

External Review of Governance – summary of report – April 2024

It is a Department for Education requirement that all Further Education Colleges commission an external review of governance at least every three years. South Thames College Group (STCG) commissioned the Association of Colleges to undertake such a review which was carried out by Marina Gaze during the period January to March 2024.

The review recognised that STCG has a high performing, ambitious board that puts the success and well-being of students at the heart of its work. All governors see students as central to their decision making and work hard to ensure all students' education and experiences of the college are good or better. The board provides strong strategic leadership to the group and has taken a robust and successful approach to ensuring financial stability including through growth in student numbers and reviewing the estates strategy. The board provide strong scrutiny, challenge and accountability. The relationship between the board and SLT is excellent, as is the relationship between the Chair of the Corporation, the Group Principal / CEO and the Head of Governance.

The overall conclusion of the review on board effectiveness is that **there is strong evidence that the board is highly proficient and consistently impacts positively on college strategy, effectiveness, and outcomes.**

Plans are already in place to address the small number of areas for development identified in the review.

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