



## UCET SPRING NEWSLETTER: APRIL 2019

The first months of 2019 have proved to be momentous, not only for the country as a whole but also for teacher education. The most significant development in England was of course the publication on 28 January of the DfE's teacher recruitment & retention strategy, accompanied by the new Early Career Framework, which will be available to NQTs in selected pilot areas from September 2020 before being rolled out nationally from September 2021. UCET has supported many aspects of the new strategy, including the shift in financial support from recruitment to retention measures, as well as the potential that the ECF has for supporting and retaining new teachers. We have however made it clear that the ECF should be: delivered by accredited ITE providers; include the potential to link to Master's level credits; be flexible enough to meet the individual needs of particular NQTs working in particular contexts; and be fully funded. A copy of the press notice we issued on the day of publication can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/press-releases/press-release-dfe-recruitment-retention-strategy-january-2019/>, a *Schools Week* article by JNR on the role of ITE providers in delivering the ECF at: <https://schoolsweek.co.uk/why-ite-providers-should-deliver-the-early-career-framework/> and a joint letter to Damian Hinds from UCET, NASBTT, the Chartered College of Teaching and the Teaching Schools Council at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/2019/02/joint-letter-secretary-state-damian-hinds-mp-february-2019/>. We have already held a number of meetings with the DfE and others about the further development and implementation of the recruitment strategy and the ECF, and will keep UCET colleagues fully informed of progress. Our overall aim is to ensure that

the ECF, and the new NPQs, are intellectually robust and that ITE providers and the HE sector have as significant role as possible.

One aspect of the new recruitment and retention strategy that has not yet attracted significant attention is the review of what DfE has called the 'vibrant' ITE market, including how provision is shared across providers and who the accredited providers are. The DfE has assured us that they do not envisage any significant changes to the sectors involved in ITE or in the balance of responsibilities between HEIs and others. UCET, along with colleagues from NASBTT, have held a preliminary meeting with the DfE and we will report on developments as and when we can. In the meantime, the DfE has confirmed that open recruitment (other than for secondary PE) which UCET argued for will continue for the next two recruitment rounds. Another focus will be the ITE content framework which will be reviewed in the context of the ECF, with UCET and NASBTT named in the recruitment strategy as the key players to be involved in discussions.

Things have also been active in the post-compulsory sector, with the government announcing in February the ending of pre-service bursaries for maths and English specialists and the withdrawal of funding for SKE, something which UCET described in FE Week as a 'slap in the face' for the sector: <https://feweek.co.uk/2019/02/07/dfe-scraps-fe-teacher-bursary-programme/> JNR met with Minister of State, Anne Milton, to discuss this issue and others concerned with the regulation of the sector and a need for a level playing field across different types of provider. Copies of the resulting correspondence can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/members-resources/policy-issues-responses/> Karen McGrath also represented UCET at a meeting of the Education and Training Foundation's ITE stakeholder group, where issues discussed included recruitment and retention, the review of the Diploma in Education and Training and inspection frameworks. We were also pleased, as ever, to welcome Howard Pilott as well as DfE colleagues to the February meeting of the Post 16 forum.

The mental health and well-being of student teachers and pupils is starting to get the attention it deserves, with the Management forum, ITE primary, ITE secondary and post 16 forums all devoting morning symposia to the subject. JNR was also pleased to attend and speak at a Royal Foundation event on the issue, which included a private meeting including NASBTT, OfSTED, the Chartered College of Teaching and others with HRH the Duchess of Cambridge, which in turn led to a follow up meeting with colleagues from Place 2 Be. Mental health and well-being will be covered at the UCET conference, with inputs from Place 2 Be and from UCET School Reference Group Chair, Julie Greer, who, with Caroline Daly, produced an excellent companion paper to the ITE workload report, a copy of which can be found at: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/information-guidance-advice/>



### *The great and the good*

The first two meetings of the new group established to consider the Intellectual Base of Teacher Education met in London and Sheffield in January and March. These meetings have already resulted in the drafting of the values and principles that should underpin teacher education and inform the development of a new UCET strategy from 2020 as well as acting as a reference point for UCET when making public statements and responding to public consultations. We are very grateful to all members of the group for contributing their time and, particularly, to Trevor Mutton for chairing it. One of the papers that informed the discussions was the UCET 'Building Research Informed Teacher Education Communities' paper, a synopsis of which by Lynda la Velle and Alex Kendall was published in the Chartered College's *Impact* journal, in an edition guest-edited by UCET CPD Chair, Rachel Lofthouse:

<https://impact.chartered.college/article/building-research-informed-teacher-education-communities-ucet-framework/>

OfSTED are in the process of developing a new ITE inspection framework, and JNR is attending meetings of the steering group as well as engaging in other discussions with OfSTED lead, David Storrie (where legitimate concerns about the recent OFSTED survey were conveyed). The new ITE framework will be overarched by the new overarching Education Inspection Framework, the consultation about which UCET responded to in April. Further discussion will take place when David Storrie attends the next meeting of the UCET Executive Committee.

In Northern Ireland, the research projects on the Digital Skills of primary school teachers and professional learning framework for teachers, for which funding of more than £100,000 was routed through UCET, have been completed and will be available soon. We are also organising a one day event on 21 May at Stranmills University College to demonstrate to colleagues from the Department for Education in NI, the Education Authority, GTCNI, the Inspectorate and others the invaluable contribution that HEIs make to teacher supply and development in Northern Ireland. In Wales, JNR, Jackie Moses and USCET Chair Malcolm Thomas met with the inspectorate Estyn in London, while JNR and Malcolm Thomas also attended a meeting in Cardiff to discuss the new ITE inspection framework for Wales, followed by a meeting with the Welsh Government and the Education Workforce Council about the teacher standards and the Professional Learning Passport. Malcolm and JNR also had a meeting with senior Welsh Government officials to discuss a range of teacher education policy issues, including accreditation

and recruitment, while Jackie Moses attended an Estyn training session in Llandrindod Wells.

We are pleased to announce that recipients of this year's UCET travel scholarships will be: Michele Fuller, Alexia Barrable and John Thornby. Congratulations to them, and commiserations to unsuccessful applicants, all of whom we would have been delighted to support had resources permitted.

JNR was delighted to receive invitations to speak about the current policy environment for HEIs involved in teacher education from Chichester, Birmingham City University and University College Birmingham, and would be delighted to visit others. He was also pleased to speak at a recent Guild HE/UUK event on the current teacher education policy landscape.

As most of you will know, elections will soon be taking place for the following UCET positions: Chair Elect; Vice Chair; and Chair and Vice Chair of ITE primary & early years forum. The deadline for nominations for these positions is the end of April. Please contact JNR if you would like to know more about these roles and the election process.

Finally, registration for the 5-6 November UCET conference in Stratford-upon-Avon is open, with discounts of 10% available to individuals registering before 30 April, and a further 10% to institutions sending five or more delegates. Keynote speakers will include: Mary Boustead from the NEU; Morya Boland from Glasgow, Trevor Mutton from Oxford and a plenary session led by John Furlong and colleagues on teacher education reforms in Wales. We are also planning to have a distinct research strand, as well as evening entertainment, and the now traditional boat experience. Please visit: <https://www.ucet.ac.uk/conference/ucet-annual-conference-2019-5th-6th-november/> to secure your place.

Happy Easter and spring break.

UCET  
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