

# **Programmes and Awards Oversight Committee (PAOC)**

Note of meeting of **23 August 2024**

*via*

## **Microsoft Teams**

Present: Sharon Feeney (Chair), Mark Kane, Brendan O’Dea, Billy Bennett, Mary Kerr, Paula Hodson, Karen Jones, Alex Keys (Key Executive)

Apologies: Maria Ward, Cróna Gallagher

In attendance: Laura McNamee (QQI), Michelle Gallagher (QQI)

### **1. Minutes of meeting of 05 December 2023**

The minutes of the PAOC meeting on the 05 December 2023 were AGREED.

### **2. New Members**

Mary Kerr, Paula Hodson, Karen Jones were welcomed to the committee.

### **3. Conflict of Interest**

No conflicts of interest were noted.

### **4. Terms of Reference and role of the PAOC**

The Key Executive gave an overview of the Terms of Reference and Role of the PAOC meeting. The scope of the responsibility of the PAOC was discussed. The Committee posited that thematic analytics of the panel reports would be beneficial. The Executive will discuss with the relevant units within QQI.

### **5. Negative Decisions taken by the PAEC on Programme Validation for confirmation or referral back to the PAEC**

#### **5.1 Validation Refusals**

##### **5.1.1 Liffey College**

PG25300, Specific Purpose Certificate in International Foundation Studies, Level 5, Special Purpose Award, 120 FET Credits (*Non-CAS*)

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC’s decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

### 5.1.2 City Education Group

PG25453, Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Information & Communications Technology, Level 8, Major Award, 240 Credits

PG25455, Bachelor of Science in Information & Communications Technology, Level 7, Major Award, 180 Credits [*Exit-Only Award*]

PG25456, Higher Certificate in Science in Information & Communications Technology, Level 6, Major Award, 120 Credits [*Exit-Only Award*]

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues and evidence that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

### 5.1.3 Dorset College

PG25215, Bachelor of Arts (Honours) in Business Management, Level 8, Major Award, 180 credits

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues and evidence that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

### 5.1.4 Irish Times Training (*Mark Kane, Karen Jones & Paula Hodson leading*)

PG25481, Level 5 Certificate in Health Service Skills, Level 5, Major Award, 120 FET Credits

PG25468, Care of the Older Person, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25508, Infection Prevention and Control, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25509, Care Support, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25510, Safety and Health at Work, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25511, Communications, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25512, Work Experience, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25513, Palliative Care Support, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25469, Care Skills, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

PG25514, Equality and Disability, Level 5, Minor Award, 15 FET Credits

The item was introduced by members of the Committee, and the issues that informed the PAEC decision were discussed. The PAEC's decision to refuse validation of these programmes was considered and CONFIRMED.

## 6. Oral Report of PAOC representations at PAEC meetings

Sharon Feeney represented the PAOC at the PAEC meeting of 07 February 2024.

Specific points that Sharon noted:

- Impressed with the detailed discussions

- Observing is a good practice to get to grips with the process
- Impressive level of detail on programmes and providers
- Recommend attending, provides great insight and confidence in the process

## 7. **Any Other Business**

The committee established possible dates of the next meeting. It was agreed that, once confirmed, the PAEC dates for 2025 will be circulated to the PAOC members for consideration of attendance as the PAOC observer at the PAEC meeting. It was noted that the Committee self-evaluation survey will be circulated soon.

As there was no other business, the meeting ended.