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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**Note of the meeting of the UCET Management Forum held on-line at 1pm on Tuesday 21 June 2022**

Welcome, introductions and minutes of the previous meeting

Colleagues were welcomed to the final meeting of the academic year, which was chaired by Claire Ball-Smith. The note of the meeting held on 15 March 2022 was agreed. There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.

Discussion

A range of issues was discussed, including:

* An update from JNR on issues not included on the agenda, including: the imminent publication by CPD forum colleagues of a paper on the ECF and NPQs; the election of new UCET officers for 2022/23 onwards[[1]](#footnote-1); and developments in Northern Ireland and Wales.
* Inspection issues, including feedback from that morning’s symposia which had been informed by an excellent presentation from colleagues from Goldsmith’s college. Key points included: a strong, sometimes subject-specific, focus by inspectors on the CCF and mentor’s understanding of the CCF and its relationship to the ITE curricula; ensuring that ITE staff had all undertaken required training where appropriate; the importance of staff having in-depth knowledge of the inspection framework and the ITE requirements; pro-actively handing inspectors print copies of key documentation; and the importance of closely monitoring inspectors and challenging them where appropriate. Suggested topics for future symposia included: assessment of student teachers; Market Review outcomes, including support for unsuccessful providers and Stage 2 processes; ITE recruitment, including from overseas; working with TSHs, he NIOT and others; and links between ITE and the CCF.
* The DFE review of the ITE Market. The results of 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 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 or reapply in round 2, workshops addressing each of the main subject areas would be held. In response to a question, it was confirmed that providers were not required to submit formal expressions of interest to apply or reapply in round 2. The Stage 2 process for those that had been successful in round 1 would begin with a conference in June that all providers would be expected to attend, followed by the submission of curriculum materials to approved DfE ‘experts’. References to the possibility of the withdrawal of accreditation during round 2 had, at UCET’s request, been removed. Concerns were expressed about the coverage of DfE ‘research’ visits and a planned questionnaire which seemed to be aimed at encouraging particular post-round 2 provider behaviour in the event of anticipated Market Review outcomes, and the addition in round 2 of an extra question on mentoring, ostensibly based on text that had previously been included elsewhere in MR documentation.
* Working with School Direct lead schools from 2024/25, where the lack of clarity about the future of SD was undermining existing partnerships and threatening future levels of recruitment.
* Recruitment to ITE programmes for 2022/23, where downturns were reported for most postgraduate provision, particularly sciences, MFL and even, in some cases, PE. Primary undergraduate, however, was reported as holding up by some of those present. Predictions suggested that overall recruitment to postgraduate programmes would be just 2/3 of levels for the previous year. Vacancy rates for existing teaching posts were also reported to be going up.
* Placements, which continued to be under pressure from ECT demands being placed on schools (which would increase with the second year of the ECF), and the reluctance by some schools to support students who might be in need of additional help. DfE had, it was noted, asked providers requesting support in securing placements if they would like OfSTED to be informed of that fact.
* The continuing impact of Covid 19, which was increasing in prevalence and was impacting on student placement experiences, for example because of mentor and ITE staff absences.
* DBS and KCSIE issues, where it was suggested that UCET/NASBTT guidance might be usefully updated.
* Challenges surrounding the development of a new teaching qualification for the FE & Skills sector, and confusion about which set of teacher standards should be used to inform ITE programmes in different years.
* The results of REF 2021, which saw all submissions made under the Education sub-panel receiving at least some 3\* or 4\* rankings, and the scheduled appearance of sub-panel Chair David James at the next R&I forum symposium.

Items for information

The following items were noted:

* The Easter UCET newsletter
* . The 1-2 November UCET conference, which would be held in Stratford upon Avon, with keynote speakers including: Tim Brighouse & Mick waters; Gayle Gorman; Dame Alison Peacock; Stefanie Sullivan; and James Williams. All colleagues were encouraged to register: [www.ucet/conference](http://www.ucet/conference).

Any other business

Jan Rowe reported that she would be moving to a new role and that this might be her final MF meeting. Jan was thanked for her excellent service to UCET, the sector and to teacher education.

Next meeting

The next meeting would take place on Tuesday 29 November via Zoom.

1. Stefanie Sullivan as UCET Chair Elect, Lisa Murtagh as UCET Vice Chair, Claire Ball Smith as MF Chair and Jan Ashbridge as primary & early years forum chair [↑](#footnote-ref-1)