

MINUTES

IFATE APPROVALS AND POLICY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE

Meeting title: IfATE Approvals and Policy Assurance Committee
Meeting date: 13 October 2022
Protective marking: Official

Board members present: Kate Barclay (KB) (Chair); Jessica Leigh Jones (JLJ) (via teleconference); Neil Morrison (NM) (via teleconference); Malcolm Press (MP) (via teleconference); Bev Robinson (BR) (via teleconference).

IfATE officials present: Carmel Grant (DD for Commissioning and Development) (CG); Chris Morgan (DD for Commercial Delivery) (CM) (item 3 only); Robert Nitsch (Delivery Director) (RN).

Other stakeholders present: Stephen Allaker (SA) (Chair of the Legal, Finance and Accounting Route Panel); Graham Honeyman (Chair of the Engineering and Manufacturing Route Panel); Apprentice Panel members (item 6 only).

Apologies: Rachel Cooper (Strategy Director); Paul Edmonds (Chair of the Hair and Beauty Route Panel).

Item 1. Welcome, introductions and conflicts of interest

1. Dr Kate Barclay (the chair) welcomed members and attendees to the meeting and invited participants to introduce themselves. Apologies for absence had been received from Strategy Director Rachel Cooper and Paul Edmonds, Chair of the Health and Beauty Route Panel (RP).
2. The chair asked members whether they had any declarations of interest to make. No declarations were made and members recognised that they should declare any potential or actual conflict arise by virtue of their other interests.

Item 2. Minutes and actions from the last meeting

3. The draft minutes of the Approvals Policy and Assurance Committee (APAC) meeting held on 31 August 2022 were approved without amendment.
4. The committee received an update on the action log, and agreed to close five actions; Actions 018 and 020 remain open.

Item 3. Health & Science T Level and longer-term implications

5. The committee received an update on IfATE's review of NCFE's delivery of the summer 2022 cohort 1 year 1 core component assessment for the T Level TQs in Health, Healthcare Science & Science.

6. The committee agreed the importance of ensuring that the students remaining on the programme had a good experience, and of keeping the voices of employers and learners at the centre of the review and remedial actions taken. It was determined that a root cause would help to focus the treatment of the issues and that this should be a component of the Paper to the Board. The APAC asked to be briefed on progress in six months and it was agreed that this could be in the form of a Paper if appropriate.

Item 4. Route Panel Chairs annual report

7. The committee welcomed Stephen Allaker, Chair of the Legal, Finance and Accounting RP and Graham Honeyman, Chair of the Engineering and Manufacturing RP to the meeting. SA and GH provided an update on the work undertaken by their Route Panels and reflected that the remit of both Route Panels was very wide, covering a wide range of occupations.
8. The committee agreed that Route Panel agendas should allocate a greater proportion of time to consideration and afford less time to briefings on IfATE activity. From the discussion on recruitment and participation, it was decided that NM would provide advice into the workforce plan for RPs; the committee agreed that there were benefits in recruiting individuals in earlier career stages. It was also suggested that IfATE might find it useful to look at other operating models and that the possibility of sharing details of networks of RP Members should be investigated.

Item 5. Technical Education qualifications

9. The committee received an update on how IfATE had engaged with employers to shape the post-16 level 3 qualifications approval criteria, and how IfATE and Awarding Organisations made best use of employer input on T Levels and Higher Technical Qualifications. This incorporated a brief on themes arising from the summer Post-16 consultation.
10. The committee endorsed the continued focus on employer engagement and the importance of sustaining employer participation.

Item 6. Apprenticeship Panel report

11. The committee welcomed an apprentice working towards a L7 solicitor apprenticeship, who provided an outline of her experience of the programme, including an illustration of how the Solicitors Regulation Authority's statement of solicitor competence is woven into the apprentice programme's prescribed knowledge, skills and behaviours.
12. The apprentice noted that her employer was supportive and flexible in providing the time necessary to complete off the job training, but this was not universal.

Item 7. Any other business

13. RN alerted the committee to the request from DfE to rapidly develop a process that generated a Funding Band supplement in response to increases in costs. The committee was keen to understand more about the process that was in development and it was agreed that MP would meet with IfATE to discuss.

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Date created: 20/10/2022
Version: final