

Department for Education Board Meeting
13 May 2021, 13:30 – 15.30
Permanent Secretary’s Board Room, DfE London and Microsoft Teams

Attendees

Title

Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	Minister of State for School Standards (Chair)
Richard Pennycook	Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Ian Ferguson	Non-Executive Board Member
Irene Lucas	Non-Executive Board Member
Ruby McGregor-Smith	Non-Executive Board Member
Toby Peyton Jones	Non-Executive Board Member
Nick Timothy	Non-Executive Board Member
Susan Acland-Hood	Permanent Secretary
Mike Green	Chief Operating Officer
Indra Morris	Director General, Social Care, Mobility and Disadvantage
Tony Foot	Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Title

Robert Arnott	Director of Strategy, Social Mobility & Disadvantage
Jonathan Clifton	Head of Strategy Unit
Alice Lakeman	Deputy Director, Strategic Finance
Julia Kinniburgh	Director General of Covid Response and Schools Recovery
Sir Kevan Collins	Education Recovery Commissioner
Graham Archer	Director for Qualifications, Curriculum and Extra-Curricular (QCEC)
Emily Roche	Head of Delivery Unit

Other attendees

Title

Hollie Godsmark	Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
Shelley Cooper	Board Secretary

Apologies

Title

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson	Secretary of State
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1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from Rt Hon Gavin Williamson, Secretary of State, due to parliamentary business.
- 1.2 No new interests were declared and the minutes and action tracker from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

2. Approach to the 2021 Spending Review

- 2.1 The Board noted that the Treasury (HMT) is expected to launch the 2021 Spending Review (SR) in mid-June. Levelling-up and addressing the impact of COVID-19 would be two key themes in the Department's response.
- 2.2 Members noted that the outcome of the Star Chambers would feed into an efficiency review planned in June.
- 2.3 The Board endorsed the overarching strategic outcomes which would frame the SR21 bid and agreed the 'principles to follow' to develop a compelling SR bid.

3. Future Insights

- 3.1 Richard Pennycook explained that this was an opportunity for the Board to adopt a strategic perspective on the future of the education and care systems.
- 3.2 The Future Insight programme would continue to develop future scenarios for the education and care systems. DfE policy would be tested against these scenarios to ensure that they were fit for the future.
- 3.3 Using an interactive polling exercise, the Board built a future scenario for the provision of education and care in England in 2030. In the context of the 'thought experiment', the Board discussed potential delivery models for education in 2030.

4. Update on Education Recovery

- 4.1 The Board considered two of the biggest cross-cutting risks to the Education Recovery programme.
 - i. **Successful engagement** with actors across the system would be critical for successful delivery.
 - ii. **Capacity** - it was essential that there was sufficient high-quality leadership and workforce capacity to engage with the interventions.
- 4.2 The Board commended the approach of aligning the Education Recovery package with existing departmental policy.
- 4.3 The Board agreed that it would be important to consider the cumulative impact of Education Recovery and other reforms on the sector.
- 4.4 The Board discussed that it would be essential to address the decrease in attendance amongst vulnerable learners as part of the Education Recovery programme.
- 4.5 Immediate action should be focussed on 16–19-year-olds as they would enter the labour market imminently. This group of learners had limited time to catch up on their lost education.

5. Board Effectiveness Review

5.1 The Board reviewed the outcome of the Board Effectiveness Evaluation and noted that results reflected the de-stabilising impact of COVID-19.

5.2 The Board approved the recommendations made in the Board Effectiveness Evaluation

6. AOB

6.1 The Board noted the Sub-Committee update.

6.2 The Board noted the opinion of the report from DfE ARC to the Board and accepted this report.