the Clerk and the meeting Chair, but it is preferable to see people in person whenever possible at campuses.

Annual report - Governor Involvement 2021-22:

- The Clerk maintained a record of individual governor involvement in the following types of activities and meetings during the academic year:
 - All Staff Webinars
 - Selection interviews for senior post holders
 - Link Area related meetings: Staff focus groups, Learner focus groups, SAR validation meetings, Area Lead meetings
 - Preparation for governance SAR meeting;
 - Performance Development Reviews of Principal and Clerk
 - Financial monitoring
 - Subcontractor monitoring
 - Governor induction meetings
 - Online training modules (various external agencies)
 - Individual Governor Performance & Development Review meetings
 - Celebratory events
 - Meetings with external stakeholders

Annual report - Governors' Register of Interest:

- Each year all governors are asked to review/complete their individual register of interests and the Clerk maintains a record which is published on the College website.
- A few governors are yet to review/complete their individual register of interests from July 2022.

Annual report - Website Compliance:

- The Department for Education recommends a list of information which all colleges should provide via their websites. Additionally, colleges may be required to provide information per their specific ESFA funding agreement. The AoC's Code of Good Governance also recommends the sharing of information as good practice.
- The College website is compliant in respect of the 27 listed items some are specific items on the website, others are included within the College's annual report and financial statements. The compliance of the College website is regularly monitored by the Marketing department.

FC 39/22 | Corporation membership

The meeting noted the paper which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting.

The Board AGREED to increase the number of Associate Members in the Corporation's Instrument and Articles from 4 to 5; to amend the Standing Orders to increase the number of External Members from 12 to 13; and to APPROVE the updated Instrument & Articles and the updated Standing Orders.

Action: Clerk to implement the agreed changes, update the Instrument & Articles on the College website and on GovernorHub.

FC 40/22 Policy for ratification

The meeting noted the paper which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting.

• **Health & Safety Policy:** This policy is reviewed annually. It was updated last year to include comments from governors about their responsibilities.

The Corporation APPROVED the Health & Safety Policy.

Action: Clerk to advise IH that the Corporation APPROVED the Health & Safety Policy.

FC 41/22 | Confidential or commercially business to be noted

It was noted that whilst all governors have been present for all items (except FC 36/22 for which the Student Governor left the meeting) discussed at today's meeting several the items covered are of a commercially sensitive nature. The meeting agreed that the Clerk and Principal will identify the items from this meeting to be recorded as commercially sensitive information. See Part B minutes for commercially sensitive elements of minutes FC 30/22, FC 33/22, FC 34/22, FC 35/22, FC 36/22 and FC 43/22.

Action: JSD and Clerk to identify items from this meeting to be recorded as commercially sensitive information.

FC 42/22 Minutes of meeting 07 July 2022 and matters arising from previous minutes

The meeting noted the paper which had been sent to all members in advance of the meeting. The minutes were reviewed for accuracy and approved.

It was RESOLVED to accept the minutes from 07 July 2022 and the Chair signed the minutes.

The action log from the 07 July 2022 was reviewed and the meeting noted the following:

- 110 **CLOSED**.
- III On target for timely completion.
- 112 No amendments were made to the strategic risks. **CLOSED**
- 113 A copy of the document will be given to governors on 08 September 2022. **CLOSED.**
- 114 S Harrison has confirmed that she is interested in joining the working group to recruit a new Chair of M&P Committee. **CLOSED.**
- 115 M Braun has confirmed that he is interested in joining the External Board Review (EBR) working group. **CLOSED.**
- I16 Completed forms and questionnaires are still due from some governors. The Clerk will continue to work with governors to get completed documentation. Extend completion date to 30 Sept 2022.
- 117 **CLOSED**.

FC 43/22 | Meeting review and feedback

Mr Fintan Bradley sent the Clerk the following summary of the impact the meeting will have on the College with due regard to the discussions and the decisions taken, namely:

Intent: In this meeting the Board received a detailed briefing on its roles and responsibilities in relation to safeguarding College leaners. The briefing clearly set out the College's safeguarding intentions, considering the significant restructuring of this key area. The Board received further important updates from the Chief Executive on national, regional and local developments in the sector. An early presentation regarding learner recruitment and retention was received. The intended strategies and tactics in this area were supported by the Board.

Implementation: Governors agreed the implementation of the Health and Safety Policy and the revised Safeguarding policy. After significant discussion governors approved, the proposed pay award. The Clerk informed the Board of further updates in relation to governance documentation that will be implemented. The board also approved a provider to support the implement of an External Board Review and a new subcontractor.

Impact: The governors received an early but detailed presentation relating to the impact of the Colleges' approaches to teaching and learning and the impact this has had on exam results. The headlines were, in the main positive but much more analysis is required given a number changing

factors in this area over the last few years. A more detailed analysis will be presented to the Board at the November meeting. FC 44/22 Date of future meetings and any other business The meeting noted the dates for Full Corporation meetings for 2021-22: Thursday 10 Nov 2022, 14:00hrs, Ellesmere Port (NB Lunch with Learners 13:00-14:00) • Thursday 15 Dec 2022, 14:00hrs, Crewe (NB Christmas Lunch for Governors 12:00-14:00) • Friday 27 Jan 2023, 09:00hrs Strategy Day – Ellesmere Port • Thursday 28 Mar 2023, 14:00hrs, Ellesmere Port (NB Lunch with Learners 13:00-14:00h) Thursday 06 July 2023, 14:00hrs, Crewe (NB Barbecue for Governors 17:00) Action: Governors to note dates and times of upcoming Board meetings in 2022/23. Action: Clerk to send out menu choices for Governors' Christmas lunch in late October. The meeting closed at 17:40hrs.

Chair's signature: Minutes produced: 16 September 2022

Chair's approval: 19 September 2022 Report made to Corporation, for approval: 10 November 2022