

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the ITE Primary and Early Years Forum held at 1pm on Tuesday 5 March 2019 at Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3RB**

Welcome, introduction & minutes

Colleagues were welcomed to the meeting, and those attending for the first time introduced themselves. The note of the previous meeting held on 20 November 2018 was agreed. On matters arising, JNR reported that he had visited several UCET member institutions to talk about the current policy landscape for HEI teacher education departments, and that the first meeting of the group to discuss the intellectual base of teacher education had taken place.

Discussion

Highlights from the afternoon’s discussions included:

* Update on non-primary & early years issues, including: a meeting between JNR, the Duchess of Cambridge and others to discuss mental health & well-being; changes to bursaries for post-compulsory ITE students; a meeting between JNR and FE minister Ann Milton; a meeting between UCET and the Gatsby Foundation; a forthcoming event in Northern Ireland about the contribution to teacher education and teacher supply of the HE sector; and details of the 5-6 November UCET conference, early-bird registration for which is already open on the UCET website.
* Feedback from the morning symposium on the implications for ITE of OFSTED curriculum expectations, which had been led by Des Hewett, Di Swift and Sandra Mitchell and had covered: the linking and embedding of curricula with a broad range of skills; the need for clarity over curriculum implementation; the role of curricula in fostering change; curriculum development in ITE; the need for ITE providers to engage with stakeholders about curriculum development; the role of ITE in creating teachers for the long as well as the immediate term; and the addressing of diversity & democracy through curricula.
* It was agreed that the topic for the next morning symposium would be ‘supportive interventions for student teachers’.
* The new DFE teacher recruitment & retention strategy and the Early Career Framework for new teachers, and UCET moves to influence their further development and delivery, in partnership with organisations such as NASBTT, the Chartered College and the Teaching Schools Council. The forum’s attention was drawn, in particular, to the forthcoming DfE ‘shape of the ITE market’ review and its possible implications.
* Current levels of recruitment to ITE for 2019/20, where the negative impact of the removal of primary bursaries was stressed by all. Reference was also made to increased difficulties in retaining students, partly because of changes about the rules relating to school experience. The apparent increase in the popularity of part-time programmes was also noted.
* Workload and ITE, where the UCET companion paper drafted by Caroline Daly and Julie Greer was welcomed, and the difficulty of managing workload while addressing other new and existing priorities and expectations was discussed.
* Inspection issues, including the current OFSTED consultation on the new Education Inspection Framework, and OFSTED slides on the development of a new inspection framework for ITE. Reports were also given of DFE Assessment Only compliance visits.
* Early years issues, particularly the low take up of EYITT and QTS early years programmes, often because of poor marketing and the pay and conditions of early years professionals. The early years Harmonisation Group had met with DfE to discuss the issues and were in the process of preparing a response.

Any other business:

* JNR reported that invitations would soon be issued for nominations for a new Chair and Vice Chair of the ITE primary & early years forum, as well as for a new Chair Elect and Vice Chair of UCET.
* Des Hewett invited colleagues to attend his inaugural professorial lecture on 17 June. Further details would be included in the UCET weekly bulletin.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11 June 2019.