

## **Minutes of the Board 2 April 2019**

---

### **Present**

Julius Weinberg (Chair)  
Amanda Spielman (HMCI)  
Kathryn August  
John Cridland  
John Hughes  
Pamela Scriven  
Venessa Willms

### **Apologies**

Chris Jones (Director, Corporate Strategy)

### **Also in attendance**

Matthew Coffey (Chief Operating Officer)  
Andrew Cook (Regional Director, North West)  
Louise Grainger (Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial)  
Sean Harford (National Director, Education)  
Mark Leech (Deputy Director, Communications and External Relations – deputising for Chris Jones)  
Yvette Stanley (National Director, Social Care)  
Kate Dixon (Department for Education observer)

**Status:** Approved

---

## **1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest**

- 1.1 The Chair noted apologies from CJ.
  - 1.2 No new interests were declared.
- 

## **2 Minutes, matters arising, action log and forward look**

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed without amendments.
- 

## **3 Update from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI)**

- 3.1 HMCI presented her update and noted the following:
    - The consultation on the new Education Inspection Framework (EIF) ends on 5 April. Over 6,000 responses have been received to date, the majority of which are supportive of most of the proposed changes.
    - On 12 March, Ofsted's report on knife crime was published. The study demonstrated that schools cannot solve the problems of knife crime on their own. Following publication, HMCI met the Secretary of State and other Department for Education (DfE) ministers to brief them on the report and attended the Serious Youth Violence Summit hosted by the Prime Minister.
    - Following the recent protests and complaints by some parents of students at Parkfield Community School about the school's 'No Outsiders' programme, a short inspection was conducted. The inspection report was published on 12 March and makes clear that the school has maintained high standards of Safeguarding and Leadership and Management.
- 

## **4 Update from the Chief Operating Officer**

- 4.1 The Chief Operating Officer presented his report to the board and noted the following:
  - We are on track to meet or exceed the corporate plan targets for full and short inspections of schools, and on track to complete the inspections of 10% of outstanding schools as agreed with the DfE.
  - Average Working Days Lost (AWDL) continues to decrease. We have now met our target of 6.8 AWDL overall.
  - Following significant issues with Cygnum, our inspection deployment and recording system, CACI – the owners of the system – have offered workarounds and onsite support to users. The system is now stable and

continuing to improve.

- 4.2 An HR psychometric profiling research project was discussed. Information gathered by the profiles would be used to inform Ofsted's future recruitment practice by providing information about the personality traits of effective members of staff.
- 

## **5 Update from the National Director, Social Care**

- 5.1 The National Director, Social Care presented her update and noted the following:
- The first 12 months of Inspections of Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) found that good progress was being made by the majority of local authorities who have previously received an inadequate judgement. Since January, 15 local authorities have been inspected. Five improved, five declined, and five remained at the same grade.
  - The annual social care staff conference for all social care inspectors took place on 27 March and included sessions from a number of external speakers. Positive feedback was received from attendees.
- 

## **6 Update from the National Director, Education**

- 6.1 The National Director, Education presented his update and noted the following:
- The Secretary of State has commissioned us to undertake inspections of six independent Steiner schools previously inspected by the School Inspection Service.
  - Our proposals to increase our monitoring of the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) have been approved by the Executive Board. Subject to agreement with the DfE, we will now monitor up to 10% of ISI inspections.
  - Recently, the first full inspection of an apprenticeship training provider following a monitoring visit where it was found to be making insufficient progress was carried out. The provider was found to require improvement. Three other providers that were also found to be making insufficient progress and scheduled for inspection have ceased delivering apprenticeship training.
  - There continues to be an increase in the number of written statements of action required as a result of local area SEND (Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities) inspections. Some regions have reported that local area leaders are acknowledging weaknesses in their SEND provision before we have inspected.

- 6.2 The impact of the apprenticeship levy on provision quality was discussed, including whether a shift in the provider base has led to young people being unable to access the provision they need.
- 

## **7 Update from the Director, Corporate Strategy**

- 7.1 The Deputy Director, Communications and External Relations, presented the Corporate Strategy update and noted the following:
- Work is ongoing to support the EIF consultation, including frequent social media posts to encourage responses to the consultation.
  - We published a report on safeguarding children and young people in education from knife crime, based on a research project carried out in London. The report was well received by the sector and generated significant media interest.
  - The protests at Parkfield Community School over the teaching of LGBT issues continue to attract national and local media attention, with HMCI interviewed on the subject by the BBC, LBC, and Radio 4's religious affairs programme. Following the publication of Parkfield's inspection report, Ofsted's finding that there was no evidence LGBT issues were not taught in an age-appropriate way was reported by the BBC and several national and regional newspapers.
- 

## **8 Strategic Risk Register**

- 8.1 It was noted that the probability of the workforce risk has declined due to improvements in the number of AWDL and less HMI turnover.
- 

## **9 Finance Report**

- 9.1 The board noted the finance report. It was confirmed that there is no risk to the parliamentary control totals.
- 

## **10 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee update**

- 10.1 It was reported that good progress continues on ongoing audits, including the PAC and NAO work. Among recent audits, the attendance management audit report showed only low-level risks, and the continuous auditing process showed no risks.
- 10.2 The corporate governance framework is currently under review. A draft is scheduled to be presented to the board at the next meeting on 18 June 2019.

- 10.3 It was noted that a constructive discussion on the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee effectiveness review took place at the most recent ARAC meeting.
- 

## **11 Budget**

- 11.1 The 2019-20 budget was discussed. It was confirmed that this year's budget will provide sufficient flexibility to support the delivery of the strategy and EIF.
- 11.2 The Board noted that a number of strategic priority reviews have been led by subgroups of the Executive Board to determine how best to allocate resources, and that work on the operating goals with an external partner continues.
- 

*End of meeting*

---

## ACTION LOG

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Status
110	<u>Minutes, matters arising, action log and forward look</u>  <b>Sarah Thornton</b> to schedule a strategy session on ongoing research projects for an upcoming Board meeting.	18 June 2019	<u>Complete</u>
111	<u>COO Update</u>  <b>Matthew Coffey</b> to share the further advice requested from external counsel regarding the teaching of the protected characteristics of sexual orientation and gender reassignment in independent primary schools in his next update to the Board.	18 June 2019	<u>Complete (set out in paper 11)</u>