

Department for Education Board Meeting
7 November 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 Agnew	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the School System
Richard Pennycook	Lead Non-Executive Board Member
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
Andrew McCully	Director General, Infrastructure and Funding
Indra Morris	Director General, Social Care, Mobility and Equalities
Mike Green	Acting Director General, Insight, Resources and Transformation
Jonathan Clear	Strategic Finance Director

Also Attending

Polly Payne, deputising for Philippa Lloyd	Director, Higher Education Reform
Peter Mucklow, deputising for Peter Lauener	Director, Intervention and Young People's Funding Group
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
Philippa Lloyd	Director General, Higher and Further Education

1. WELCOME, MINUTES AND ACTIONS

The Secretary of State welcomed board members to the meeting, in particular the two new members, Richard Pennycook, lead non-executive board member, and Lord Agnew, who was attending for the first time in a ministerial capacity.

No member declared potential conflicts of interest.

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

The Secretary of State set out her priorities in the upcoming months.

2. UPDATES FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRS

The Permanent Secretary updated the the board on the Management Committee. In discussion, the board noted Management Committee discussion on diversity in the department's SCS.

The Permanent Secretary updated the board on the Performance Committee, which had considered items on schools efficiency data and social care. He also explained that Richard Pennycook would chair the committee in future.

Ian Ferguson updated the board on the Audit and Risk Committee. He highlighted the recent achievements, in particular the unqualified group annual report and accounts, and the first sector annual report and accounts (SARA) laid in October, and set out the committee's priorities for 2018.

3. DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE

Jonathan Clear introduced the quarterly performance report, highlighting the key risks that had been discussed with the Management Committee on 1 November, and the department's financial position.

The board discussed the improvements to the department's approach to risk management.

Mike Green updated the board on the commercial function.

The board welcomed the performance report.

4. FOCUSING RESOURCES ON PRIORITIES

Emran Mian and Emily Curtis joined the meeting and Emran introduced the item on focusing the department's resources on priorities. Emran and Emily summarised the department's approach to prioritisation, including business planning for current and future years. Emily also noted Sir Michael Barber's report into improving value in public spending.

The board discussed:

- the capacity and capability within the department; and
- the distinction between work that the department would always be required to deliver, and work driven by innovation.

The board welcomed the initial approach in the paper, and the chair invited Emran to return to the Board with further recommendations in due course.

5. BUILDING OUR DEPARTMENT TOGETHER

Emma Stace joined the meeting and introduced the item on Building our Department Together (BoDT). She highlighted the recent engagement with the SCS, and upcoming engagement with the whole department. Members agreed that recent engagement had been positive.

The board discussed the role of SROs in the department and welcomed progress in developing the role of SROs.

The board discussed the department's internal processes and ways of working with the ministerial team. They noted that internal processes should be shaped to allow the department to work effectively with external stakeholders, and to support the objectives of BoDT.

The board welcomed the direction and travel for BoDT. The board reiterated its commitment to support the objectives of the transformation team, and agreed that BoDT should be a standing item on the board.

6. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Members requested a future board discussion on artificial intelligence and automation.