

A Registered Charity (No 275082)

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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Minutes of the UCET Executive Committee/DfE/OfSTED meeting held online on Tuesday 22nd September at 12:30 am**

Attendance:

Oisin Bennett (DFE)

Carol Bhaksar (DFE)

Pat Black

Clare Brookes

Sean Cavan

Alexander Clements (DFE)

Max Fincher

Spencer Hennessey

Emma Hollis

Felicity Little (DFE)

Rachel Lofthouse

Helen Matthews (OfSTED)

Kevin Mattinson (Chair)

Jo McIntyre

Jackie Moses

Margaret Mulholland

Trevor Mutton

James Noble-Rogers

Tanya Ovenden-Hope

Cat Scutt

Helen Tomlinson

Paul Vare

Matt Varley

Lydia Watson

Ross White (DfE)

Jenny Wynn

Apologies:

Hazel Bryan; Des Hewitt; Karen McGrath; Roisin McPhilemy; Elaine Sharpling; David Smith; Roger Woods;

1. Welcome & introductions

* Members introduced themselves to the group.

[*It was agreed due to DfE diary commitments items 3 & 4 would be covered first*.]

1. UCET updates. The following were noted:
2. *CPD working group*
3. *UCET advice on placement risk assessments*
4. *UCET statements on OfSTED framework, CCF and SSP*
5. DfE updates
6. *ITE recruitment & placements*
   * Trends in recruitment have been positive.
   * The SKE package for 2020/21 will be confirmed once the Spending Review concludes.
   * It was asked if there would be any implications for the Competitions and Markets Authority if ITE providers have to recruit students before bursary and SKE funding has been announced.
   * Attrition has been very low but important to monitor
   * Teacher education students status as key/critical workers’ has been confirmed.
   * It was asked if students, especially those on placements, are considered a priority group for Covid testing – **RW to check**.
   * The question of parental pressure upon schools to monitor student teachers’ behavior outside the classroom was raised and that existing guidance sent to schools does not mention trainees.
   * The message that student teachers are professionals and key workers need to be flagged up so both the DfE and UCET can actively head off any problems. **RW to raise with senior management team at DfE.**
   * A lack of mentoring capacity for both student teachers on placement and NQTs means schools may be unable to take on new student teachers. The mentoring requirements of the ECF might also have an impact.
   * RW asked at what point would providers feel that student teachers have not had enough time or experience to be recommended for QTS? In response, it was noted that there are a host of structural/logistical issues that are hampering judgements about QTS and that there has to be flexibility in the other structures, e.g. the OfSTED framework.
7. *Medium and longer term strategic planning*
   * A strategic plan is need to anticipate future problems, both nationally and locally
   * Not all schools are necessarily technologically (or otherwise) equipped to deliver online learning.
   * RW agreed that having a long term strategic approach is important.
   * CB identified key themes to take back to the senior management team:
     1. Managing the flow and quality of NQTs
     2. Learning: what might learn from this crisis e.g. around online learning
     3. Longer term systemic challengers and interaction with the criteria

* Added to this should be the sustainability of the teacher supply base beyond Covid 19, which is currently masking some longer term issues.
* EdTech in a wider scenario needs consideration.
* The interconnectedness (or otherwise) of the CCF, ECF and the OfSTED framework and the impact of OfSTED from Jan 2021 needs to be considered.
* How things might be done differently to what has gone before? e.g. the placement model.
* CB thanked the EC for the above comments and noted that the DfE have started work on longer term modelling for the teacher workforce; the economy and ministerial decisions determine policy work to some extent.

1. *DfE round-table on teacher development*
2. *SKE funding*

For information.

1. *ECF*

* Details of how to register on Jeagger were summarized.
* It was asked if everyone bidding to deliver the framework has to be a national provider.
* KM thanked DfE colleagues for their contributions.

1. OfSTED
   1. *OfSTED inspection plans for 2020/21*

* ITE inspections will commence from January 2021 and OfSTED are currently training up the inspectorate workforce to be able to do this. Grading of ITE provision will continue.
* HM has weekly meeting with OfSTED SMT to look at the situation as it evolves.
* Despite the move away from standards to a curriculum model of assessment, inspections could be the straw that breaks the camel’s back’ for some providers and schools’ partnerships.
* HM distinguished between visits (which are not inspections, and where no judgements/grades are involved) and which apply to schools, and full graded inspections which will apply to the ITE sector.
* It was noted that OfSTED have a duty of care in terms of safeguarding.
* HM referred to the transition statement and that OfSTED want to be adaptable and flexible, and that she will channel UCET’s view back to the SMT.
* It was asked if there was a contingency plan if inspections from January cannot proceed.HM responded that there are ongoing meetings about this possibility.
* It was noted that many HEIs and schools are not ready to engage with inspections, and that heads and senior leaders are trying to alleviate pressure on schools; the inspections will add an extra layer. There was a danger that schools might withdraw from partnerships as a result.
* HM invited anyone who wants to discuss the inspection plans further with her in more detail to contact her by email.
* KM thanked HM for her contribution to the meeting.
  1. *Other OfSTED updates*
* None.

1. AOB

* None.

1. Date of the next meeting: **5th January 2021**