

Department for Education Board Meeting

10 March 2022, 13:00 – 15.00

Attendees

Nadhim Zahawi, Rt Hon MP
Baroness Barran, MBE

Richard Pennycook
Ian Ferguson
Toby Peyton-Jones
Nick Timothy
Martin Spencer

Susan Acland-Hood
Mike Green
Indra Morris

Tony Foot

Title

Secretary of State for Education
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
the School System
Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Deputy Chair, Education and Skills Funding
Agency Management Board
Permanent Secretary
Chief Operating Officer
Director General, Children's Services
Communications and Strategy Group
Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Alice Lakeman
Tom Stephens
Emily Knowles
Stephanie Brivio

Charlie Lang
Helen Alderton
Jonathan Clear
Jonathan Dewsbury

Title

Financial Planning and Strategy Manager
Deputy Director, Delivery Unit
Head of Performance Analysis
Director, Special Educational Needs and
Social Mobility
Deputy Director, SEND Review
Head of the Strategy Unit
Planning, Performance and Risk Director
Deputy Director, Planning Performance and
Risk

Other Attendees

Andrew McCully

Julia Kinniburgh

Emily Roche
Hollie Godsmark

Sevim Ekmekci
Shelley Cooper
Laura Hoskins

Title

Director General, Early Years and Schools
Group
Director General, Covid Response and
Recovery Group
Director of Strategy
Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State
Head of Office to the Permanent Secretary
Board Secretary
Secretariat Manager

Apologies

Minister Donelan, Rt Hon MP

Robin Walker, MP

Title

Minister of State for Higher and Further
Education (Minister for the Board)
Minister of State for School Standards

Alex Burghart, MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Skills

Will Quince, MP

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families

John Edwards

Acting Chief Executive Officer, Education and Skills Funding Agency

1. INTRODUCTIONS, MINUTES, AND ACTIONS

1.1. The Secretary of State welcomed Members to the meeting.

1.2. No new interests were declared and the minutes and the action tracker from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

2. FINANCE UPDATE

2.1. The Board was provided with an overview of the Department's in-year financial position and the Business Planning process, including updates on the budgeting forecasts.

2.2 The Board agreed that the position of the departmental admin budget would be reviewed again at the end of Quarter 1.

2.3. The Board explored areas of value for money across the education system and opportunities for efficiencies.

3. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

3.1. The Board was provided with an update on the Department's performance against the ministerial priorities of Skills, Schools, and Families.

3.3. The Board discussed the Skills Programme and the Future Childcare Programme. Members noted the work of employers as key drivers of skills in the skills system.

3.4. The Board requested changes to the format of future Performance Updates on the presentation of schools' data and the inclusion of Covid Recovery performance data.

4. SEND REVIEW

4.1. The Board was updated on the Special Education and Needs and Disability (SEND) and Alternative Provision Green Paper.

4.2. The Board focused on the Paper's proposals on teaching and expectations of support and emphasised that effective communication would be key to the successful implementation of its reforms.

5. THIRD SESSION LEGISLATION

5.1. The Board was informed of the plans to manage the Schools Bill and Higher Education (HE) Bill, in addition to the Freedom of Speech Bill, through the third Parliamentary Session.

5.2. The Department may have legislation in the fourth session, which could include implementation of the SEND Green Paper and the Department's response to the Independent Review of Social Care, subject to policy work and parliamentary planning.

5.3. The Board were assured of the detailed policy work that had taken place throughout the planning process.

5.4. Members discussed the impact of the Minimum Eligibility Requirement and Student Number Controls on the HE Bill.

6. SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY

6.1. The Board was provided with an outline and update of the Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy, in addition to a draft version of this Strategy. The Sustainability and Climate Change Strategy would be embedded into policy development across the Department.

6.2. The Board discussed measuring participation in the National Education Nature Park and Climate Leaders Award would provide a valuable longitudinal dataset that could be linked to education outcomes.

6.3. The Board discussed the timeline of delivery and the innovative approaches required on funding and construction in this Strategy.

6.4. Members highlighted the importance and value the new National Education Nature Park and Climate Leaders Award would bring to the education sector.

6.5. The Board approved the strategic approach to sustainability across the education sector.

7. AOB

7.1. The Board was updated on the work of the Unit for Future Skills, which would release their first data set in April 2022. It was noted that the cross-government data had the potential to transform the education sector.

7.2. The next Board meeting was planned for May 2022.