



Further Education College Clerk Development and Training Programme Resource Pack

Module 6: Strategy and Educational Character Executive Summary

The governing body is legally responsible for the determination and periodic review of the educational character and mission of the institution and the oversight of its activities. The **purpose** of this module is to provide governors with an overview of their responsibilities as they relate to the educational character of the college, its vision, mission, values and strategy.

Section 1 draws the distinction between management and governance and uses a case study to demonstrate the unique contribution that governors make to the college.

Section 2 looks at the broader educational environment and stresses the need for governors to be aware of key educational developments including relevant legislation: the impact of the Education Act 2011 which has given colleges a significant increase in independence; changes to the curriculum, including A Level, AS Level and GCSE; and significant reports including the Wolf Report on vocational education.

Section 3 looks in greater detail at the idea of educational character and ethos. It uses a case study to illustrate the key components of educational character and provides a checklist for governors to use.

Section 4 examines the importance of the strategic plan in defining the kind of college governors are wishing to create.

Section 5 looks at the organisational capacity of the college and the extent to which it is capable of delivering the objectives agreed by governors, particularly at a time of tight budget control from central government.

Section 6 illustrates how governors can use meetings to monitor the strategic plan. Examples of powerful questions are given, emphasising the important role of the governor as a critical friend.