

Management and Governance Self-Assessment

Academic Year 2018/19

RNN Group

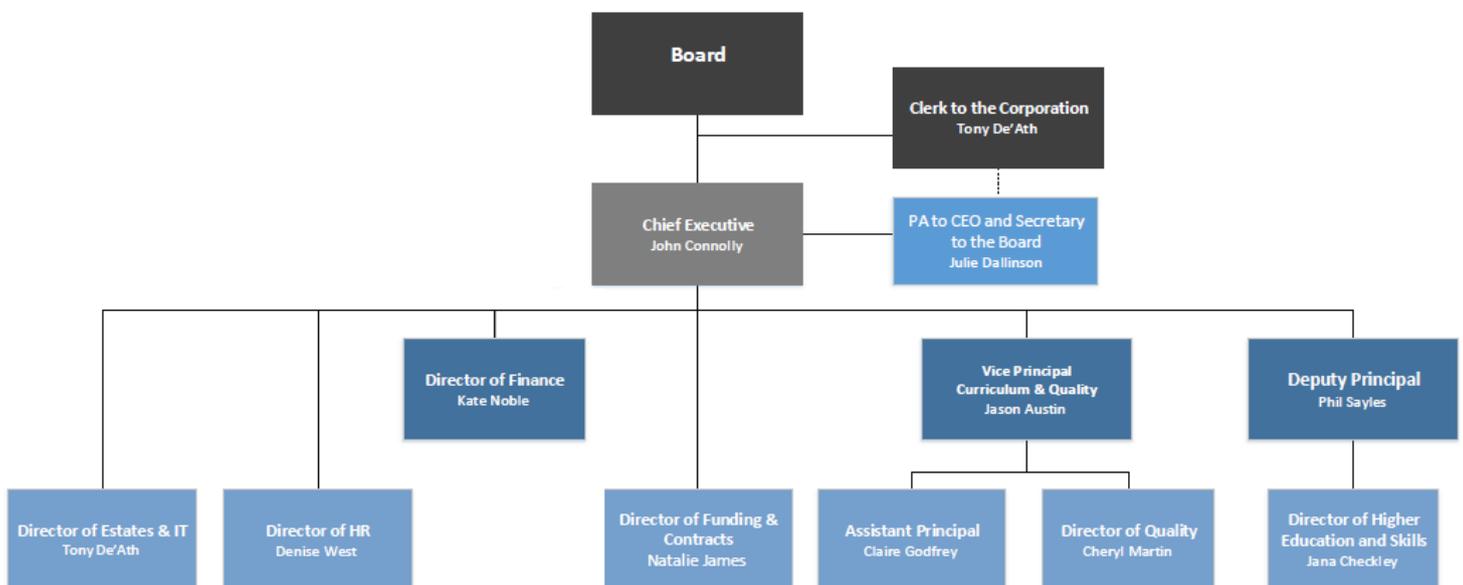
UKPRN: 10005534

Overall Approach

A part of our application to the Officer for Students, RNN Group conducted a self-assessment of our college's Management and Governance structure. Through the assessment process, RNN Group has identified that we have a robust and rigorous approach to management and governance.

RNN Group is a medium sized further education provider with a small proportion of higher education activity, with a current number of 597 higher education learners as of May 2018.

Our group structure chart clearly identifies line management and oversight of key roles within RNN Group. The body with ultimate decision making powers for our higher education activity is the RNN Group Corporation of Governors.



The Governors delegate responsibility for the day to day running of the organisation to the Chief Executive and Senior Leadership Team, as identified above. These arrangements are acknowledged as appropriate for the size and complexity of our Group and higher education activity.

For transparency, information on all RNN Group governors can be found on our RNN Group website [here](#). The minutes from each governance meeting is also readily available on the RNN Group website, with minutes from 2016, 2017, and 2018 and can be found [here](#)

The key documents that supports RNN Group's governing documents ensure the strategic, quality, and day to day activities of RNN Group.

Instruments & Articles of Government

Sets out the regulatory framework within which RNN Group operates and can be found [here](#)

Code of Conduct

Set of rules outlining social norms and proper practices of conduct

Standing Orders	Rule of procedures adopted by RNN Group governance for internal use
Terms of Reference	Defines the structure and purpose of RNN Group’s governing body and can be found here
Risk Register	Internal risk management tool and compliance tracking document
Register of Interests	Provides information on relevant interests that may influence judgement of individuals

Self-assessment arrangements

We follow the FE Code of Governance, currently the 15th (2017) which has developed from the point of incorporation in 1992.

The FE Code of Governance has been self-assessed as appropriate for our higher education activity because it provides clear expectations of the standards of conduct and accountability which are expected of Corporation Members, the Corporation to enable them to understand their legal and ethical duties and to assist them both in carrying out those duties and in their relationship with the Chief Executive. The Code is therefore aimed at promoting effective, well informed and accountable College governance.

The Code is supported by further advisory and best practice guidance in the form of Standing Orders, Committee Terms of Reference, sector advisory bodies (AoC, Clerks Network, etc) and guidance and monitoring from Ofsted, Funding Bodies, etc.

Governance is an integral part of the annual self-assessment process that the Group undertakes and is included within the Leadership and Management element of the assessment.

Public interest

Standard public interest governance principles: applicable to all providers

Academic freedom: Academic staff at an English higher education provider have freedom within the law:

- (a) To question and test received wisdom; and
- (b) to put forward new ideas and controversial or unpopular opinions; without planning themselves in jeopardy of losing their jobs or privileges they may have at the provider.

This is covered by our compliance with our chosen governance code and is a key element and right contained within the contract of employment for academic staff.

Accountability: The provider operates openly, honestly, accountably and with integrity and demonstrates the values appropriate to the recognised as an English higher education provider.

This is covered by our compliance with our chosen governance code, *“The Code of Conduct for Corporation Members”* 15th Edition.

Student engagement: The governing body ensures that all students have opportunities to engage with the governance of the provider, and that this allows for a range of perspectives to have influence.

Academic governance: The governing body receives and tests assurance that academic governance is adequate and effective through explicit protocols with the Senate/Academic Board (or equivalent).

Risk management: The provider operates comprehensive corporate risk management and control arrangements (including for academic risk) to ensure the sustainability of the provider's operations, and its ability to continue to comply with all of its conditions of registration.

Value for money: The governing body ensures that there are adequate and effective arrangements in place to provide transparency about value for money for students and (where a provider has access to the student support system or to grant funding) for taxpayers.

Freedom of speech: The governing body takes such steps as are reasonably practicable to ensure that freedom of speech within the law is secured within the provider.

Governing body: The size, composition, diversity, skills mix, and terms of office of the governing body is appropriate for the nature, scale and complexity of the provider.

Fit and proper: Members of the Governing Body, those with senior management responsibilities, and individuals exercising control or significant influence over the provider, are fit and proper persons.

There are two seats on the Board of Governors for student representatives.

The Board of Governors has a sub-committee, The Quality & Standards Committee with a specific focus on the quality and standards of the curriculum delivery and student experience.

The Group has a risk register that is reviewed and monitored on a monthly basis by the Senior Leadership Team and the Board of Governors.

The Group financial regulations and procedures comply with best practice to ensure best value for goods and services, both nationally and European, as defined by expenditure limits.

Across the Group there are numerous groups, teams, working parties, task and finish projects, management meeting structures and staff representative forums to encourage and support freedom of speech and open communication. Freedom of speech is encouraged and supported in all staff, student and external meetings and any forms of communications. The Group has a Whistleblowing policy.

The size, composition, diversity, etc. of the Board complies with the Instruments & Articles of Governance, c/o Further & Higher Education Act 1992.

All senior staff and governors complete a declaration of interests and continually monitor their eligibility to remain as a governor. All meetings of the Board have a standing agenda item to provide opportunity for individuals to reflect and confirm ongoing eligibility and declare any interests should there be any.

Additional public interest governance principle: providers authorised with degree awarding powers

Not applicable

Additional public interest governance principles: providers in receipt of financial support

Independent members of the governing body:

There must be at least one external member of the governing body who is independent of the provider, and whose term of office is normally limited to a maximum of three terms of three years or two terms of four years. For providers with large governing bodies, or more complex legal forms, additional independent members may be appropriate.

The Corporation Board of Governors is constituted with 11 external/independent (Governors), as a majority. Individual tenure for a member can range from 1 to 4 years' maximum, two terms maximum.

Regularity, propriety and value for Money: The governing body ensures that there are adequate and effective arrangements in place to ensure public funds are managed appropriately, in line with the conditions of grant and the principles of regularity, propriety and value for money, and to protect the interests of taxpayers and other stakeholders. This also applies to any funds passed to another entity for the provision of facilities or learning and teaching, or for research to be undertaken.

The Group is bound by the funding agreements it signs with the various funding bodies. This is supported by the Group Financial Regulations that reflect best practice for the sector concerning the procurement and payment for goods and services. The Group undergoes a rigorous cycle of audit and as required by statute published an annual set of Financial statements.