

Minutes of the Board 15 May 2018

Present

Julius Weinberg	Chair of the Board
Dame Kathryn August	Board member
John Cridland CBE	Board member
John Hughes	Board member
Pamela Scriven QC	Board member
Amanda Spielman	Her Majesty's Chief Inspector, board member
Venessa Willms OBE	Board member

Also in attendance

Matthew Coffey	Chief Operating Officer
Louise Grainger	Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial
Sean Harford	National Director, Education
Paul Kett	Department for Education observer
Yvette Stanley	National Director, Social Care
Naomi Stauber	Private Secretary to HMCI and Head of Corporate Governance
Sarah Thornton	Corporate Governance Officer
Luke Tryl	Director, Corporate Strategy

Status: Approved

1 Welcome, apologies and declarations of interest

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed board members and attendees.
 - 1.2 All board members confirmed they had no new interests to declare.
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2 Minutes, matters arising, action log and forward look

- 2.1 The minutes of the meeting held on 20 March 2018 were agreed as a correct record.
 - 2.2 It was confirmed that from 2019 the format of the board meetings would change, with an extended strategy session taking place in the afternoon following the board meeting in the morning.
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3 Update from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI)

- 3.1 HMCI presented her update to the board and noted the following, in particular:
 - Relationships with government continue to be positive and productive, although concerns remain about the potential for overlap between the roles of Ofsted and the Regional Schools Commissioners. This was an issue that the Secretary of State addressed at the National Association of Head Teachers conference on 3 May in the context of workload pressures that can be placed on teachers in the wider accountability and improvement system.
 - The performance report section of the Annual Report and Accounts has been drafted and will shortly be circulated to the board members for comment.
 - The Department for Education published a Call for Evidence on proposals relating to home education on 11 April. It was noted that there is no single point of registration for all home-educated children, and this exposes some children to educational, safeguarding, and other risks.
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4 Update from the Chief Operating Officer

- 4.1 The Chief Operating Officer presented his update to the board and noted the following, in particular:

- The report to the board stated that six schools that were due to be inspected in the summer term are scheduled to close, but this figure has now reduced to three. It was confirmed that they will be inspected in the summer term if they are not closed by then.
 - The number of short inspections that took place in the last financial year is a 48% increase on what was delivered in 2015-16.
 - Ofsted has not yet received confirmed on whether it will be granted application for leave to appeal the outcome of the Durand case.
 - The Chief Operating Officer is in the process of taking forward a number of recommendations in light of the recent strategic financial review. Proposals will be presented to the Executive Board during the summer term. The work will also be discussed at the board meeting on 26 September 2018.
 - The first live inspection using electronic evidence gathering (EEG) is underway. Positive feedback has been received from both the inspectors and the provider about EEG, specifically regarding the speed with which it allows inspectors to gather evidence and the reduction in workload. Similar positive feedback has been received from previous tests of the tool on practice inspections. Further live inspections using EEG are scheduled to take place over the coming weeks.
 - The board enquired about the level of sickness absence across the organisation. The Chief Operating Officer confirmed that one contributing factor to the current levels had been the insourcing of Early Years inspectors, which included several long-term sickness cases. Ofsted's Director, People and Operations is leading a piece of work to identify the activities that have been proven to assist other employers to improve their average working days lost, which include the provision of training and the use of flexible working.
- 4.2 The board discussed the matter of inspector retention. It was confirmed that exit interviews show that many inspectors leave for positions in multi-academy trusts, but there is also an increasing number of former inspectors who return to Ofsted after gaining additional experience in the wider education sector.
- 4.3 The National Audit Office's value for money study into Ofsted's inspection of schools, due to be published on 24 May, was discussed. It was noted that the report recognises the financial pressures under which Ofsted operates, with the funding provided by the DfE for school inspection 52% less, in real terms, than it was in 2000. It was also noted that the NAO's conclusion that Ofsted

cannot prove its value for money is not the same as demonstrating that Ofsted does not provide value, especially given the fact that the costs of school inspection represent only a small fraction of the overall school budget. HMCI will attend the Public Accounts Committee hearing on 25 June, alongside the Permanent Secretary for the DfE, to discuss the findings. The board requested that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee monitor the recommendations within the NAO report.

- 4.4 The board considered the new dashboard for operational performance. It was noted that a key explaining the colour-coding and targets would be useful additions, and that the dashboard could be expanded to include further metrics.

Action: JH, MC, LT, and JW to discuss these potential changes to the dashboard.

5 Update from the National Director, Education

- 5.1 The National Director, Education presented his update to the board and noted the following, in particular:

- The withdrawal of the early years self-evaluation form was successful and no negative feedback was received from the sector.
- Changes have been implemented to the timing of the re-inspection of Inadequate and Requires Improvement schools, which can now be up to 30 months, in order to allow regions as much flexibility as possible when scheduling these inspections.
- SH and AS will be meeting with Edward Timpson to discuss the independent review of exclusions that he is leading, as recently announced by the Secretary of State.
- Nine monitoring visits to new apprenticeship providers have now taken place, and 25 visits in total are due to be completed by the end of June.

- 5.2 The proportion of 'good' schools whose ratings decline following a section 5 inspection, and the impact of their socioeconomic status, was discussed. It was noted that roughly half of the bottom 20% of good schools decline (most to Requires Improvement), but the data does not support the idea that certain schools are more likely to be rated Inadequate or Requires Improvement due to a higher proportion of pupils from deprived backgrounds.

6 Update from the Director, Corporate Strategy

6.1 The Director, Corporate Strategy presented his update to the board and noted the following, in particular:

- A number of reports are currently being prepared for publication, including the findings of Ofsted's research into obesity in schools, which was a collaborative piece of work with colleagues in the Department for Education, Department for Health, and Public Health England. Ofsted is also preparing to publish reports on Level 2 Study Programmes in colleges, lesson observations, and what schools are doing to protect children from the risks posed by knife crime.
- Staff in the research team are being trained on the use of new coding software. The potential for developing a training package in coding for other staff is being explored, as part of the strategic focus on a skilled workforce.
- Work is ongoing to review the implementation of the strategy. Findings will be shared with the board this summer.

6.2 The board discussed the results of recent teacher focus groups and a roundtable discussion with headteachers who had received good or outstanding Ofsted ratings. It was noted that feedback had been received that suggested that some teachers see Ofsted as responsible for problems that are outside of Ofsted's remit. It was also noted that some teachers felt they did not have enough interaction with inspectors, and that inspectors are not necessarily representative of their peers, on the basis that most serving practitioners are recruited at the senior leadership levels of the education sector.

7 Update from the National Director, Social Care

7.1 The National Director, Social Care presented her update to the board and noted the following, in particular:

- The Inspecting Local Authority Children's Services (ILACS) programme has been under way for three months, with a total of 3 standard inspections, 1 short inspection, 4 SIF re-inspections, 23 focused visits, 20 monitoring visits of inadequate local authorities, and 2 Joint Targeted Area Inspections.

- An overview report of Round One the Children’s Social Care Innovation Programme has been published, with clear signs of a positive impact. Social care colleagues in the DfE and Ofsted maintain strong relationships.
 - The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA) Interim Report was published on 25 April, and includes recommendations that staff working in children’s homes should be registered.
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8 Strategic Risk Register

- 8.1 The board noted the strategic risk register.
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9 Finance Report

- 9.1 The Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial presented her update to the board, noting that the £2.2m underspend at the end of the 2017-18 financial year is partially a result of extra income and that specific comments will be made in the Annual Report and Accounts to list the exact reasons for the underspend.
- 9.2 It was also noted that the previous financial year focussed on setting a foundation to deliver the strategy with investments in research and engagement and projects such as EEG and MORE. There is now a further longlist of projects in which to invest if an emerging underspend is identified.
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10 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee update

- 10.1 It was agreed that, when scheduling meetings of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee for 2019, ARAC meetings will always precede board meetings in months where there are both.
- 10.2 It was noted that progress on the Annual Report and Accounts is good and remains on schedule.

End of meeting

Action No.	Action	Due Date	Status
75	<u>Social Care Directorate Update</u> Yvette Stanley to conduct an analysis, once a sufficient number of monitoring visits have taken place, of whether local authority monitoring visits have improved services.	End of June	On Track
95	<u>Strategy session</u> Luke Tryl to circulate a briefing on Daniel Mujis's current research work to the board	17 July 2018	
96	<u>Chief Operating Officer's Update</u> John Hughes, Matthew Coffey, Luke Tryl, and Julius Weinberg to discuss potential changes to the dashboard on operational performance, including adding targets and a key explaining colour-coding and expanding the dashboard to include further metrics.	17 July 2018	