

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the ITE secondary forum held at 1pm on Tuesday 18 June 2019 at Mary Sumner House, Tufton Street, Westminster, London SW1P 3RB**

Welcome, introduction & notes

Colleagues were welcomed to the final meeting of the ITE secondary forum meeting of 2018/19. The note of the previous meeting was agreed. On matters arising, JNR reported that: a follow up to the UCET workload companion paper would be published, with a focus on Professionally acceptable Workload (PAV); Kevin Mattinson had been elected as UCET Chair Elec from 2019/20 and Trevor Mutton as Vice Chair, with an election to be held for a vacant Executive Committee place; and feedbacks were invited on misleading information from DfE contractors and schools treating prospective placement students as if they were applying for jobs.

Discussion

Highlights from the afternoon’s discussions included:

* General updates from UCET, including: REF issues; the UCET work of the Intellectual Base of Teacher Education Group; the securing of additional partnership funding for HEIs in Wales; and a successful UCET NI event in Belfast showcasing he contribution the HE sector makes to teacher development and supply in Northern Ireland.
* Topics for future symposia. David Storrie had been invited to the March 2020 meeting to speak about the new ITE inspection framework. Suggestions for the 2019/20 meetings included one or more of: mentor development and HEI access to mentors for training purposes; training student teachers in regard to the mental health & well-being of pupils; the implications of broadening recruitment to a more diverse range of student teachers and routes; and the distinct nature of HE tutor feedback on school visits and the grading of students.
* Recruitment to ITE, including: a presentation from Mark Crowley from NTU on the teacher supply model, current levels of applications and SKE recruitment, where key points included: disparity between DfE final applications and recruitment data; falling levels of applications; applications being made later in the year; the proportion by subject of students taking SKE programmes prior to ITE; the increasing (70%) preponderance of short SKE programmes, reflecting later applications; and the un-level playing field that allowed Teach First greater flexibility over recruitment to SKE programmes in particular subjects. On recruitment in 2019/20 generally, forum members reported that: computer science continued to struggle; biology was strong, albeit at the expense of other science subjects; MFL was poor, partly because of BREXIT; and in one case English was very strong and the proportion of people applying to SD routes had increased.
* The work of the Migration Advisory Group, and a recent meeting attended by JNR, NASBTT, DFE and Home Office officials to discuss possible changes to immigration policy and the implications for teachers and student teachers.
* Skills tests, where new centres had been opened, DFE led discussion forums held and arguments for the abandonment of skills tests made by UCET and others appeared to be gaining traction.
* Continued DFE interested in rejection rates at institutional level and, in one case, applications data.
* The Early Career Framework and the expected invitation to tender for ECF delivery and curriculum material development in the pilot areas, where scope existed for ITE providers to submit bids themselves or partner with others or act as delivery ‘sub-contractors’.
* The group established to review the ITE content framework in the light of the ECF, at which UCET members were represented through JNR.
* Inspection issues, including: research visits (often focusing on the role of schools in delivering programmes and the subject knowledge of mentors) by OFSTED; the development of the new ITE inspection framework (likely to be one-stage and continuing to grade provision) that would be subject to consultation in the New Year following pilot visits in 2019, pending implementation in 2020; and research questions about ITE content issued by OFSTED and about which UCET had expressed concern.
* Child Protection, where childcare disqualification requirements other than disqualification by association’ still applied, the importance of checking the reasons why applicants may have left ITE programmes previously were stressed and OFSTED’s confirmation that ITE students do not need to be re-checked was noted.
* Items for implication, including the Easter 2019 UCET newsletter, and details of the 2019 UCET conference (including Dusty Springfield tribute), registrations for which were now open, with 10% discount for institutions sending 5 or more delegates.

Any other business

Colleagues were reminded about the forthcoming Collective Ed conference, details at: <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/events/school-events/collectived-knowledge-exchange-creating-powerful-professional-learning-in-education/>

It was suggested that institutional policies relating to sickness absence be taken into account when considering continued bursary eligibility for students experiencing periods of sickness.

Date of next meeting

19 November 2019.