

MINUTES

BOLTON COLLEGE BOARD

1.3 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded everyone present to declare any interests that they may have on matters to be discussed. Standing declarations were noted particularly in relation to the University of Bolton reciprocal governance arrangements and also paid positions.

The Clerk declared an interest in item 2.7 (ii) of the Agenda: Conflicts of Interest Policy.

agreed that this would be useful. A similar review had recently been undertaken at the University.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes be received as detailed.

2. SECTION B - COLLEGE MATTERS

2.1 REPORT

The Principal presented the thirteenth report under the new 'Designated Institution' Bolton College, which provided an overview of key issues. He highlighted the following points:-

Coronavirus (Covid-19) Impact

The College continued to adhere to the latest and changing guidance for the sector and learners had returned to campus. However, the majority of English and maths remained online. Where possible, staff were working on-campus on a rota basis. The College continued to offer asymptomatic testing (AST) on-site and had actively supported the local authority/NHS in hosting an on-site PCR testing facility for two weeks in May 2021, in response to the rising number of cases.

2.4 COVID-19 AND HR ISSUES

The Director of HR presented an overview of the impact of Covid-19 on staffing and safeguarding matters during 2020/21, highlighting the following key points:-

Every positive Covid-19 case had been handled centrally by the Director of HR to ensure consistency of advice and approach. Since the report, this stood at 322 cases (both staff and learners).

Overall, there had been no evidence of a concerning rise in sickness absence as a result of the pandemic. Staff affected by the virus had been impacted in different ways, with some colleagues able to continue working; some having short periods of sickness; and a very small number who had required longer periods of absence. A

The financial data reflected the budget and forecasts for 2020/21, noting that the College had been advised by the EFSA that its financial health rating was to be upgraded to 'Outstanding'.

It was **RESOLVED** that the College KPI Dashboard be noted.

2.6

2.6 (i) STUDENT PROTECTION PLAN

The Deputy Principal presented the Student Protection Plan for 2021/22 which contained minor updates from the previous version in order to ensure that the scope of provision was accurate and inclusive in respect of Non-Prescribed HE. A further change related to the risk status of 'Major accidents and incidents causing disruption to Teaching & Learning' which had moved from low risk to medium risk to reflect any disruption to course delivery as a result of Covid-19 restrictions.

It was an OfS condition of registration that HE registered providers published an annual Student Protection Plan on their website. The purpose of the Plan was to ensure that students could continue and complete their studies, or could be compensated if this was not possible.

It was

(ii) CONFLICTS

