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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the UCET CPD forum held on-line at 1.00pmon Tuesday 10 November 2020**

Welcome, introductions and minutes of the previous meeting

Colleagues were welcomed to the first meeting of the 2020/21 academic year. The note of the meeting held on 2 June 2020 was agreed. On matters arising, it was confirmed that Paul Vare had been elected Chair and Lizana Oberholzer Vice Chair of the forum for up to three years.

Discussion

A range of issues was discussed, including:

* An update from JNR on non-CPD related issues, including ITE placements; relaxations made to the ITE requirements; the previous week’s UCET conference; PCET issues; and developments in Northern Ireland and Wales.
* Feedback from the morning symposium on the ideal content structure and delivery of CPD programmes, covering:   
  CPD developments since the 1970s; research findings relating to CPD; principles of effective CPD (non-prescriptive, collaborative); funding issues; the advent of centralized procurement and the scope for HEI engagement; external QA mechanisms; the assessment of what teachers learn from CPD; the importance of contextualization; portfolio CPD undertaken by teachers; the value of frameworks rather than prescribed curricula; and the difference between consistency and uniformity.   
  A draft paper would be circulated to forum colleagues soon, and would be subsequently discussed with colleagues from relevant external organisations.
* It was agreed that the next symposium would be on international CPD activities, with possible contributions from Sean Starr, Rachel Lofthouse, Paul Vare, Tracey France and colleagues of Alison Fox.
* A report from the ‘Institutional Challenges’ working group from Liz Hoult. The group, chaired by David Littlefair, had met to research and discuss the relationship between education departments and wider institutions in the context of, for example, pressures from the TEF, REF etc. The next step would a survey to forum members. It was agreed that the research findings of the group would be shared with forum colleagues.
* Institutional updates and horizon scanning, where feedback from group discussions included:
  + Horizon scanning and anticipating future developments was very difficult in current circumstances. The increase in open bidding for CPD contracts, with HEIs often as subsidiary partners, was expected however to continue. Perhaps UCET could help facilitate partnerships to make national-level bids. There might also be an increased market for on-line conferences, and supporting schools in on-line research.
  + An increase in on-line delivery of CPD, although the importance of face to face learning, and the development of more hybrid approaches in the longer term, was stressed. Some face to face sessions were reported as continuing, although delivering a mixture of face to face and on-line could present its own challenges. Screen time had in some cases to be limited. The delivery of practical programmes on-line was particularly challenging.
  + Changes were having to be made in regards to mentor training, although take up had in some cases increased.
  + Recruitment to CPD programmes was generally holding up, although retention would need to be monitored. While the recruitment of international students had in some cases declined, UK recruitment had sometimes increased.
  + The pressure on HEI staff had increased significantly because of Covid 19, with the need to develop new approaches to delivery and assessment, and because of staff redundancies and severances. Boundaries between work and home life were being eroded.
  + The difficultly of schools being able to access CPD opportunities because of other pressures, and the need to design CPD offers and market them to meet changing school needs. The availability of free on-line CPD opportunities to schools, especially those branded ‘OfSTED relevant’, was also noted.
  + Deadlines for the completion of assignments and for the carrying out of research had sometimes been relaxed in response to the pandemic.
  + The consolidation and rationalisation of CPD offers had helped some providers respond to the pandemic.
* The ECF and NPQs – with ECF early roll-out was ongoing a tender for national roll-out was underway. A tender for NPQ development and delivery issued that day.
* It was agreed that CPD forum meetings would continue to be on line for the time being, with ad hoc meetings when required. Face to face meetings, and possible regional meetings, would take place when allowed, although the benefits of on-line (e.g. from an accessibility perspective) should not be overlooked.

Items for information

The following items were noted for information:

* The new UCET strategy.
* The summer UCET newsletter.
* The UCET blog on the response of the ITE sector to Covid 19.

Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

Friday 26 February 2021.