

**MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND QUALITY
COMMITTEE HELD ON
WEDNESDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2025**



PRESENT:

Mark Allanson*	Chair of the Corporation Board
Cheryl Dunn*	Member
Ram Gupta*	Member
Darren Ratcliffe*	Member
Nathan Rogan*	Member
Clare Shaw	Member
Joshua Waghorn*	Member

IN ATTENDANCE:

Nicola Clayton	Executive Director: Business Development and Employer Engagement
Liam Doherty	Director of Quality Innovation
Matthew Robinson	Executive Director of Student Support and Experience
Sarah Horeesorun	Director of Governance

*denotes joined the meeting via MS Teams

It was noted that the meeting commenced at 17.06pm and was quorate.

The Chair of the Corporation Board, chairing this meeting by prior agreement and in the absence of the Committee Chair, Catherine Hill OBE, welcomed everyone to this Learning and Quality Committee meeting on Teams.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Catherine Hill OBE and Dr Fazal Dad CBE.

2. DECLARATION OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The Chair advised those in attendance that should members of the Learning and Quality Committee become aware of any potential conflicts of interest they should be disclosed at the earliest opportunity during the meeting.

3. MINUTES OF THE LEARNING AND QUALITY COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 6 NOVEMBER 2025

The Minutes of the Learning and Quality Committee meeting held on Thursday 6 November 2025 were accepted as a true and accurate record.

4. MATTERS ARISING

The Committee noted the many actions from the previous meeting on 6 November 2025 and that these had been either, completed, noted or carried forward.

5. COLLEGE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PLAN: FE AND WBL

- (i) Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2024/25
- (ii) Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2025/26
- (i) Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2024/25

The Director of Quality Innovation talked the Committee through the College's Self-Assessment Report (SAR) 2024/25. The SAR had been written using the Ofsted framework in place 2024/25 and used the Ofsted Inspection grades from the visit November 2024 to self-assess.

The College's overall SAR grade was assessed as being **GOOD WITH OUTSTANDING FEATURES**.

The Chair said that it was an impressive and well-presented document, an interesting read and he liked the format.

The Committee agreed with the proposed SAR grades and that the document justified those grades through data, evidence and examples provided.

The Learning and Quality Committee **APPROVED** the SAR 2024/25, and this would go to the Corporation Board 5 December for final approval.

The Chair said well done and thanked the Director of Quality Innovation.

(ii) Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) 2025/26

Following on from the SAR, the Director of Quality Innovation said that the College Further Education Quality Improvement Plan (QIP) identified, from the SAR, the key areas for improvement and enhancement. It outlined a series of key actions designed to address the small pockets of underperformance, and included improvements designed to enhance the student experience.

The QIP 2025/26 addressed the key issues identified by Ofsted in November 2024.

Members commented that the QIP was very high-level, and the Director explained that every curriculum area had its own QIP where there was much more detail. These were reviewed thoroughly in Quality Summits.

The Chair enquired about students transitioning from Launchpad to the College in January 2026, and if there were programmes to support this successfully. The Director said that this was being monitored closely.

The Learning and Quality Committee **APPROVED** the QIP 2025/26, and this would be submitted to the Corporation Board for final approval 5 December 2025.

6. SELF EVALUATION DOCUMENT (SED) 2024/25

The Director of Quality Innovation presented the Higher Education Self Evaluation Document (SED) 2024/25. He explained that as the Quality Assurance Agency for HE (QAA) was no longer the regulator for higher education in England, the requirement for a self-evaluation document had been removed. The current regulator, the Office for Students (OfS), did not provide a framework for self-evaluation. To support evaluation and continuous improvement, the College decided to continue to follow the Lancaster University partnership requirements and the SED covers:

- Quality of Student Education and Experience
- Student Outcomes
- Setting of Standards within Sector and National Requirements
- Governance, Leadership and Management Arrangements

As part of the Lancaster University Partnership Review, the SED 2024/25 was approved by Lancaster University on Friday 21 November 2025. The SED included all programmes, not just Lancaster University, though excluded PGCE.

Members noted the improvements in Higher Education (HE) and that it was on an upward trajectory.

The Learning and Quality Committee **APPROVED** the SED 2024/25.

7. OfS B3 ACTION PLAN 2025/26

The OfS B3 Action Plan was created to reflect the position of University Centre Blackburn College (UCBC) performance. The document sets out the College's four-year strategy to improve against the identified B3 metrics and was monitored by the Learning and Quality Committee.

The Committee noted the improvements in the first-time achievement rates, and the Director explained that a lot of work had been done on formative assessment, and this had a positive impact on continuation and completion rates also.

The Chair was pleased to see that Five to Thrive and work ready skills was in HE, and a member observed that there had seem to be a culture shift in HE which was positive.

The Committee **APPROVED** the Of B3 Action Plan.

8. QUALIFICATION ACHIEVEMET DATA (QAR) – HEADLINE DATA

This data was supplied for information only, much of which appeared in the SAR presented earlier on the Agenda.

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

The Vice-Principal: Curriculum and Quality provided an update on an action from the 26 June and 6 November meetings.

10. REVIEW OF MEETING

The Chair thanked members for their contributions.

11. DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Learning and Quality Committee would take place on Wednesday 25 February 2026 at 5.00pm.

The meeting ended at 18.00pm