

**Department for Education Board Meeting
13 December 2018 12:15-15:00
Committee Room 8, Palace of Westminster**

<u>Attendees</u>	<u>Title</u>
Rt Hon Damian Hinds MP	Secretary of State (<i>Chair</i>)
Rt Hon Anne Milton MP	Minister of State for Apprenticeships and Skills, Minister for the Board
Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	Minister of State for School Standards
Rt Hon Nadhim Zahawi	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children and Families
Richard Pennycook	Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Ian Ferguson	Non-Executive Board Member
Ruby McGregor-Smith	Non-Executive Board Member
Irene Lucas	Non-Executive Board Member
Toby Peyton Jones	Non-Executive Board Member
Indra Morris	Director General, Social Care, Mobility and Disadvantage
Jonathan Clear	Strategic Finance Director

<u>Apologies</u>	<u>Title</u>
Jonathan Slater	Permanent Secretary
Mike Green	Chief Operating Officer

1. INTRODUCTIONS, MINUTES AND ACTIONS

- 1.1. There were no new or changed interests.
- 1.2. The Board approved the minutes of the last meeting.

2. CHILDREN IN NEED REVIEW

- 2.1 Members of the Children in Need Review team introduced the Children in Need Review item. They explained to the Board some of the findings from the review.
- 2.2 The Board then considered an update from members of the Social Workers Network and heard case studies of situations that they had encountered as practicing social workers.
- 2.3 The Review team explained that poor attendance and exclusions are more prevalent in the Children in Need group and they discussed how we can achieve the best educational outcomes for this group of children.

- 2.4 In discussion, members noted that the existence of the Social Workers Network was positive and could be used to get a better understanding of delivery challenges.
- 2.5 A key challenge was how to share lessons learnt and develop solutions at scale. In line with aiming for better outcomes the department should focus on leadership and bringing different agencies together.

3. UPDATES TO THE BOARD

- 3.1. Emma Stace and Ashley Stephens updated the Board on the Department's Digital Strategy and the progress made since the last Board meeting in October.
- 3.2 Tony Foot then updated the Board on School Resource Management, and the progress made since the Board meeting in June, noting that:
 - the team are supporting schools, for example a site has been developed to reduce recruitment costs, with a focus on non-staff spend;
 - the team have developed and delivered the school resource adviser management programme.
- 3.3 In discussion, members noted that we should learn from other instances of buying power being used to support savings;

4. SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATES

- 4.1. Indra Morris updated the Board on the work of the Leadership Team, noting that the Leadership team have:
 - recently looked at finances, and a constructive Q2 challenge panel took place;
 - discussed the challenges of moving staff outside of London, which the Performance Committee will now look at more deeply;
 - looked at the messages coming from the People Survey responses; and
 - looked at EU Exit, introductory SR discussions and the 2019/20 business plans.
- 4.2. Ian Ferguson updated the Board on the work of the Audit and Risk Committee, noting that the Committee would increase their focus on financial control and risk management going forward.
- 4.3. Richard Pennycook updated the Board on the work of the Implementation Committee and Nominations Committee, noting that:
 - Implementation Committee continues to be busy, having looked at EU Exit and Higher Education more broadly, Opportunity Areas; and

- Nominations Committee is running well and the Non-Executives have been involved in notable recruitments.

5. STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT

- 5.1. Jonathan Clear updated the Board on the Departmental Performance Report, he updated on the financial position of the Department and recent successes, including the successful exam season and the operational performance of the Student Loans Company.

6. AOB

- 6.1 The Secretary of State noted that:
 - the next meeting will focus on the Spending Review, which will present the Board with an opportunity to think at the broadest level about our work as a Department.