

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE HE PERFORMANCE AND QUALITY COMMITTEE HELD ON TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026

Present

Angela Briggs	Governor (Acting Chair)
Dan Fell	Governor
Sam Hewson	Student Governor
Andrew Oldham	Governor
Sue Craggs	Governor (Co-opted for the meeting)

The quorum for the meeting was 3 External Governors. The meeting was quorate throughout.

In attendance

Dan Bown	Vice Principal HE
Danny Fenwick	Deputy Principal
Sharon Harmon	Clerk to the Corporation
James Wadsworth	Director HE Academic Registry

The meeting was held on MS Teams and started at 5.30 pm.

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1 Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from H Kirby-Hawkins (Governor), E Kirk (Staff Governor), L Brown (Student Governor), J Rees (CEO and Governor) and R Maguire (Chief Operating Officer People & Information).

2 Declarations of Interest

Members should declare any personal or financial obligation, allegiance or loyalty which would in any way affect decisions in relation to the subjects under discussion.

S Hewson declared he was a Green Party candidate in the local by-election. Members agreed this did not constitute a conflict of interest with any of the items under discussion within the meeting.

3 Minutes of the meeting of the HE Performance & Quality Committee held on Monday 24th November 2025 and any matters arising

The minutes of the HE Performance & Quality Committee held on 24th November 2025 were approved as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

Matters arising

The Director HE Academic Registry provided detail on the guidance provided to students in relation to OfS condition of registration C1 and personal data.

The Clerk advised the Committee that the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Report had been reviewed in detail at the Search, Governance and People

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committee on 4th February 2026 and would be considered by the Corporation Board at the Board meeting on 25th March 2026.

4 HE Performance Report

The Vice Principal, Higher Education (VPHE) presented a Higher Education performance update report covering recruitment, retention, attendance, Students considered at risk of non-achievement and Office for Students (OfS) compliance,

Members noted and discussed student retention. Members noted that overall retention increased to 95.3% and were assured that student retention continues to be strong and improving. Members discussed benchmarking across the sector noting that no direct retention comparable data is available but were assured by comparables where OfS continuation data is available. The Principal advised that further sources of benchmarking data were being explored. Members noted and discussed the curriculum areas where retention is lower and were assured that targeted interventions are ongoing to support enhanced performance in these areas. Members noted and were assured by the focused approach to pre-entry preparation and the robust recruitment and transition strategies implemented across HE provision.

Members noted and discussed attendance figures across curriculum areas. Members were assured that attendance across HE has improved to 86% which is 2% higher than the previous academic year. Members noted and discussed a disparity in attendance figures across college campuses and the possible reasons for the difference. Members noted the different student profiles across the sites and discussed the main drivers for the disparity in attendance figures.

Members discussed students at risk of withdrawal or non-achievement. Members were assured by the supports and interventions in place to support students identify at risk.

Members noted and discussed the update on OfS conditions of registration compliance. Member were assured that the HE Governance Structure has been implemented and mapped to Office for Students ongoing conditions of registration, alongside the Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code 2024. Members were assured a robust OfS conditions tracker has also been implemented which clearly demonstrates compliance alongside mechanisms of reporting.

Members thanked the VPHE for the comprehensive report.

5 HE Quality Improvement Plan

The Director HE Academic Registry (DHEAR) presented a report providing an update on the Higher Education Quality Improvement Plan (HEQiP) and the progress made towards achieving the actions detailed in the plan.

Members considered the update and noted that the HEQiP contained nine rolling actions resulting from self-evaluation and ongoing quality assurance activities. Members noted and discussed the actions which address a range of themes, including graduate outcomes, perceptions of learning resources, access and participation, data use and educational gains. Members noted that the addition of a further action relating to Artificial Intelligence is currently being considered.

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	Members discussed the Groups approach to AI and had a full discussion about the future of AI and the potential risks and opportunities this presented. Members sought further detail on the Access and Participation Plan (APP) and widening participation, The DHEAR outlined the work undertaken and progress on the APP. Members discussed Higher Apprenticeships performance and governance. Members noted updates on the reporting of HE apprenticeship data. Members thanked the Director HE Academic Registry for the update report and were assured that the actions set out in the QIP are appropriate and that the HE QIP is being effectively managed.	
6	IoT Performance Report Members received the IoT performance monitoring update report, covering performance, curriculum and activity highlights within both the Lincolnshire and the South Yorkshire Institutes of Technology (LIoT and SYIoT). Members were assured that the both the LIoT and the SYIoT continue to perform strongly overall and remain on a positive trajectory. Members noted the LIoT shows the most significant scale and momentum within Health & Social Care and Animal Management. Members noted that Engineering and Construction remain key growth priorities and were assured by sustained employer engagement and in-year activity that is strengthening the pipeline in these areas. Members noted the SYIoT's continued strength in the creative/digital portfolio and ongoing employer-linked development in Engineering and Construction. Members were assured that where operational constraints exist actions and mitigations are clearly defined and are being progressed. Members noted and discussed the continued enhancement of the learner experience. Members noted and discussed the range of curriculum and activity highlights. New Governor members asked for further detail on the development of the LIoT and the SYIoT. The VPHE provided members with a background to the IoTs and explained DNCG's engagement in both. Members noted and discussed the direction of travel within both IoTs.	
7	OfS Oversight Tracker The Director HE Academic Registry presented a report providing an update on DNCG's monitoring of compliance with the Office for Students' (OfS) ongoing conditions of registrations. Members noted and discussed updates on compliance with OfS conditions of registrations. Members considered the OfS conditions tracker and were assured the tracker clearly demonstrates compliance alongside mechanisms of reporting. Members were assured that DNCG remains compliant with the OfS ongoing conditions of registration and is proactively monitoring all conditions on a regular basis and actioning activity to address any potential risk to registration.	

8 HE Student Experience Report

The VPHE presented a HE Student Experience report. Members noted and discussed the contents of the report covering student feedback and educational gains and opportunities.

Members noted the strong student engagement with the National Student Survey 2026 and were assured that targeted interventions from HE Quality and Leadership are underway to strengthen engagement with HE student surveys. Members noted the positive outcomes from the HE induction survey providing assurance of the high quality student experience delivered from the outset. Members were assured that in areas highlighted for improvement enhancement actions are already in progress.

Members discussed educational gains and noted that the Scholarly Internship Programme (SchIP) continues to strengthen through a number of active staff–student research collaborations. Members were further assured that students across all Schools, benefit from extensive, sector aligned enrichment and employability focused activities. Members noted and discussed the range of student enrichment activities across the Group. The VPHE assured members that the continued enhancement of the student experience is a core strategic focus for 2025–26 and that the HE Governance Structure embeds student experience at the heart of quality and strategic decision making.

9 Student Services Report

Members received and considered the Student Service update report. Members noted the report highlights sustained progress across HE Student Services, with strong engagement in academic support, wellbeing, safeguarding, disability support, and enrichment. Members further noted that several areas show significant growth and impact, although pressures on space, training uptake, and resource availability present ongoing challenges.

Members discussed the Groups response and measures in place in relation to recent national news about the risk of meningitis. Members were assured that the Group had appropriate measures in place. Members asked about work placements across sites. The VPHE explained how work placements operate across each site.

10 Risk Register Review

Members received and reviewed the Group Risk Register. Members reviewed and discussed the strategic risk for which the HEPQ Committee has responsibility for oversight in relation to Higher Education provision. Members were assured that curriculum KPI's are ahead of same point last year and HE is performing very well. Members noted the ongoing challenges in relation to student recruitment. Members were assured that this position is improving. Members noted updates to mitigations, planned actions and assurances. Members considered the residual risk score and noted that it remains within the target risk score. Members were satisfied that the current risk rating was appropriate. Members noted that Risk Management Framework training would be delivered to Governors at the Governor Development session on 6th May 2026. Members further noted that a review of risk appetite would be conducted next term.

11 Committee Chair's Report to Corporation Board

Members considered the business of the meeting and recorded key items and any changes to strategic risks identified for feedback to the Corporation Board in the Committee Chair's Report. The following items were highlighted for inclusion:

- HE curriculum performing well and KPI's are ahead of same point last year.
- Ongoing challenges with student recruitment within the HE sector.

12 Any Other Business

Members noted the HE Professional Conversation scheduled in June.

Members were invited to attend Learning walks.

13 Date and Time of Next Meeting

Members noted that the next meeting of the HE Performance & Quality Committee is scheduled for Wednesday 1st July 2026, 5.30 pm at UCNL

The meeting closed at 7.35 pm

Sharon Harmon
Clerk to the Corporation

Signed: (Chair)

Date:

TABLE OF ACTIONS				
Date	Minute	Action	Responsibility	Date Due