

**Department for Education Board Meeting  
16 July 2020, 09:00-12:30  
Microsoft Teams**

**Attendees**

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP	Secretary of State ( <i>Chair</i> )
Rt Hon Nick Gibb MP	Minister of State for School Standards, Minister for the Board
Gillian Keegan, MP	Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Apprenticeships and Skills
Richard Pennycook	Lead Non-executive Board Member
Ian Ferguson	Non-Executive Board Member
Irene Lucas	Non-Executive Board Member
Toby Peyton Jones	Non-Executive Board Member
Ruby McGregor-Smith	Non-Executive Board Member
Nick Timothy	Non-Executive Board Member
Jonathan Slater	Permanent Secretary
Mike Green	Chief Operating Officer
Jonathan Clear	Strategic Finance Director

**Presenters**

Andrew McCully	<b><u>Title</u></b> Director General, Early Years and Schools
Keith Smith	Director of Apprenticeships
Ian Coates	Director of Higher Education, STEM & Tertiary Providers
Hollie Godsmark	Deputy Director - FE System Reform

**Other Attendees**

Eileen Milner	<b><u>Title</u></b> Director General, CEO ESFA
Paul Kett	Director General, Higher Education and Further Education.
Robert Arnott	Director of Strategy, Social Mobility & Disadvantage
Warwick Sharp	Principal Private Secretary to the Secretary of State
Shelley Cooper	Board Secretary
Andrei Vitaliev	Board Secretariat

**Apologies**

Indra Morris	Director General, Social Care, Mobility and Disadvantage
--------------	---

## **1. INTRODUCTIONS, MINUTES AND ACTIONS**

- 1.1. The Secretary of State (SoS) welcomed Members to the meeting.
- 1.2. No new interests were declared and the minutes and the action tracker from the previous meeting were accepted without amendment.

## **2. STOCKTAKE ON SEPTEMBER PLANNING**

- 2.1. The Board reviewed progress on the step-by-step roadmap towards re-opening education settings from September and noted the measures that would be put in place to protect learners and staff.
- 2.2. The Board considered the risks to re-opening education settings in September alongside the mitigation action being taken.
- 2.3. In discussion the Board noted that the guidance published by the Department had set the expectation for schools to support pupils catch up their lost education time and to plan for provision of remote teaching.
- 2.4. Members noted the importance of remote education and the Board discussed the plan to support learners subject to local lockdowns, including the procurement of a bank of laptops to be deployed.
- 2.5. Members discussed the development of the Oak National Academy and how this could align to the national curriculum and link to other high-quality online education provision.

## **3. SETTING OUR OBJECTIVES AND PRIORITIES FOR THE SPENDING REVIEW**

- 3.1. The Board were informed that a Spending Review (SR) would be announced imminently and would be likely to conclude in Autumn 2020.
- 3.2. The Board noted that the Department's SR response should articulate value for money and highlight where money would be redirected to deliver benefits to learners.
- 3.3. The Board agreed the principles underpinning the Department's response to SR20.

## **4. POST-16 LANDSCAPE AFTER COVID-19: DEEP DIVE ON OUR POST 16 REFORM AGENDA AS PART OF COVID-19 RENEWAL**

- 4.1. The Board considered the DfE's post-16 reform agenda and recognised the importance of supporting the economy by addressing the skills gaps in the workforce.
- 4.2. Following discussions, the Board noted that a national strategy for engaging with businesses and employers would be a key driver for

success of the post-16 reforms and it would be important to gain an understanding of local skills gaps. The Board also noted that the Department would build on collaboration between DWP and BEIS and provide leadership to maximise opportunities across Whitehall.

- 4.3. Reform of post-16 education would be essential to support the Government's levelling up agenda.

## **5. AOB**

- 5.1. The Board noted that the Department had increased its risk appetite during the Covid response. The Board were informed that Audit and Risk Committee were maintaining oversight of the risk management process and were content that the Department was acting appropriately.
- 5.2. The Board accepted that the DfE were operating at a high level of risk and supported the actions of the DfE in the COVID-19 crisis response.
- 5.3. The next Board meeting was planned for October 2020.