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*Promoting Quality in Teacher Education*

**ITE secondary forum: note of the meeting held via zoom at 1pm on Tuesday 7 March 2023**

Colleagues were welcomed to the second meeting of the academic year. The note of the meeting held on 22 November 2022 was approved. There were no matters arising not included elsewhere on the agenda.

A number of issues were discussed, including:

* An update from JNR on non-secondary related issues, including: the UCET CPD paper, *'Golden thread or gilded cage*' and subsequent discussions with DfE; details of the 2023 UCET conference which would take place in Leeds on 14-15 November; developments in regards teacher education for the post-compulsory sector, including the imminent publication of a DfE ‘expectations’ document; and issues in Northern Ireland and Wales.
* Latest developments in respect of the ITE Market Review, including:
  + ITAP, with key points including: parts of ITAP can take place as part of general school placements as long as the time is in addition to the normal placement weeks; the subjects of ITAP should be precise and focussed, and not overly broad (examples of areas covered through ITAP would be invited from UCET members); consideration could be given to which aspects of ITAP might be subject specific; mentors should have a role in planning ITAP and should have a good understanding of what it covers; ITAP should be an integrated part of a planned and sequenced ITE curriculum, not a ‘bolt-on’; students should be helped to be resilient in respect of their ITAP experiences and workload issues for both students and mentors should be addressed; the use of technology, including its potential shortcomings, should be considered; contingency plans should be put in place (e.g. if a student or mentor misses an ITAP experience[[1]](#footnote-1)); strategies were needed on how to assess the impact of ITAP; the division of ITAP responsibilities across accredited providers, delivery partners and others should be planned and documented; aspects of ITAP should if possible be piloted during 2023/24; and providers should ensure that ITAP is financially and organisationally sustainable.
  + Curriculum issues, where it was noted that delivery partners could be engaged in the co-construction of curricula, and have limited scope (with the agreement of the accredited provider) to contextualise curricula to meet local needs. Providers (possibly the majority) would be asked by DfE to submit additional stage 2 curriculum information soon.
  + Mentoring, where the lack of understanding of schools about the responsibilities they would have in respect of ITE mentoring from 2024/25 was noted. The scope to deliver cross-provider mentor training in particular geographical areas (while taking due account of the need for all mentors to have a deep understanding of their accredited provider’s ITE curriculum) and the possibility of including a range of relevant activities to count towards mentor training requirements were both discussed. DfE had been asked whether it would be possible to produce a national directory of training undertaken by mentors. Concern was also expressed about the limited scope to take account of training already received by mentors prior to 2024/25 and the resource implications that this would have for schools.
  + Partnerships, where reconfigured partnerships were being developed and clarification from DfE about the scope for accredited providers to delegate responsibility for recruitment and the collection of fees was noted..
* The work of DfE associates, where a collegiate rather than an inspectorial approach undertaken by associates was felt to be essential if effective working practices were to be developed.
* Inspection issues, where it was noted that the timetable for OfSTED inspections had on occasion be adjusted in the light of industrial action.
* New UCET guidance on DBS and Keeping Children Safe in Education, which was awaiting final sign-off by DfE.
* Recruitment to ITE, where an analysis from Mark Crowley suggested that only 67% of secondary postgraduate intake targets would be met. There were reports of some increases compared to last year in geography and English (probably because of bursary changes), but recruitment to most secondary programmes was expected to be poor. The increase in overseas applications, possibly because of a misunderstanding of DfE messaging, was identified as an issue, and it was suggested that the provision of additional information about training requirements, costs etc to international applicants prior to formal consideration of applications might make things more manageable. The increase by DfE (mid-cycle) of the number of potential choices applicants could make would it was felt add to workload, with no meaningful increase in recruitment.

Items for information

The group noted:

* The December UCET newsletter
* The forthcoming review of UCET’s strategy, vision & mission, governance, ways of working and organisational structure in the light of Market Review outcomes. .

Any other business

It was agreed that potential topics for future morning symposium would include: reflections on assessment; mentoring; and embedding subject knowledge in ITE programmes.

Date of next meeting

13 June 2023, via zoom.

1. Clarification has been sought from DfE whether ITAP is a programme design requirement or applies to the experiences of each and every student teacher. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)