**Lewes Local Board Committee - Minutes**

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| Date | | 22/11/2021 | Time | 2-4PM | | |
| Venue | | Lewes Campus | | | | |
| Chair | | Gill Short | | | | |
| **Membership:** Gill Short, Charlie Dobres, Sarah Pringle, Penny Shimmin, Ashley Price, Tony Smith, Peter Chivers, Amelia Tradewell (student rep) Kerry Smallhorne and Nigel Ryan (Staff reps)  **In attendance:** Dan Shelley, Executive Director Strategic Partnerships and Engagement and Lewes Exec Lead; Mark Watts Assistant Principal Lewes | | | | | | |
| **Apologies: Peter Chivers, Ashley Price, Charlie Dobres and Tony Smith** | | | | | | |
|  | **Item** | | | | **Action** |
|  | **Apologies and welcome**  Apologies were noted from Peter Chivers, Charlie Dobres, Ashley Price and Tony Smith.  Gill Short commented that if an organisation is unable to make the local board meeting for any reason it would be a good idea to send another member from the organisation on their behalf.  Gill Short welcomed Sure Dare to the meeting who has been appointed by the college as a specialist advisor.  Gill Short welcomed a new member to the Local Board, Angela Smith. | | | |  |
|  | **Declarations of Interest**  Angela Smith advised the board that she is a Trustee at the Royal Pavilion Museum in Brighton. | | | |  |
|  | **Minutes of the meeting 17 May 2021 and matters arising**  SP commented regarding curriculum visits. Some coming up in December and February. Staff will be invited in to go through data and course details, w/b 06/12 and 28/02. MW will send an email invite to local board members. | | | | MW |
|  | **Local Board Update**  MW updated the board on localised data from Lewes. Lewes achieved ALPs grade 2 (Outstanding) with Eastbourne and Hastings achieving grade 3 (Excellent) which resulted in an East Sussex College ALPs grade of 2. Achievement across the board was good. Results were based in many areas on TAGs. Retention was 93.5%, achievement was 89% and pass rate was 95% for 20/21 year.    There is a Course information form, linked to every subject and to local market data and local employers and how it’s been integrated into curriculum. Skills and behavioural pyramid, start of every lesson to show how they are learning links to a job. Amelia confirmed this.  Work experience  WEX preparation from January 10th, work placement from March onwards, including A level students. Important for all students to have the work experience.  Been working with Wave Leisure, Brighton & Hove Albion, Lewes Football Club and Sussex police for work experience. Work placement team have been brilliant, T levels been piloting industrial placements for Digital, Hair and Beauty and Media, 45 day placement as part of the Community CDF fund.  Recruitment  Recruitment down on A Level. Strong in Business and Travel, Hair & Beauty.  Down in Performing Arts and Dance and some Science subjects, philosophy. 250 students down, believe it’s down due to Covid.    Overall, as a group 11% down.  Lewes 10% down.  Science down due to Covid and possibly due to our reputation for science. MW and DS have been going into schools promoting with the intention of increase numbers.  This term all Year 11 Priory students participated in tasters to experience all the subjects. Hoping it might increase the intake from Priory, we currently get very few. Students from Priory like to go West, they mainly go to BHASVIC. We are working a different marketing approach to increase our numbers.  We hope to get students who are struggling in their current college/sixth form on to fulltime programmes if they are capable or if they are struggling, we can do employability City & Guilds qualification and put them into main programmes and a 200 hour City & Guild employability programme.  Sue Dare commented that there is a theory of missing children due to Covid from being at home. SP commented that she has had many students who have opted out of education. Last year she had many who elected for home education following the lockdowns. Most of those were difficult boys who didn’t want to go to school. Having similar issues now with them coming into school but opting out. Many schools have struggled with behaviour since September. We have younger students where they have only had 25% of education spent online/home. Older ones that have given up seeing two year groups having no exams, this year it will probably be that you will do everything. Not sure about this last statement is the following still from Sarah  We have a group of students who have spent so much time out of the school system and going back into it is not their top priority. Another group who will think about it, need a couple of days to get back into it. Taster days is a great idea, good to start with YR10.  Absence in senior schools is currently high, only 86% attendance. 14% students missing, 9% more than normal. SP asked if the college could contact local schools asking them to send the information to absent students who were not there for the presentations.  SP agreed that students are staying local more especially with parents having worries of them catching Covid on public transport.  KS commented how busy our open evening was and good that we were one of the first to have one.  KS asked regarding apprenticeships and that this could have an impact on numbers. DS commented that apprenticeships have had one of the busiest starts to an academic year from the last 5 years, over 300 starts.  DS commented not being able to have open events last 2 years has made a difference in applications and not having the gold standard reputation as some of the other colleges that do.  SP commented she has had the same problem by not having the good reputation. Open evening is very important as students seeing the school or college is key.  AS commented that we are selling the story of how much we have improved over the last 3 years, but we don’t seem to be connecting. Might be better ways of accessing people who might want to come.  MW commented how young people want jobs and are interested in employment. There are new T levels coming online, mixed pathways qualifications which proved very popular at the open evenings.  MW wants to trial bringing in the lesson to the schools. Being in a lesson and try and catch the students that haven’t experienced it and take it to them virtually.  GS asked if there has been any research done on how many students make the decision or how many parents. SD commented that she hasn’t seen anything recently but it used to be mothers that made the important decision. Ofsted rating does have a very big influence on parents/students’ decisions.  Governor’s list of events  Link has been sent out with a whole list of events that can be attended, Christmas pantos, musicals and so much more. We have a number of feel good news eg, have won national landscape photography award again and the runner up prize, gaming lab.  GS commented that parents can struggle with links etc. We could do social media lessons for parents.  GS commented that communication to students needs to be improved as it has become tricky, so many different ways we can communicate, can be an overload. TikTok could be the way forward, AT confirmed it would be really good to do this.  Partnerships  Newest ones to come on board are Royal Pavilion, have 5 museums in total and looking in a years’ time to give us allot of placements.  GS has spoken to Sarah Hinks, Culture Shift Governor at Priory,who may be iinterested in joining the local board.  Lewes Football club, 100 players have been linked to us and will be coming in to use our facilities.  Cycle Lewes, Wildflower Lewes team and Charleston Development are also new partnerships.  DS updated the board on the UTC development. Lewes District Council are moving to UTC. The LDC Southover House building will be let to Charleston who will have permanent space for their collections. We are exploring with them on how we can work with them with our adult education offer.  Sue Dare  Sue Dare introduced herself to the board.  Supporting the new strategic plan in particular with Lewes and Eastbourne. SD has been brought in by the board to work with the team. She will be working with Mark Watts, Mark Wardle and Jo Folwell to put a curriculum offer together that needs the needs of the college as a whole but also locality. Looking at younger students mainly. For example, she will be look at A levels for Lewes and other areas. Move away from vocation and go into technical, which has a much more aspirational feel to it and describes what T levels are about and what working life is about. This will mark this college as different from a sixth form college.  GS asked if heads regularly meet. SP commented that they do, they are split into 3 groups. Sue Dare commented that she would like to attend as a group.  SD also advised that she will also be working on apprenticeships and some adult provision.  SD commented how she likes the skills pyramid. GS reminded the board that we are an inclusive college, and that GS is the link governor to Safeguarding and SEND and is important not to forget that. SD agreed but we have to aim high, and we have to be perceived to be the best.  Penny Shimmin commented that she thinks that its lots to do with marketing, saying something that is different, but its about not underselling. Quality to attract the A levels whilst also being seem as the place for people with learning difficulties or those who struggle in education. College needs to be seen as an environment of opportunity and how we get that marketing right is going to be complicated.  KS is exited that we are doing mixed programme again. Going back to that is good, more skill levels. B-tech/A level or another qualification. Can help give choice of direction.  SD commented on USP how we are underplayed with climate change. Action road map available, GS commented that we have signed up with the AoC, it covers 3 levels. TH confirmed this, we are emerging includes imbedding in every skills area within the college whatever you are studying. Estates, making sure we are energy efficient. Procurement, how we procure things locally.  DS confirmed ESC will be piloting a Carbon Literacy 10 hour programme after Christmas with 100 Lewes students via a project funded by the Strategic Development Fund.  AT commented that she is interested in climate change. This campus could be greener and was speaking to another student about how we could have living walls in the courtyard and get students involved to do it.  AS asked regarding Performing Arts. SD commented that Lewes does great things, and we also need to focus more on Technical, we could be offering backstage technician training. We have the facility to offer more on lighting, design backstage areas. There is a national shortage, TV have sucked out all of those technical staff to tv/film. Performance is important but there are good UAL level 3 qualifications that can be offered. | | | | MW to work with SP for Seahaven tasters  GS/MW to invite Sarah to join the Lewes Board |
| **5)** | **Updated Local Board Terms of Reference**  Another student going to join the board. Election is going through the process, should have a new student by the next meeting.  GS commented that this board is linked to the Curriculum and Standards meeting. If there is any points to go to the main board to let GS know.  Everybody was happy with TOR. | | | |  |
| **6)** | **Capital Development Board Update**   * **UTC update from Dan Shelley**   Lewes District Council are in the process of getting the lease for UTC, should be in the next month.  LDC have received a build it back better grant from the Local Enterprise Partnership; they will be taking ownership of this. Council will need a third of the space. We have an option to be an anchor tenant with LDC to have up to a third. Currently discussing with them and other colleges in the South West, Marine focused. The remaining third will be Green. Could be some marine related programmes being developed e.g. skippering, safety at sea and Marine engineering activities.  Strategic Development fund bid, one of the strands of that is to look at commercial wind generation and engineering linked to that.  GS asked what will happen to Denton Island, DS advised that Denton island doesn’t belong to us, it belongs to LDC. They will relinquish the lease if we go to UTC.  PS advised that the proposal for Denton Island is through the town deal if all these pieces fall into place, that PS organisation will initiate a social enterprise incubator. It’s us thinking through the college as well as PS organisation and others imaginatively what are the opportunities for people. Got to be fitting to what the college is doing, working together, partnership. Adults in Newhaven needs to be a priority, business related activities.  SP was glad to hear something happening with the site, needs to see investment in the area. Families saw the UTC as an amazing opportunity but it then just closed down. Message needs to be about being for young people and young adults to help them, they have had a difficult couple of years. Emphasis has got to be on what the impact is going to be on the students and the young people. Most of it will be about setting up businesses and small enterprises.  DS advised regarding lots of money that has been promised to Newhaven, around £45-50 million for the town, lots of opportunity there.  DS advised on a Hydrogen bus project, Brighton & Hove busses are redeveloping their Newhaven bus depot. Planning to have a small paint bodywork training centre which will be something young people and adults can aspire to get skilled in. Potential opportunity for a spinoff body workshop linked to the town which then presents a business opportunity. SD asked is their opportunity for traineeships. Gap between leaving school, college and getting a job. Education been patchy, very low Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate, number of students that go to college is very strong, but they don’t always last and years later still not employed. Unemployed 18-24 higher than everyone else in the southeast. Be good to have opportunity for them.  GS asked are we doing anything to address this. DS advised that we offer set to work academy programmes for over 19. Work with Boutique modern in Newhaven, also working closer with Job centre Plus.  PS expressed how she needs to be adding to the town deal discussions what has been spoken about today. What are we planning in each area to create training and to give opportunity for 18-24 years old. There is a massive range of opportunity. DS advised that LDC practice from Eastbourne, section 106, buy local, procure, train, and employ local. Have had success in Eastbourne and they are planning to bring it over to Newhaven.  MW commented if we can get employers that we are working with us to offer a guaranteed interview that is attractive to young people and adults. TH commented that we need more from our employers, we look at Green tech, Marine, we don’t have the expertise skills to deliver those, we need those key employers to design development, curriculum development co delivery, all of those things. We will see a different employment model in the future.   * **Lewes campus update by Tim Hulme**   Doing work on space, looking at how much space we have on campus. We are looking at Mothballing Southover, has caused us problems in the past, We will keep Firle, Cliffe and Performing Arts, rest of the site will potentially be redeveloped.  TH showed the board diagrams of the new building/campus.  Plan is to dispose of land known as Southover. Working jointly with Southdown National Park, which could include extra care, independent living units, living units for young people transitioning from children services to adults, private residential and some retail space which the college will retain for a gym for our sports students to work with and provide a service for the football club and various others.    Campus will be much greener and areas for social space. Central heart with a library, coffee shop, area for staff and students to touch down.  £20-£22 million project to build new and refurbish. Subject to planning, start late 2023, complete 24/25. Funding will come from the sale of the land.  We are proposing a very green campus. Investigating a car lite college. Electric cars on each site for staff to use to travel between sites. There is practicality that needs to be looked at having no parking GS commented.  We would like to engage the students in a project around the green areas to help design these green and social spaces.  AS stated in general organisations that try and do too many things are not successful. Reputation and what we need to do to make the college attracted to students to come here. Lots of great choices but we need to come up with an offering that we can focus on.  TH the green tech qualification will be the life of the project, doing that to maximise it, need to do something different.  SD commented that the DfE can change thing very quickly and we have to be in a position to be responsive to that. | | | |  |
| **7)** | **Local Board members updates and feedback:**  **External partners**  PS commented how nice it’s been today that we have spoken about Lewes and Newhaven. Speaking about practical things, jobs, future and how people are going to earn their money.  SP commented how nice it’s been today to talk about Newhaven.  **Student**  Amelia commented that at the last student council meeting they asked for a study space in Cliff, Wellbeing and extra curriculum activities. All has been dealt with really well. They asked for more of a variety of food in the canteen which has got better but the quality of food could be better.  **Staff**  KS, lots of feedback on how many meetings there are per week, we have been listened too and they have reduced. Staff coming back from covid, SP commented she has struggled with some staff. Lots of people did like lockdown and have struggled with going back to work.  MW commented attendance is on the rise with Maths and English. | | | |  |
| **8)** | **AOB**  GS asked how the board would like to attend the next meeting, in person, zoom or both. The board will be asked nearer the time.  Dan Shelley announced to the board that he will be leaving ESCG at Christmas but will still be staying on the Newhaven Board and the Sussex Chamber of Commerce. | | | |  |
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