**ITE Primary & Early Years Forum: 19 June 2019**

**M**inutes & matters arising

* Following the publication of the well-received UCET companion to the workload report, it has been agreed that a further paper be produced about Professionally Acceptable Workload (PW), which will cover the professional responsibilities of school leaders in the management and addressing of workload and the implications this has for CPD, NPQs etc.
* Kevin Mattinson has been elected unopposed as Chair Elect of UCET for 2019/20, and will take over as Chair for up to three years from 2020/21. Trevor Mutton was successfully elected as Vice Chair.

Chair and Vice Chair of forum

To note that Des Hewett has been elected Chair and Jan Ashbridge Vice Chair of the forum for up to three years beginning September 2019.

And to officially thank Pat Black for her excellent service as Chair for the last three years.

General UCET update

JNR/JM reported on non-primary issues, including: the REF; the IBTE group; and developments in Northern Ireland and Wales.

Topics for future symposia

1. Dealing with the needs of students in relation to academic work, in particular supporting those with additional needs
2. Innovative approaches to assessment, reducing workload but meeting the requirements
3. AUGAR
4. New Ofsted Framework

ITE recruitment

*(a): Feedback from forum members*

Invite forum members to report back on current trends in recruitment, to both UG and PG programmes, and to core, SD etc.

*(b): Teacher recruitment bulletin*

To note the May edition of DfE’s teacher recruitment bulletin, highlights of which include:

* Details of summer Train to Teach events
* Provider marketing webinars
* Priority subject scholarships of tax free training scholarships in chemistry, computing, geography, MFL and physics (£22,000 bursary, £5,000 in each of the third and fifth year of teaching (or £7,500 in selected local authority areas)
* The postgraduate ITE search service, to be published in October
* SKE programmes
* New skills test centres (see below)
* Telephone counselling services for student teachers from the Education Support Partnership charity
* The UCAS ‘reject by default;’ change, meaning that the time providers have to take application decisions is reduced from 40 to 20 working days
* The registration of apprenticeship trainees on the DTTP
* ITE performance profiles, for which the sign-off of data by providers was required by 24 May 2019
* Reducing teacher workload events

*(c): Migration Advisory Group*

The Home Office is reviewing current rules on immigration, and DfE has convened a meeting on 13 June to discuss changes that might be made in respect of student teachers and qualified teachers, including the £30,000 minimum salary requirement and tier two requirements. Comments from forum members should be invited.

*(d): Skills test issues*

In the most recent Teacher Recruitment Bulletin DfE asked all providers remind their ITT candidates to get their Skills Tests booked in before clearing.  It also mentioned the fact that last August over 1,000 tests places were wasted through non-attendance, and numerous candidates were unable to sit the test as they didn’t provide correct ID.

New test centres have been opened in:

·         Hull;

·         Peterborough; and

·         Hastings.

Additional test centres will be available to book from the end of May in Carlisle and Folkestone. DfE’s delivery partners, are also looking to work with large ITT providers who are not close to a centre to open “pop up centres” for clearing.  Anyone interested should email DfE on [Skills.TESTS@education.gov.uk](mailto:Skills.TESTS@education.gov.uk) and we’ll put them in touch with PSI.

DfE is also holding two focus groups in Manchester on 12th June and London on 11th June both starting at 1pm for lunch, 1.30-4pm, to discuss skills test issues in the light of its recent research project. A maximum of 25 participants per session are allowed rom a mixture of locations, sizes and needs of providers to give their honest views and inputs on the current Skills Test configuration and more importantly options exploration for how it could reform or develop delivery in innovative ways.

Forum colleagues should also be invited to discuss other issues relating to the skills tests (which UCET has consistently argued should be abolished).

DfE teacher recruitment & retention strategy

*(a): ECF roll-out and delivery and tender invitation*

Tender expression of interest invitations for the production of curriculum materials and ECF delivery for the pilot phase (worth about £12m) were invited on 29 April with a deadline of 28 June (details were forwarded by JNR to UCET members on 1 May). This followed market warming events held during the week beginning 1 April in Darlington and Manchester (JNR attended one of the Darlington events). Key points to note include:

* Schools will be able to deliver the ECF themselves using the mandatory curriculum materials or by accessing funded ECF delivery provided by training providers which, at least in the pilot phase, will also be expected to use the curriculum materials. All aspects of the ECF will have to be covered, possibly in a particular order, although the importance of flexibility has been acknowledged
* Contracts issued will cover: (a) the production of curriculum materials; and (b) ECF delivery, including support and training for in-school mentors. It is expected that contracts for curriculum development and delivery will be awarded to the same organisations.
* DFE will own the intellectual property of the curriculum materials
* ECF delivery agencies will be required to work in partnership, implying scope for main contracted delivery agencies sub-contracting to new local bodies such as schools (or national bodies sub-contracting to ITE providers, or ITE providers sub-contracting to other TE providers). Note: working in partnership with main bidders might be the way most ITE providers are involved.
* The question of whether money can be used to fund accredited qualifications linked to the ECF, or whether additional charges for things like M Level credits, has been raised.
* A separate tendering exercise will take place in regards the national roll-out for September 2021

DfE’s current intention is that the tender will be launched in the summer and on a new system (JAGGAER), which will replace BRAVO. It provides updates and information in the usual way, through the PIN on Contracts Finder, including how to register for the new system.

Forum members, possibly following table discussions, should be invited to feed-back on:

* Any questions or concerns they have about the ECF and tendering exercise
* Whether they are bidding, or involved as partners in bids submitted by others

*(b): Review of ITE content*

An Advisory Group has been established by DfE to consider the content of ITE programmes, (following on from the core content developed by Stephen Munday’s group) in the light of the ECF. In accordance with a commitment given in the Recruitment & Retention Strategy, JNR and Emma Hollis from NASBTT are members of the group. Other members are: Sam Twiselton (Chair); Rueben Moore (Teach First); Becky Francis (UCL); Marie Hamer (Ambition); and John Blake (Now Teach). The membership of the group has been subject to some controversy on Twitter, although the HE sector is well-represented through JNR, Sam Twiselton and Becky Francis, and Marie Hamer was formerly a teacher educator at Canterbury Christ Church and Teach First work in partnership with HEIs (and are UCET members) and deliver a programme that leads to a 120-credit PGDE.

NB: There is a possibility that DfE colleagues will attend the meeting for this item.

Inspection issues

*(a): Feedback*

It is unlikely that any inspection issues have been experienced, but feedback could be invited just in case.

*(b): OfSTED ITE questionnaire and new inspection framework*

On the new ITE framework, pilots involving a representative cross section of volunteer institutions (not resulting in any judgements) will take place in the autumn. A draft framework will be issued for consultation in January 2020, which the results published in June. The first inspections under the new framework to take place in October-November 2020.

OfSTED’s research team issued a questionnaire to ITE providers in April requesting details of ITE content and curricula. Although OfSTED said that responses would not be made public or used for inspection purposes, they did nonetheless cause some concern as they seemed to assume that certain things should be included in the curricula, even though not mandated by the teacher standards or referenced in the current ITE content framework. One member of OfSTED’s ITE framework advisory group resigned in protest about this and because he had issue with some statements made on Twitter by senior OfSTED officials. It is also questionable whether the inspection framework should be used to drive curriculum content over and above what is required or implied through the standards or content framework. JNR declined to circulate the questionnaire to UCET members or recommend that they complete it and gave a line to the press which was quoted in TES.

Much of the discussion at the 5 April OFSTED expert group was in relation to the OfSTED survey and related controversy, where, on the one hand, there was disquiet about the public statements made by former group members while, on the other hand, the approach taken by OfSTED was questioned. It was agreed that UCET and NASBTT would forward a revised survey. However, JNR still had doubts about the revised questions (much material should already be available from existing sources), the time estimated to answer the questions (more than OFSTED’s estimate of 40 minutes) and the assumption that providers have more discretion over content than they do in fact have. Despite doubts expressed, JNR agreed to circulate the questionnaire if responses were made anonymous, and this has been done.

*(c): Termly letter to partnerships*

The most recent termly letter to partnerships was issued in 1 May. Key points include:

* Requests for point of contact, partnership return and calendar details
* Seminars for RI providers
* Publication of latest OfSTED management information
* Trainee on-line questionnaires, the link for which will be open from 15 April to 31 July, and the results shared with providers during inspections (note: UCET has written to David Storrie about the scope to align the questions to existing data collection mechanisms and for providers to be able to access, and therefore act upon, survey results earlier).
* Summer term inspections to take place from the end of April until the first week in July.
* The publication of new ITT criteria and supporting advice, reflecting updated information on fee charging and student support for part-time trainees
* Changes to the inspection handbook relating to the removal of completion rates from the outcomes section, and to now be considered a part of leadership & management (note: employment rates will be calculated with reference to programme completion rather than recruitment)
* Confirmation that during inspections inspectors will discuss with providers measures being taken to maximise recruitment
* Reference to the development of a new ITE inspection framework, and to the research referred to above
* Piloting the new ITE inspection framework in the autumn of 2019
* Information about the new DfE vacancy service.

Two issues arise from the termly letter to partnerships:

* The implication that, contrary to expectations, inspections might be carried out prior to the introduction of the new inspection framework (OfSTED subsequently confirmed that it will only be inspecting the seven constrained SCITTs and one re-inspection)
* The sharing by OfSTED of trainee on-line questionnaire data with DfE. OfSTED said that it had a legal duty to share this with DfE, who requested it in the absence of provider level NQT survey data. The alternative would have been for DfE to carry out its own survey, and possibly publish the results. OfSTED subsequently confirmed that:
  + In 2019 it will only survey those providers who have an inspection. Other providers can choose to complete the survey should they wish to do so.
  + From 2020, OfSTED will encourage all providers to complete the survey annually and will share the results with the individual provider and with DfE
  + The data will not be published externally and should not be used by providers for publicity either.

Early years issues

*(a): New EYITT requirements*

To note and discuss the revised requirements, published in April 2019

*(b): Other early years issues*

Invite comments.

Child protection

*(a): OfSTED message to inspectors*

To note the following message that was sent by David Storrie to all OfSTED inspectors following an example brought to UCET’s attention of inspector’s expecting that schools treat student teachers as though they were employees:

*Please remember that providers do not need to conduct a separate DBS check on any trainee EYT, teachers or lecturers. DBS check can be conducted by the training provider and used by the provider you are inspecting. If the training route is three years or less, the DBS check does* ***not*** *need to be repeated. ‘*

*(b): Re-application of former trainees*

An issue has arisen about a provider becoming aware that a student teacher that it had removed from a programme for issues that related, in part, to concerns about child safety was subsequently accepted onto a programme at another provider and awarded QTS. Concerns have now apparently been raised about their behaviour in their employing school. With the demise of the GTCE, there does seem to be a gap in which legitimate concerns about child safety, short of those activated by a criminal conviction and inclusion on the barred list, can be raised. UCET will discuss the issue with DfE. In the meantime, forum members should be invited to discuss. Appropriate action would be to inform all relevant authorities (including DfE, local authority protection officers etc.). It might also be advisable to all ITE providers to check with previous providers about the actual reasons for an applicant having been either removed or withdrawn from a programme at another provider, as in this instance a misleading explanation was apparently given by the candidate.

*(c): Other DBS issues*

One other issue that has arisen relates to the Childcare Disqualification Requirements. While rules relating to ‘disqualification by association’ no longer apply to ITE, other aspects of the regulations remain. The following statement has been provided by DfE:

***Childcare disqualification***

*ITT providers should have regard to the* [*Disqualification under the Childcare Act 2006 statutory guidance*](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/disqualification-under-the-childcare-act-2006) *and related obligations under the Childcare Act 2006 when carrying out their duties to safeguard and promote the welfare of children.*

*Where trainees are salaried, it is the responsibility of the school to ensure they comply with the legislation. If a salaried trainee is, or becomes, disqualified from a childcare role, schools should inform the training provider of this. Where trainees are fee-funded, it is the responsibility of the training provider to ensure that the trainee is not disqualified from childcare or that the trainee has obtained a childcare disqualification waiver from OfSTED.*

*Further advice on the childcare disqualification arrangements can be obtained from the Department for Education at* [*mailbox.disqualification@education.gov.uk*](mailto:mailbox.disqualification@education.gov.uk) *or on 01325 340 409.*

*The 2018 regulations removed disqualification by association for individuals working in childcare in non-domestic settings (e.g. schools and nurseries). The arrangements continue to disqualify individuals working in domestic and non-domestic settings if they themselves have been found to have committed a relevant offence. Disqualification by association continues to apply for individuals providing and working in childcare in domestic settings (e.g. where childcare is provided in a childminder’s home).*

Items for information

To note:

* That registration for the 5-6 November 2019 UCERT conference is still open (with 10% discounts for institutions sending five or more delegates); Keynote speakers will include: Mary Bousted; Trevor Mutton; Moyra Boland and John Furlong
* The Easter 2019 UCET newsletter

Any other business

None

Date of next meeting

19 November 2019