

CENTRAL SUSSEX COLLEGE

Report of the Burgess Hill & Haywards Heath LCB Meeting – 4th October 2010

Equality & Diversity – Single Equality Scheme

- Judith Field, Equality & Diversity Officer briefed the Board on the Single Equality Scheme.

Matters Arising

- The increase in the College day (Haywards Heath campus) from a 6 block timetable to a 7 block was noted by the Board.

Risk Management

- The Health & Safety Report was noted.
- The Board was advised of the recent independent review of Health & Safety undertaken in the College and the relevant findings.

Staff Matters

- There were no staff matters reported to the meeting.

Student Matters

- Concerns over the recent fire drill were raised by the Student Members and it was clarified that the priority for the drill was to safely evacuate the building rather than checking individual student registers.

Curriculum, Quality & Standards

- The Board considered both the exam results and the value added for the Haywards Heath campus and noted that overall the value added for most subjects was neutral. This would be addressed during the self assessment process as appropriate.
- Whilst the increase in student numbers at the Haywards Heath campus had not been as great as originally anticipated, the campus has grown by 3% and exceeded the target for 2010/2011. Student numbers now stood at 1180, a 43% increase since merger. An analysis of the breakdown of enrolments by school was considered in some detail.
- The link report to the English and Foreign Languages curriculum area was outlined to the Board.
- An update on the funding position was provided to the Board who noted the challenging times facing the College.

Community

- The Board was pleased to note that the Partnership Strategy was continuing to work well and remained committed to delivering the 11-19 Strategic Plan.
- An update on Government Policy for 16-19 years olds was outlined to the Board, including the changes to the role of the Local Authority. Despite the recent change to move the funding responsibility back to Central Government the Local Authority continued to have a strategic commissioning and overview role. The view in West Sussex is the current structure set up with the Local Authority works well to deliver a

strong Strategic Plan and that this framework should continue to operate at least for the time being.

- A copy of the Joint Statement of Post 16 provision at Oakmeeds Community College was considered by the Board. Details of the Joint Committee established to ensure proper governance were also outlined.
- The Board was reminded that a real issue and potential risk for the College would be the opportunities available to schools to set up their own sixth forms via new academies. Collaborative working with the schools therefore needed to be a key focus for the College. Conversely, this may also present an opportunity for the College as funding cuts impact reducing the viability for schools which have existing sixth forms.

Strategy

- An update on the Phase 3 building project was provided and the Board noted that a decision from the Skills Funding Agency was still awaited.
- A detailed briefing on the broader aspects of the emerging Coalition Government's educational policy and its implications for the College was provided. The radical changes in how the College was managed and performance checked were outlined with the Board noting the greater freedom provided to the College but in an environment of reduced funding.
- The challenges for the College and the Corporation as a result of these changes particularly the need to balance the many conflicting demands from stakeholders was considered.
- The significant shift of focus and funding towards outcomes was highlighted along with the focus on progressions. The need for alternative career routes was also explored.
- The move towards Enterprise and Entrepreneurship Education and Training and new business "start-ups" was outlined and the Board was advised of the proposals for an Enterprise Project in Crawley.
- The Board was reminded of the College's aims and priorities.
- The strong recruitment across the College was welcomed by the Board. Recruitment at Haywards Heath had grown by 3% and whilst this was not as high as originally anticipated it was acknowledged that it provided the campus with a chance to consolidate and maintain classes at a level that would not compromise quality.
- The Board was pleased to note the strong financial surplus achieved during the academic year 2009/2010.

Any Other Business

- The Board requested an item on course work be included on the Agenda for the next meeting.