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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the UCET Post 16 forum held on 18 October 2019 at Mary Sumner House, 24 Tufton Street, London SW1P 3RB**

**Welcome & introductions**

Members, particularly those attending for the first time, were welcomed to the first Post 16 forum of the 2019/20 academic year. The minutes of the meeting held on 24 May 2019 were agreed. On matters arising, it was reported that 83 people had begun FE teaching apprenticeships in 2018/19. Registration for the 5-6 November UCET conference, which will include a number of PCET related sessions, was still open at: www. <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/conference>.

**Discussions**

Forum members discussed a range of issues based around the meeting agenda. These included:

* Feedback on the morning symposium, which had been led by Kirsti Lord from the Association of Colleges. Points made included: AOC member colleges tended to view the 120 credit Level 5 DET as the minimum recognised teaching qualification for the sector, although the value of programmes at level 6 and 7 was also acknowledged; concern that some colleges expected teachers themselves to pay for their teaching qualifications and find time to do them outside working hours, even when obtaining the qualification was a contractual requirement; the parity between QTS and QTLS which give the holders of the latter the right to be employed on the same basis in schools as those with QTS; and the use by employers of the apprenticeship levy on, for example, the training of administrative and laboratory staff. It was agreed that the topic for the next morning symposia would be on the new OfSTED ITE inspection framework, with future suggestions for symposia on the QTS/QTLS interface and recruitment to PCET ITE programmes.
* Recruitment to PCET ITE programmes, where the negative impact of the withdrawal of bursaries for specialist pre-service maths and English programmes was noted, despite the demand from colleges for teachers in these areas. It was agreed that feedback on the impact of bursary changes should be requested from UCET members. Other than that, there was a mixed picture on recruitment, with in-service programmes tending to struggle while recruitment to generic pre-service courses was holding up. The potential impact on recruitment of the withdrawal of the skills test requirements for QTS programmes would have to be carefully monitored. Reference was also made to difficulties finding placements for student teachers training to teach maths and English A’ Levels, possibly because of the high stakes colleges attached to examination success in these areas.
* Pete Grady from the DfE reported that the new Secretary of State was taking a close personal interest in FE issues, and ministers were fully aware of the importance of having a high quality teaching force in the sector. Some £23 million extra funding would be invested in the workforce during the current year, with funding beyond that dependent on the Comprehensive Spending Review. DfE was also taking measures to address confusion about the access of PCET ITE students to financial support, where it was confirmed that no changes in policy had been made and that funding was still available, despite apparent confusion amongst some Student Loan Company staff. A group was being established to draft guidance that would make this clear.
* An update on the work of the Education and Training Foundation from Howard Pilot, covering: feedback from the previous day’s ITE forum; the scope to develop something akin to the Early Career Framework for teachers in FE; consideration being given to a pilot under which QTLS professional formation would be built into an ITE programme; the Talent to Teach programme, under which 440 undergraduates had received 40 hours of teaching in FE; the DET qualification, which was unlikely to change in 2020, although some amendments might be made to the guidance; and the on-line Train the Teacher Trainer pilots.
* Inspection issues, including: reports of pilot inspections; a summary of the process OfSTED would follow in developing a new ITE inspection framework; and a summary of findings from the research commissioned by OfSTED to inform the development of the new framework, details of which can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/initial-teacher-education-curriculum-research> and <https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/hmci-commentary-the-initial-teacher-education-curriculum>

Items for information

Forum members noted the 2019 UCET summer newsletter and the report of the 2019 ICET conference.

Date of next meeting:

7 February 2020