

Consortium Board: Notes of Meeting

Date: 7th October 2016 (1130-1300) Venue: University of Leicester, College Court

Present: Dr. Barrie Hopson (Chair of Board), David Andrews (Independent CEIAG consultant), Janet Colledge (CDI: careers educator), Jan Ellis (CDI: careers adviser), Kevin Gilmartin (ASCL), Sion Humphreys (NAHT), Catherine Sezen (AoC), Steve Stewart (Careers England: Executive Director), and Paul Chubb (QiCS Director and Organising Secretary for the Consortium Board: notes refer to “PAC” in actions).

Apologies: Stella Turner (AELP) and Rachel Lister (HELOA).

NOTES OF MEETING

21/15 Welcomes & Introductory notes: Barrie Hopson thanked ASCL for assisting us to secure College Court for this rearranged/brought forward Board meeting. Barrie then warmly welcomed Catherine & Kevin in their now confirmed roles as direct nominees (not substitutes) for AoC & ASCL respectively.

He also advised that Rachel was seeking a replacement nominee from HELOA with greater knowledge and involvement in our sphere of work – PAC hoped to hear further from Rachel shortly.

22/15 Notes of the Previous Meeting (17.5.16)

- (i) The Board formally accepted the notes of the May 2016 Board meeting. The matters arising were:
 - 11/15: The David Andrews’ May 2015 paper on future scenarios would now not be reconsidered as events had moved on with the House of Commons Joint Sub-Committee report and its recommendations re quality assuring CEG; rather the Board would later in the agenda consider a report on possible actions to seek to clarify & simplify CEIAG quality assurance.
 - PAC confirmed that all other actions required following the May 2016 meeting had been completed.
- (ii) The Board welcomed news that initial approaches to the Independent Schools sector (Headmasters & Headmistresses Conference) about potentially joining the Board had received encouraging responses; PAC hoped to hear from HMC further soon.

- (iii) The Board considered matters in the revised current Guide to the Quality in Careers Standard which might require some further revision in due course relating to school/college mergers and Multi Academy Trusts. No firm decision was taken at this time, other than the Board authorized PAC to consult the 12 CEIAG QA providers on their current practices with regards to how they handle mergers and accreditation. PAC was also authorized to consult the QA providers on their current approaches to transition from Primary to Secondary Education. PAC was also invited to seek to secure some case studies for the websites (QiC & CE) on CEG in MATs. [action: PAC]
- (iv) The Board noted that no progress appeared to have been made with suggestions of potential conference/event re quality assuring CEG in MATs (which PAC & Jan Ellis had discussed with Westminster Briefing), nor with potential CEG events for so-called 'cold spot' areas re CEG as identified by the DfE & the Careers & Enterprise Company. The Board noted that the DfE had announced a number of social mobility 'opportunity areas' and welcomed the offer from JE of the CDI to seek to involve QiCS in any possible events which might ensue [action: JE/PAC]

23/15 QiCS NATIONAL VALIDATION, CQIRs, AND TAKE-UP OF CEIAG QAs
PROGRESS REPORT plus looking at the prevailing political context

- (i) The Board considered a detailed report from Paul on progress. This included the proposed work-planner for 2017/18 in respect of RNVPs and CQIRs.
- (ii) The Board reaffirmed its strongest hope that the remaining Award yet to secure national validation (The Humber LEP CEIAG Gold Award) would, by the New Year 2017, have sufficient evidence to seek national validation too. Janet Colledge advised that she was in contact with a leading school in Humber and would introduce PAC to her contact there for an update [action: JC]
- (iii) The Board welcomed confirmation that further annual CQIRS had also been successfully concluded with national validated Awards and, following points raised by David Andrews, PAC affirmed that these CQIRs make a positive impact on QA providers by calling them to account for progress due to be made on CQI matters following national validation.
- (iv) The Board reviewed the outcome of the July 2016 update of the survey of numbers of holders of/working towards QAs. The Board noted that the success of the QA movement was borne out by the total number of schools/colleges/WBL providers holding/working towards an Award standing at 1105.
- (v) With 30% of England's state secondary schools (995) holding/working towards a nationally validated Award, and 31% of England's Sixth Form Colleges (29) doing so too, the Board noted with pleasure this positive voluntary commitment to robustly quality assured CEIAG.
- (vi) Catherine Sezen offered to review for PAC the total numbers of establishments now classified as FECs and SFCs so that PAC might more effectively cite the true % figures nationally [action: CS]

(vii) The Board welcomed news that the 12 QA providers had increased the number of QCF L6 CEG assessors for their awards to a total of 106 with a further 28 in training (cf: 80 assessors in January 2016)

(viii) The Board also welcomed confirmation that the providers considered they had sufficient capacity to increase accreditation work should DfE REQUIRE schools in the future to achieve a QiCS nationally validated CEIAG QA.

(ix) The Board noted the detailed qualitative comments from providers on the FEC/SFC/WBL market places especially the impact of the SFA contractually requiring matrix accreditation.

(x) The Consortium Board resolved that any further responses it might make to the House of Commons Joint Sub-Committee report on CEG should be confined to CEIAG quality assurance issues – following up the joint response already approved (see item 24/15 below).

(xi) The Board shared latest intelligence on the changed Ministerial team at the DfE and civil servants. The consensus at the time of the Board was that the projected new strategy for CEG from DfE might appear in the New Year. In addition to meetings with DfE Ministers/officials taking place with the CDI & CE, the Board welcomed news that AoC/ASCL/NAHT were also pushing the new Minister (Robert Halfon) on CEG issues. All agreed to share intelligence as appropriate with PAC so that he might circulate this to the full Board [action: all]

(xii) The Board authorized PAC to conduct an update of the survey in January 2017.

(xiii) The Board welcomed the progress with the Good Schools Guide shortly to be making public the names of schools holding/working towards a QiCS nationally validated CEIAG QA. The Chairman thanked Steve Stewart for his efforts in introducing QiCS and then PAC directly to Lord Lucas & the GSG team.

(xiv) The Board was disappointed that despite the significant efforts made to engage with the Gatsby team no further positive reactions had yet been secured.

(xv) The Board noted the news of the change of leader of the Investor in Careers award.

(xvi) The Board noted that the CDI was writing to all QA providers about promoting professional development practice and sharing of expertise especially through schools becoming members; and welcomed that the Prospects CEIAG QA team would be promoting all awards through a series of CDI-organised webinars from October onwards.

- (i) The Board received a detailed report from PAC on the background and context to the need to consider potential action to seek to clarify & simplify quality assuring CEIAG in schools. It did so by acknowledging that the House of Commons Joint Sub-Committee report on CEG (July 2016) had made recommendations which demonstrated the need to seek to simplify and clarify the existence of 12 CEIAG Quality Awards and our current National Validation through the Quality in Careers Standard.
- (ii) The Board noted that HoC Committee reports are advisory not HMG policy – but accepted the need to seek to act to simplify & clarify CEIAG QA arrangements. The Board also noted the joint response which had already been submitted by Assessment Services Ltd (providers of the matrix Standard), the CDI, Careers England and our Consortium – and reaffirmed its support of the appendix to that joint statement which set out the differing functions of the matrix Standard and CEIAG QAs/QiCS.
- (iii) The Board was mindful of the need to consult and to seek agreement for any further joint action. After much debate the Board unanimously resolved that the Chairman & PAC should invite the 12 QA providers to a private consultation meeting before Christmas to consider together potential courses of action as outlined in detail in confidence to the Board today. The Chairman invited any/all members of the Board who might also be able to attend the projected meeting to do so; he undertook to seek to secure a venue in Leeds.

25/15 REVIEW OF DECISIONS TAKEN AND CONFIRMING THE DATES OF THE NEXT MEETING

Barrie and Paul reviewed decisions taken throughout this 12th meeting of the Board, which the full CB confirmed and are now duly noted in these notes.

The Board duly confirmed that the next meetings would be held at the ASCL Offices, Leicester from 1115-1300 on 19th MAY & 6th OCTOBER 2017 {Secretarial note: ASCL has been contacted, I shall confirm venue as soon as I can }

Meeting closed.

Notes prepared by Paul A. Chubb

12th October 2016