Text Box

**Minutes of the meeting of the Northern Ireland Higher Education Liaison Group held at 12 noon on Tuesday 3 May 2022 at the Open University, 110 Victoria Street, Belfast BT1 3GN**

Attendance

David Barr (Ulster)

Alan Boyd (DE)

Kyle Crutchley (DE)

Tricia Eaton (Stranmillis)

Ian Gallagher (GTCNI)

Sam Gallagher (GTCNI)

Martin Hagan (St. Mary’s)

Emma Holmes (Education Authority)

Roisin McPhilemy (OU, and Chair of meeting)

James Nelson (Queen’s)

James Noble-Rogers (UCET)

Roisin Radcliffe (CCEA)

Apologies

Jonathan Heggarty (Stranmillis)

Esther Martin (CCEA)

Averill Morrow (EA)

Welcome & introductions

Colleagues were welcomed to the final meeting of the academic year, and the first face to face meeting of the group since January 2020.

Minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the meeting held on 11 January were agreed. On matters arising:

* Concern was expressed about the fact that ITE intake numbers for 2022/23 had still not been issued despite the fact that recruitment had been taking place for some time. DE colleagues pointed out that the funding of places is the responsibility of the Department of the Economy (DfE) and DfE has so far been unable to commit to DE’s proposal to keep ITE intake levels at the same level as 202/22.
* DE confirmed that details of relevant sub-groups would be circulated (details appended to minutes).
* It was suggested that UCETNI might produce a summary report on the temporary use of ITE students to lead classes unsupervised.
* The UCETNI school placement sub-group was in the process of being established.
* CCEA colleagues had been included in the NIHELG membership and were welcomed.

TPL research project

Work on the project was continuing and an interim report would be ready by the revised deadline of 10 June. DE colleagues were thanked for their flexibility on this matter.

Independent Review of Education

UCETNI was in the process of submitting a paper to the review team in the light of discussions at the evidence session held on 23 March.

Reports from partner organisations

The following reports were received (DE issues were agreed to have been covered earlier in the meeting):

* GTCNI: (i) although the board of the GTCNI had been formally stood down, the organisation itself was continuing to operate with oversight from DE. The focus of GTCNI’s work in the immediate future would be on teacher registration, as well as having a continuing involvement in the Learning Leaders strategy. Regulatory functions would also, to an extent, continue, for example in regards the registration of teachers committing offences across the UK, although not in regards teachers subject to non-criminal disciplinary process by schools; (ii) a public consultation on the future role of the GTCNI, to which UCETN and its member institutions were encouraged to respond, would take place from later in May or in June, and would consider, amongst other things, the balance between the Council’s regulatory functions and its role as a professional body; (iii) schools and teachers would be reminded about the importance of registering newly qualified teachers (including those qualifying from other parts of the UK) in good time: (iv) an audit would be carried out into the various routes into teaching in other parts of the UK, with consideration being given to the recognition of teachers qualifying through non-standard routes such as Assessment Only; (v): there had been a recent example of an individual applying for GTCNI registration with a fraudulent teaching qualification which was the subject of a police investigation; (vi) consideration was being given to the implications of post-Brexit regulations on the recognition by the UK of professional qualifications awarded in other countries; and (vii) the implications of the new iQTS qualification, which would be piloted by a selection of English ITE providers from September 2022, would be considered.
* Education Authority: (i) on-line support for early career teachers, which had been co-constructed with teachers, was continuing; (ii) the ‘host-school’ project, in which support for teachers by 6 schools, was progressing well; (iii) a pilot project to support teacher tutors in schools was being developed, and it was **agreed** that EA would liaise with the new UCETNI school-placement sub-group about this area of work; (iv) about 50% of schools in NI now had access to Surface-Pro' devices to support teacher development; (v) EA support for the Fair Start project had included funded membership for teachers of the Chartered College of Teaching and access to the CCTs Certificates in Evidence Informed Practice, the training for which had been adjusted to reflect the NI context; and (vi) work was continuing in respect of the School Improvement Strategy and the Digital Strategy for Learning.
* CCEA: (i) curriculum monitoring activities were continuing and action plans resulting from that monitoring were being developed and implemented; (ii) areas for future work included MFL, digital skills; on-line resources relating to national priorities (e.g. well-being, period dignity, sexual identity & CPR) were being made available; (iii) programme boards on MFL and Irish Medium would identify and meet sector needs in these areas, including the assessment of MFL in primary schools and in GCSEs, with a view to blending different approaches to assessment and making MFL more attractive to pupils, (iv) resources for digital skills, with appropriate input from industry, were being produced, with take up by schools encouraged. UCETNI colleagues pointed out the importance of CCEA making ITE providers and students aware of the resources it produced, and of engaging with the ITE sector generally.

Any other business

None.

Date of next meeting

To be confirmed.

**Annex: sub-groups which have been informed by DE about the possible scope for UCETNI representation and involvement**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Organisation / Team / Contact** | **Area of work** | **Date** |
| DE – Curriculum Policy  (Sam Dempster) | CPR training in relation to ITE | April 2022 |
| CCEA  (Margaret Farragher - CEO) | Work-streams for CCEA coming out of A Fair Start and 14-19 action plans in respect of Foundation Stage and curriculum refresh | February 2022 |
| DE – Independent Review of Education  (Peter Hutchinson) | Independent Panel - stakeholder engagement / evidence gathering process | February 2022 |
| EA – Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)  (Shane Comer) | Preparation for Principalship programme proposals | January 2022 |
| DE – Irish Medium Education (IME)  (Shirley Sweeney / Judith Logan) | Post Primary IM ITE programmes | September 2021 |
| DE – Special Educational Needs (SEN)  (Glenda Davies) | Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN) – Review of ITE SEN Module | October 2021 |
| DE – Shared Education (SE)  (Frances Curran) | Shared Education within ITE / DE’s statutory duty to promote it | October 2021 |
| EA – Teacher Professional Learning (TPL)  (Maxine Judge) | Working group to discuss the future Induction /EPD / Teacher Tutor EA training schedule | December 2020 |