

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

Attendees

Gavin Williamson, Rt Hon MP
Nick Gibb Rt Hon MP
Gillian Keegan, MP

Richard Pennycook
Ian Ferguson
Irene Lucas

Toby Peyton Jones
Nick Timothy
Susan Acland-Hood
Mike Green
Indra Morris

Tony Foot

Title

Secretary of State (Chair)
Minister of State for School Standards (Chair)
Parliamentary Secretary of State for Apprenticeships
and Skills

Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member

Non-Executive Board Member
Non-Executive Board Member
Permanent Secretary
Chief Operating Officer
Director General, Social Care, Mobility and
Disadvantage
Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Stephanie Brivio
Daisy Christodolou
Anna Vignoles
Lynda Gratton
Paul Kett

Anne Spinalli
Simone Bolshaw
Andrew McCully
Alex Marsh
Kayleigh Walker

Title

Director, Childrens Social Care
Director of Education at No More Marking
Director of the Levenhulme Trust
Professor at London School of Business
Director General, Higher Education and Further
Education
Director, Higher Education Funding and Strategy
Deputy Director, Higher Education Reform
Director General, Early Years and Schools System
Director of Schools System, Academies and Reform.
Deputy Director Schools Strategy and Support Division

Apologies

Ruby McGregor-Smith

Title

Non-Executive Board Member

1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the meeting and noted apologies from Ruby McGregor Smith.

1.2 No new interests were declared and the minutes and action tracker from

the previous meeting were accepted.

2. Future Insights Programme

2.1 This item was to give the Board the opportunity to reflect on the post-COVID recovery period, and to consider long term policy development ahead of the next Spending Review (SR).

2.2 Daisy Christodolou, Anna Vignoles and Lynda Gratton were invited to attend the Board meeting as external education experts to share their analysis.

2.3 The Board identified the following synergies across the perspectives provided by Daisy, Anna and Lynda:

- The importance of skills in developing a capable workforce to support the national economy.
- The potential for data and technology to enhance the provision of education
- The importance of high-quality teaching.

2.4 Board members recognised that data could provide a rich evidence base to raise standards in and experiences of the education sector.

3. HE Reform

3.1 The Board received an update on the Higher Education Reform agenda and noted that the Department was focussing on policy changes to promote a high quality of provision, with a focus on lifelong learning to support the future needs of the economy and society.

3.2 Board members discussed the importance of spending efficiencies and that there were good quality university and / or vocational courses available to meet the needs of the modern economy.

3.3 The Board noted that the level of tuition fees had been capped since their introduction and that this revenue stream for universities had declined in real-term value. This had been amplified by the impact of the COVID-19.

4. Vision for School Reform

4.1 The Department was developing a Schools White Paper and welcomed an early steer from the Board on the outline objectives of school reform. The Board was also invited to discuss the future operating model for the school system.

4.2 Board members discussed the need for greater clarity on the role of academy trusts and local authorities regarding support for vulnerable children.

4.3 The Board recommended that it would be key to set the objective of reform in context of a broader digital and data strategy to deliver efficiency, and that the Department set out its long-term vision for academisation.

5. There was no other business; the meeting ended at 14:18.