

**Department for Education Board Meeting
29 November 2022, 14:00 – 17:00**

Attendees

Gillian Keegan, Rt Hon MP
Baroness Barran

Richard Pennycook
Susan Acland-Hood
Toby Peyton-Jones
Suzy Levy
Peter Bazalgette
Stuart McMinnies
Jack Boyer
Jane Cunliffe
Iain King
Indra Morris
Graham Archer
Tony Foot

Title

Secretary of State for Education
Minister for the School System and Student
Finance
Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Permanent Secretary
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Chief Operating Officer
Interim Chief Operating Officer
Director General, Families
Interim Director General, Strategy
Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Julia Yong

Tom Stephens
Alice Lakeman
Joe Billington

David Withey
Gita Dean-Andrews
Jane Belfour

Title

Deputy Director, Performance and Major
Projects
Deputy Director, Delivery Unit
Deputy Director, Central Strategic Finance
Deputy Director, Disadvantage Strategy and
Cost of Living
Chief Executive, ESFA
Deputy Director, Stakeholders
Deputy Director, Employer Engagement and
Performance

Other Attendees

Paul Kett
Andrew McCully
John Edwards
Hollie Godsmark

Emily Roche
Laura Hoskins
Anna Haynes

Title

Director General, Skills
Director General, Schools
Director General, Regions
Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of
State
Director, Strategy and Delivery
Board Secretary
Board Secretariat

Apologies

Julia Kinniburgh

Title

Director General, Strategy

1 INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting, members and attendees introduced themselves. The Chair noted that this was Paul Kett and Iain King's last Board meeting, and Jane Cunliffe's first.

1.2 No new or changed conflicts of interest were noted.

2 DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE

2.1 The Chair left the meeting at 14:30 (to return 30 minutes later). This portion of the meeting was chaired by Indra Morris and, subsequently, Baroness Barran.

2.2 Presenters provided members with an update on departmental performance data at Quarter 2 and a forward-looking view of performance against departmental priorities.

2.3 Board members discussed the key barriers to successful performance.

2.4 Board members discussed the school building risk and the steps the Department was taking to mitigate this.

3 FINANCE UPDATE

3.1 Presenters drew links with other items on this meeting's agenda (particularly the financial pressures on schools and trusts and departmental preparedness for sector workforce strikes).

3.2 Members considered an overview of the Department's in-year financial position at Quarter 2. Board members discussed this and encouraged value for money of departmental budgets.

4 FINANCIAL PRESSURES ON SCHOOLS AND TRUSTS

4.1 Members noted the challenges faced by schools but that the autumn statement had included extra funding allocated to schools.

4.2 Board members discussed other areas of financial challenge to the schools, FE and childcare sectors, including:

- the impact and opportunities of the FE system reclassification, and
- the cost of childcare and Early Years provision.

5 DEPARTMENTAL PREPAREDNESS FOR SECTOR WORKFORCE STRIKES

The Board discussed an overview of the scenario of strike action that was taking place and that would potentially take place in the months following this meeting.

5.2 The Board discussed the impact of the planned strikes on learners and the mitigations in place to minimise disruption.

6 EMPLOYER ENGAGEMENT

6.1 The Secretary of State invited the Department's Lead Non-executive Board Member to introduce this item on employer engagement in the skills sector. Richard noted that:

- The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS) used to hold Higher Education (HE) in its remit.
- The DfE would organise a conference for employers which was due to take place in the Spring of 2023.
- The Secretary of State agreed that employer engagement was vital for the skills sector.
- In 2023 there were 1,500 starts forecast for degree level apprenticeships.

6.2 Members and attendees discussed suggested conference attendees and format of the event. Presenters would seek further feedback and input from Board members as the conference was developed.

6.3 The Board discussed the themes and desired outcomes of the conference.

6.4 In addition, Board members and attendees reflected on public awareness of apprenticeships and T Levels and incentives for businesses to invest in skills.

7 AOB

7.1 The Board members agreed and signed off the minutes of the previous Board meeting.

7.2 The Board agreed to the recommendations set out in the Board Effectiveness Evaluation report.

7.3 The meeting closed.