

## Secondary SPC – 10 March 2022

### Review of terms of reference

The terms of reference were reviewed by Amanda Brougham. These are available on the BCU Secondary Partnership Webpage (Partnership Information tab)

### Review of actions from last meeting

Hassan reviewed actions:

- 1) Reviewing potential solutions for Google users in accessing paperwork

KT: we have removed all of the developer tools and made an alternative version to send to Google schools.

- 2) Ensure partnership newsletters are circulated to all involved in SPC

AB: this has been reviewed, and hopefully everyone here will now be involved. All of the partnership newsletters are on the website as an easy reference for partner schools.

- 3) Half-termly updates on tasks linked to each programme sent to PMs and SMs by partnership lead.

AB: I have begun sending these out via MS Sway and copied as a PDF so all PMs can access them.

- 4) Complete a simple A4 pre-Ofsted briefing paper.

AB: This was sent to all mentors at the end of January.

- 5) **Set up a professional mentor drop-in sequence**

**Continued action: This has not yet been achieved – it is a work in progress. AB / CH / HK**

### Breakout discussion around BCU ITE Curriculum and Subject Priorities

Grant reviewed the key themes of the BCU ITE curriculum.

Feedback identified:

- Challenges around workload for mentors in current school contexts
- The importance of mentoring conversations.
- Trainees need to be trained on reflections.
- Subject knowledge needs to be developed.
- The value of trainees storing evidence aligned to the themes to evidence progress in Review and Progress meetings
- Challenges of time commitments in schools to fully absorb information shared from BCU
- Confirmation that Teacher's Standards are embedded in ITE Curriculum Themes and used to award QTS at end of training

**Action:** The work around embedding the BCU ITE should continue to be a focus in mentor communication and training.

- We should send round a survey at the end of this term to get a temperature check on how mentors are responding to the curriculum. **We will review data to illustrate its impact in the next SPC meeting. AB**
- **Time to review ways to embed subject priorities in CPD3 - AB**

### SBT places 2022/23- Amanda Brougham

We have adopted a new strategic approach was reviewed

- sending out requests for SBT already via email and in hardcopy
- asking for places in subjects rather than places for specific programmes (e.g. undergraduate v postgraduate).
- this new approach will address placement issues in UG going forwards.

### ITT recruitment – Fiona Darby.

- Nationally, PGCE recruitment levels have again dropped back to pre-pandemic levels. We are getting fewer applications through at BCU, too.

- DT applications are up slightly, but several subjects are down, with Biology applications down significantly. These may relate to bursary payments.
- Fiona provided figures for current PGCE recruitment.
- Grant noted that there was no significant dip in UG applications and that we had had 160 applications for PE (aiming to accept 30) and 50 for Science.
- Fiona noted that SPC members would be welcome to become involved in PGCE interview panels.

### Improvement Plan presentation – Kerry Taylor

#### a. Further embedding the BCU Core Curriculum

- Need to ensure that trainees are receiving consistent messages aligned to curriculum whether they are on campus or in school
- Curriculum and CCF aligned in BCU sessions
- Redesigned the Progress Journal
- New Tracker

#### b. EDI and SEND in the curriculum

- SEND, needs to be threaded throughout the course rather than seen as a bolt-on.
- EAL lead in the school of education and increased CPD
- LGBT+ ally training for BCU staff

#### c. Recruitment and retention

- The pandemic has created retention issues
- We have now returned to face-to-face interviews and two-tutor interviews to ensure recruitment is robust

#### d. Mentor development

- Continue to ensure that mentors are engaging on CPD
- Comms with subject mentors has increased
- Comms and guidance for professional mentors also increased
- Reduced the paperwork required of mentors

### Discussion followed on targets b and d in breakout groups

Amanda Brougham discussed the prospect of a mentor working party involving some SPC members to look at future CPD planning and invited expressions of interest. Teresa Wilson said yes, as did Gareth Lloyd.

**Action:** Amanda will pursue a mentor working group discussion building up to CPD3, with an idea of developing hub and spoke model of mentor networking with events for next year. Amanda will send around a Teams form asking for volunteers for the working party, to arrange an online meeting. We would be looking for mentors who could potentially e.g. record a mentor session with their trainees in order to use as examples in the final CPD event this year. **AB**

Amanda noted that we are looking to put on a mentor celebration event, but we still have not confirmed the date; we are currently looking at July, possibly in the Botanical Gardens.

### Dates for next meeting

**The next mentor meeting will be on Wednesday 08 June, 16:30–18:15.**

**Action:** Minutes will be sent with an invitation to this meeting. **AB/ MS**

Charis noted that she really appreciated the fact that BCU takes mentor feedback on board and makes them feel like part of the team.