

Department for Education Board Meeting
12 September 2017
13.30-15.30

Attendees

Rt Hon Justine Greening MP	Secretary of State (chair)
Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	Minister of State for School Standards
Robert Goodwill MP	Minister of State for Children and Families
Rt Hon Anne Milton	Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills and Minister for Women
Lord Nash	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System
Ian Ferguson	Non Executive Board Member
Ruby McGregor Smith	Non Executive Board Member
David Meller	Non Executive Board Member
Marion Plant	Non Executive Board Member
Jonathan Slater	Permanent Secretary
Paul Kett	Director General, Education Standards
Philippa Lloyd	Director General, Higher and Further Education
Andrew McCully	Director General, Infrastructure and Funding
Indra Morris	Director General, Social Care, Mobility and Equalities
Howard Orme	Director General, Insight, Resources and Transformation
Mike Green (items 4-6)	Director, DfE Commercial and ESFA Capital
Warwick Sharp	Principal Private Secretary

Apologies

Jo Johnson MP	Minister of State for Universities, Science, Research and Innovation
Peter Lauener	Chief Executive, Education and Skills Funding Agency

1. WELCOME, MINUTES AND ACTIONS

The Secretary of State welcomed Board members to the meeting.

No member declared potential conflicts of interest.

The minutes of the June 2017 meeting were noted with no changes.

2. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Howard Orme introduced the departmental performance report covering April to July 2017.

The board discussed the plans on relocation to Old Admiralty Building.

The board discussed the admin budget and departmental workforce.

3. DEPARTMENTAL GOVERNANCE

Howard Orme introduced the recommendations of the recent governance review. He outlined the proposed roles of SROs; the proposed Performance, Risk and Resourcing sub committee of Management Committee; and proposed adjustments to the remit of the current Performance Committee.

The board agreed the proposed governance structure and supported further non-executive engagement with delivery issues outside of the board.

The board discussed recruitment and retention of talented individuals delivering the department's programmes, and asked for a further discussion on talent.

4. BUILDING OUR DEPARTMENT TOGETHER

Emma Stace joined the meeting and presented the refresh of the Building Our Department Together transformation programme.

In discussion the board discussed the following points:

- how the board could support SCS as they deliver the programme; and
- how to ensure that the programme supports all staff in the department directly.

The board welcomed the update, and the chair and ministers expressed their appetite to be closely involved as the programme develops.

5. COMMERCIAL

Louise Whitesman and Steven Condie joined the room for the discussion on the department's commercial effectiveness, and Mike Green outlined the proposals to improve the department's commercial capability.

In discussion the board raised the following points:

- how ensuring high quality management information supports supplier management; and
- the importance of commercial professionals having broad experience.

The board welcomed and supported the proposals, and emphasised the importance of supporting schools and other institutions so that they secure good deals.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.