

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Minutes of the UCET Executive Committee/DfE/OfSTED meeting held at 1:00- 3:00 p.m. on 30th April 2019, Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB**

Attendance

Pat Black

Sean Cavan (Chair)

Caroline Daly

Max Fincher

Julie Greer

Rachel Lofthouse

Kevin Mattinson

Jackie Moses

Margaret Mulholland

Trevor Mutton

James Noble-Rogers

Tanya Ovenden-Hope

Cat Scutt

Ruth Talbot

Simon Thompson

Matt Varley

Alison Winson

Felicity Witt

Apologies:

Moyra Boylan; Linda Clarke; Rachael Harding; Linda la Velle; Emma Hollis; Alex Kendall; Karen McGrath; Jim Pugh; Roger Woods; Malcolm Thomas.

1. Welcome & introductions

* Members introduced themselves to the group.

1. Minutes of the previous meeting & matters arising

These were accepted. There were no matters arising.

1. Update from UCET
2. DfE recruitment and retention strategy
3. *Early career framework tender invitation and market warming events*
   * JNR asked for clarification on the tendering exercise; **RT to ask about this and confirm with JNR.**
4. *Recruitment to ITE in 2019/20*
   * Issues in relation to particular secondary subjects remained, while recruitment to primary programmes was down.
   * RT asked that providers be reminded to close their courses on UCAS if they are not recruiting over the Summer.
   * Another 2 Skills Test Centres have been opened, and providers were invited to open pop-up models where needed. Availability of opening times has increased (e.g. Sundays).
   * There was discussion of increasing ‘bursary tourism’ and the reduced provision of SKE. Concern was again expressed about the withdrawal of primary bursaries.
   * The removal of the requirement of school experience is causing difficulty for both partnerships and schools because of increased drop-outs.
   * A question was raised about whether the DfE is looking at recruitment, disability and rejection rates. **RT to ask.**
   * Question re review of the Innovation projects funded by DfE to improve recruitment , **RT to feedback on progress to be shared with UCET**
   * RT asked if UCAS references were a barrier in rejection rates. It was not generally thought to be a problem that that academic references were useful
   * It was noted that in School Direct partnerships, schools themselves often want to interview, sometimes on the same basis as they would for qualified job applicants.
   * It was asked if statistics are being compiled on the number of disability rejections, especially on grounds of mental health. RT noted that there is interest in this issue at policy making level in the DfE.
5. *Review of ITE content*

* It was noted that Professor Sam Twiselton (SHU) is chairing the DfE review of ITT content advisory group. It is planned to publish the guidance to coincide with the new OFSTED framework in early 2020.
* JNR noted that the UCET Management Forum symposium on 25th June will be about the review of ITE content and encouraged everyone to attend.

1. *Shape of the market review*

* There was discussion around the statutory nature of the ECF and how it is focused on ‘content’ rather than ‘process/context’.
* There needs to be the freedom to innovate and change within the framework, and to have a coherent and shared understanding of *approaches.*

1. *Other recruitment and retention issues*

* There were no other updates. SC thanked RT for her time.

1. Inspection Issues
2. *Framework development including research/piloting*

* The ITE partnership update will be out on 1 May.
* **JNR asked DS to send the termly partnership letter to UCET**.
* DS asked if providers could ask trainees to complete the Annual Trainee Survey.
* DS to send UCET and NASBTT access to data sets.

1. *2019 developments (employment/completion)*

* There are no planned ‘unexpected’ inspections.
* The updates to the inspection handbook are available.
* DS will be consulting with UCET and NASBTT on OfSTED’s research programme for the new framework and pilot. DS outlined a timeline of events, including visiting some HEI providers to talk about the pilot. It will be a 1-stage inspection model. There will be warm up events in November 2019, before the new framework is rolled out in January 2020.
* It was asked if the one-stage inspection could be at any time in the academic calendar; DS is open to discussion as to when it should happen.
* There will be a move away from grading trainees to asking whether they are prepared to go into the ECF stage.
* There was discussion about publishing data from the trainee survey and tracking NQTs after they have left institutions, especially employment data.

1. *OfSTED EIF consultation response*

* DS noted that the questions need to be more explicit and that there needs to be a shared language around both ‘content’ and the wording of questions, e.g. ‘evaluate’.
* DS to bring questions providers had back to the Executive Committee and to clarify some of the terminology.
* DS has told all OfSTED inspectors that schools do not need to require repeat DBS checks for ITE students.
* DS mentioned the Dollywood Institute, set up by the singer Dolly Parton, which provides a free book every month to a child from birth to age 5. **DS to send a link to circulate.**
* SC thanked DS for his helpful contribution.

1. AOB

* **CS to send JNR a link on clarifying the ECF contract tendering process.**

1. Date of next meeting: 24th September 2019.