

Department for Education Board Meeting

24 May 2022, 13:00 – 15.30

Permanent Secretary's Board Room, DfE London and Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Nadhim Zahawi, Rt Hon MP
Richard Pennycook
Minister Donelan, Rt Hon MP

Ian Ferguson
Toby Peyton-Jones
Nick Timothy
Susan Acland-Hood
Iain King
Indra Morris
Julia Kinniburgh
Tony Foot

Title

Secretary of State for Education
Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Minister of State for Higher and Further
Education (Minister for the Board)
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Permanent Secretary
Interim Chief Operating Officer
Director General, Families
Director General, Strategy
Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Alice Lakeman
Julia Yong

Josh McAlister

Fran Oram
Suzanne Lunn
Frank Bowley
Anne Spinali
Tom Lee

Title

Financial Planning and Strategy Manager
Deputy Director, Performance and Major
Projects
Management
Lead Independent Reviewer for Children's
Social Care
Director, Children's Social Care
Director, Children's Social Care
Head of the Unit for Future Skills
Director, HE Reform and Funding
Deputy Director, Lifelong Loan Entitlement

Other Attendees

Andrew McCully
Paul Kett
Emily Roche
Hollie Godsmark

Sevim Ekmekci
Laura Hoskins

Title

Director General, Schools
Director General, Skills
Director of Strategy
Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State
Head of Office to the Permanent Secretary
Board Secretary

Apologies

Robin Walker, MP
Alex Burghart, MP

Title

Minister of State for School Standards
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for
Skills

Will Quince, MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families
Baroness Barran, MBE	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System
John Edwards	Acting Chief Executive Officer, Education and Skills Funding Agency
Martin Spencer	Interim Chair, Education and Skills Funding Agency Management Board

1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

1.1 The Secretary of State (SoS) welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from Robin Walker MP, Alex Burghart MP, Will Quince MP, Baroness Barran MBE, John Edwards, and Martin Spencer.

1.2 The minutes and the action tracker from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

1.3 Paul Kett declared that he had recently been appointed as a member of the Council for the Open University.

2. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

2.1 The Board received an update on the Department's performance against the ministerial priorities of Skills, Schools, and Families.

2.2 The Board discussed the new interactive performance dashboard that would shortly become available live to members. Members noted the importance of up-to-date information in this dashboard.

2.3 The Board recommended that this dashboard was properly used within the Department and the means by which departmental colleagues could interact with the data in this dashboard.

3. INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF THE CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE

3.1 The Board received an update from the Independent Chair of the Review of Children's Social Care and representatives from the Families Group on the progress of the Children's Social Care Review.

3.2 The Board discussed the need to build momentum for the longer-term implementation of the Review's outcomes.

3.3 The Board also noted the areas in the Department and nationally that would

require further support in order to deliver the recommendations of the Review.

4. FINANCIAL UPDATE

4.1 The Board was provided with an overview of the Department's in-year financial position and the Business Planning process, presenting an overview of the Department's budgets. The end of year Finance Function assessment's results were also outlined, which is carried out by the Treasury.

4.2 The Board discussed the planned strategy to tackle the commission on workforce headcounts.

5. ALB GOVERNANCE

5.1 The Board were provided with an overview of the ALB landscape and the department's ALB governance already in place to support the ALBs.

5.2 The Board discussed this item in relation to the Review of the Education Standards and Funding Agency (launched July 2021).

5.3 The Board discussed ways of working with the ALBs, specifically between ALBs and their respective DfE Group.

6. LIFELONG LOAN ENTITLEMENT

6.1 The Board was provided with an update on the work of the Lifelong Loan Entitlement (LLE) by Minister Donelan.

6.2 The Board discussed the impact of the LLE on the education system, how it will change the perception of higher education, and encourage an appetite for continued adult learning in the labour market.

6.3 The Board noted the importance of close working between the DfE and its Arm's Length Bodies to deliver the LLE.

7. UNIT FOR FUTURE SKILLS

7.1 The Board was updated on the work to date of the Unit for Future Skills (UFS).

7.2 The Board anticipated the publication of the live UFS dashboard in later in May 2022 which would bring cross-cutting data from across government to provide insight into jobs and skills.

8. AOB

8.1 The Board received an update on the on-going recruitment process for Non-executive Directors.

8.2 No others business was raised by members; the meeting closed.