



K A E GOVERNORS' ADVISORY BOARD

A meeting was held on **Wednesday 22nd January 2025**
at 6.30pm
in The Hook Centre Meeting Room

Present:

Hilda Clarke - HC (Chair)
Sam Burgess – SB
Ur-Cheng Leong – UL
Rebecca Roberts – RR
Barry Avery – BA
Suzy Brinded - SuzyB
Dennis Clarke – DC
Nick Board - NB
Sarah Jordan - Clerk to Governors – SJ

Apologies:

1 Apologies

There were none.

2 Minutes of the last meeting

These were agreed.

3 Matters Arising and Declarations of Interest

None arising

4 Report by the Principal

SB discussed the key elements of her report.

KPI's 23/24

Actual achievement is 87.3%. This is below the stretch target of 93% but up on LY and the highest in the South for FE colleges and Adult Ed services.

Retention 91.64% which is similar to LY and slightly below the target of 95%.

Progression data is 33% below target and last year.

Achievement

This can be broken down into Education and Training which has slightly gone down in 2023/24 to 87.6% and Community Learning which has slightly increased on LY to 86.9%. Overall there is a slight increase on LY to 87.33%

Current Year 2024/25 Enrolments to 21st Jan 2025

There is a slight improvement in these figures on LY to 1474.

HC - asked if each enrolment was a separate person.

SB - Clarified that each enrolment was in fact a learning aim. An individual learner may have more than one learning aim.

HC - asked if this made budgeting very difficult as learning aims get different amounts of funding for different courses. Should KAE be focusing on Childcare L3 which has the highest funding attached to it.

SB - replied that although some courses have higher funding for 1 year other courses such as ESOL have learners who progress onto higher levels of achievement staying with KAE for a number of years which is very beneficial.

Current Year 2024/25 Delivery

The planned 3% over delivery for GLA is currently at 1%. Courses are being planned to meet the 3% target.

Co-funding income is down as more learners are falling under the London living wage threshold. This is very difficult to predict.

The creative skills target is at risk of not being achieved. A taskforce of staff has been set up to focus on these courses. They were set up in December and their impact is already being felt with a £7k increase in January.

The new corporate and Saturday family programme has been delayed due to difficulties in recruiting staff to run the courses.

Service Update

The GLA/ESFA have allocated their funding for the next 3 years. This is positive in terms of commitment but as it is a flat allocation with no increase the real impact is a reduction year on year.

New delivery

Courses in art, Italian and French are being delivered.

Kingsnympton - Pilates, ESOL & Mindfulness

Family Programme - Italian Cookery, IT Coding, Online Safety, Using Apps, Italian, Making Necklaces/ Bracelets. This programme will start in February.

Explore Programme - These are private courses designed to help people set up small businesses in Kingston. Courses include; Become a Virtual Assistant, Freelance Content Creation, Freelance Digital Marketing, Home based Tutoring & Online Delivery. They will start in February.

Thrive Programme - This can be a corporate course or paid for by the individual. It includes courses such as Cultivating Confidence and Assertiveness in the Workplace, Managing Stress and Anxiety Effectively, Leading with Confidence and many more.

Review of realignment of resources - This will involve staff in each area and is about to start. This review will feed into the future model wherever possible.

Safeguarding and Prevent

So far this academic year there have been 3 referrals. Both Safeguarding and Prevent are very visible in KAE.

SusyB - Do you think customers associate KAE with the Family Programme sort of courses?

SB - It is being advertised in schools and through various parent WhatsApp groups.

SuzyB- Who pays for the Thrive Programme courses the employer of the employee?

SB - Either can pay depending on who has organised it.

HC- Asked how these innovative courses have been received by RBK.

SB - Reported that Scott Furlong is very in favour of them and can see they are needed to increase income.

NB - Discussed how there are currently 400 people on the waiting list for ESOL courses.

NB - Asked if we were coming out of the Guildhall in the near future.

SB - Confirmed that there was a decant meeting in February.

SuzyB - Mentioned that St Andrews and St Marks have a new classroom that they are hiring out.

SB - Said the issue with this is the cost. We are using some school classrooms at a reduced rate in return for offering classes for school parents.

HC - Thanks SB for the comprehensive update on KAE.

5 AOB

The next meeting is scheduled for June 11th 6.30pm.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm