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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the UCET ITE primary & early years forum held on-line at 1pm on Tuesday 7 June 2022**

Welcome, introductions and minutes of the previous meeting

Colleagues were welcomed to the final meeting of the academic year. The note of the meeting held on 1 March 2022 was agreed. On matters arising, forum Chair Des Hewitt was reported to be in good spirits and was thought to be progressing well.

The forum discussed a number of issues, including.

* An update from JNR on non-primary and early years issues, including: the drafting of a new UCET CPD position paper; progress on the development of a new teaching qualification for the FE & skills sector; and developments in Wales and Northern Ireland.
* Feedback from the morning symposium on mental health and ITE which had been led by Lura Purser from the University of Buckingham. Key points included: the interrelationship between the mental health of teachers and pupils; the importance of empowering teachers to support the mental health of pupils; the positive impact that teachers and teacher educators could have; the value of teachers being curious about the mental health of pupils and listening to any concerns, without having any preconceptions; the various approaches and strategies that could be followed by schools and ITE providers; the use of narratives to understand what is happening; and how trauma can be manifested. It was agreed that the topic for the next morning would be on OFSTED inspections, with volunteer contributors to be invited.
* The DFE review of the ITE Market. The results on round 1 accreditations had been announced on 16 May, with just 37% of providers being successful, although a significant number were thought to have missed out by just one or two points. Concerns had been expressed to the minister and others about the fitness for purpose of the whole process, and the misleading, incomprehensible and contradictory nature of the feedback that had been given. The deadline for round 2 applications was 27 June. UCET’s policy was to support member institutions in whatever course of action they chose to take. For those choosing to apply in round 2, workshops addressing in of the man subject areas would be held.
* Recruitment to ITE, where primary was generally holding up, although in most (but not all) secondary was thought to be struggling. There was a mixed picture on the balance of recruitment to SD and core provision. On salaried routes, JNR reported that a single route was likely to replace SDS and the current apprenticeship, and would more likely resemble the latter than SDS, although DFE had been made aware of the systemic issues surrounding apprenticeship delivery.
* Placements, where the position was much healthier than it had been at the time of the last meeting. But there were issues in regards: KS1 placements; the impact of the new Teaching School Hubs, which in some cases were attempting to agree exclusive partnership arrangements with schools and for placement activities to coalesce around them; the pressures on placements and mentor capacity from the ECF and ITE; and the continued impact of COVID which had led to some schools either withdrawing from ITE for a period or giving it less of a priority, for example in providing help to students that might be in need of additional support, and an increase in the number of students not completing programmes because of lack of placement opportunities.
* Feedback from recent OFSTED inspections, including: a focus by inspectors on carefully sequenced curricula, even at a micro level (e.g. how does x activity on a Monday inter-relate with y activity on a Tuesday); the coverage of the CCF in every subject meeting (which had particular implications for primary provision); the allowing by inspectors of priority to be given to the provider's ITE curriculum rather than the CCF, provided that the rationale for this was clear and that students could be seen to receive their full CCF entitlement; and the importance of not waiting to make sure that inspectors, including the lead inspector, were briefed on any aspect of provision that the provider wanted them to be aware of. Colleagues were reminded that UCET and colleagues from across the sector were available to provide support in the run up to and during inspections.
* DBS and KCSIE issues, including the implications of DFE changing the application system so that references were not requested until near the end of the recruitment process.
* Early years issues, where the request window for EYTS allocations had opened the previous day. Many providers were reported to be withdrawing from EYTS provision and it was felt that the new NPQ would in time supersede EYTS. Concern was expressed about a possible increase on staff/pupil ratios.
* Chair and Vice Chair of the ITE primary and early years forum, where Jan Ashbridge had been elected as Chair for up to three years from September 2022. Anyone interested in standing as the new Vice Chair was encouraged to speak with either JNR or Jan about what the role entailed. Des Hewitt was formally thanked for his outstanding work as Chair over the last three years.

Items for information

The following items were noted for information:

* The Easter 2022 UCET newsletter
* The 1-2 November UCET conference which would take place in Stratford upon Avon, with keynotes including: Tim Brighouse & Mick Waters; Alison Peacock; Gayle Gorman; Stefanie Sullivan; and James Williams ([www.ucet/conference](http://www.ucet/conference)).

 Any other business

 None

 Date of next meeting

 15 November 2022.