**UCETNI: Covid lessons learnt**

Queen’s

Lessons learned:

1. The value in collaborative working with the DE on issues of common concern to ITE providers. Regular meetings of relevant stakeholders allowed for actions to be planned in a coordinated way and reduced duplication across providers. Subsequently, the covid-response working party has evolved to become a regular forum where further collaborative opportunities are being discussed including: working with teacher-tutors; management of placements; review of partnership agreement.
2. The importance for ITE providers of communication with school partners.
3. The need for robust placement risk-assessments to ensure due consideration is given to student and staff safety
4. The potential provided by technology for remote observation of students, as an additional tool for supervision of students
5. The possibility that student teachers can teach in an unsupervised capacity, although we learned that this should be in exceptional circumstances with support from the DE.

Ulster

While there has been a global reduction in the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of the contingency measures enacted during the period have provided Ulster University with the opportunity to retain aspects of modified placement arrangements.  In particular, the University has now moved to virtual Boards of Examiners as the default across all Schools.  This reduces the need for external examiners from other parts of the UK to travel to Northern Ireland, with concomitant environmental and time saving benefits for all involved.  In this context, the School of Education will continue to facilitate remote moderation of student work/assessment processes.  This includes the use of electronic portfolio submissions and the use of Swivl cameras, both of which permit external examiners to moderate work at a distance.  The School retains the potential to use remote teaching observations in all its programmes, using Swivl camera technology, where appropriate (such as to enable multiple visits to take place in one day where travel is not possible or where sickness, surges in COVID-19 transmission rates or other circumstances may require.  The Course Team have also undertaken of the delivery of plenary lectures as part of PGCE classes and have been using a mixture of synchronous and asynchronous delivery for those lectures