

Minutes of the Board 17 July 2018

Present

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

Apologies

Matthew Coffey	Chief Operating Officer
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Also in attendance

Louise Grainger	Director, Finance, Planning and Commercial
Sean Harford	National Director, Education
Paul Kett	Department for Education observer
Karen Shepperson	Director, People and Operations (deputising for the Chief Operating Officer)
Yvette Stanley	National Director, Social Care
Matt Terry	Corporate Governance Manager and Assistant Private Secretary
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 previous meeting were agreed, subject to minor amendments.
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3 Update from Her Majesty's Chief Inspector (HMCI)

- 3.1 HMCI presented her report and noted the following:
 - Positive feedback has been received from ASCL and NAHT about the Education Inspection Framework and its potential to reduce workload.
 - Information has been received that an increasing number of children are arriving at reception unable to do basic tasks. It was confirmed that when trends like this are reported by word of mouth, they become a focus of the research programme which will then gather data on the issue. The Board noted that Electronic Evidence Gathering will make it much easier to capture information from individual inspection evidence bases to assist in this research.
 - HMCI's recent visit to the Royal Military Academy at Sandhurst was discussed. It was evident that the Academy had taken Ofsted's feedback from previous inspections on board, resulting in a comprehensive overhaul of the physical training regime and, consequently, a significant drop in injury rates.
 - 3.2 It was confirmed that further discussion of EIF could take place during the Autumn term. **Action:** JW and SH to determine an appropriate date to bring the latest developments to the Board for information.
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4 Update from the Chief Operating Officer

- 4.1 The Director, People and Operations presented the Chief Operating Officer's report and noted the following:
 - All statutory constrained inspections are on track to be delivered this academic year.
 - There is a new process for inspection deferrals to make sure that inspections cannot be deferred beyond the statutory time frame without HMCI's or the COO's authority and that, where relevant, the Secretary

of State is notified of the deferral (there are typically around two such cases a year).

- HMI utilisation continues to be monitored closely across schools and FES remits. Although there is some variation in utilisation of FES inspectors between regions, demand equals supply nationally.
- The results of the recent mid-year employee pulse survey were positive, showing an increase in the engagement score and several other areas. **Action:** MT to circulate a copy of the results of the survey to the Board for information.
- A new strategic risk register is being developed and will be discussed further at the Board meeting and away day in September.

4.2 The Board considered the operational performance dashboard. Several amendments were suggested, including expanding the dashboard to include some of the performance data that is included in the Annual Report and Accounts.

4.3 The process of inspector activity recording was discussed. It was noted that in order to increase productive time on inspection it is necessary to be clear on how inspectors spend their time. Alternatives to Ofsted's current approach to time recording are being considered.

Update from the National Director, Social Care

4.4 The National Director, Social Care presented her report and noted the following:

- The ILACS programme is fully up and running, and a significant reduction has been noted in the proportion of inadequate local authorities after re-inspection. Positive feedback has been received both from the sector and the Department for Education on the programme.
- An Ofsted staff member will be giving evidence at the IICSA hearing the week of 16 July. Ofsted's preparation for IICSA was discussed, and it was noted that providers are being held to high safeguarding standards, and that in recent years society has demonstrated much more understanding about abuse and neglect.
- The 'Working Together 2018' guidance has been published. Ofsted has produced a commentary on which new arrangements are most effective, according to our evidence base.
- The recent Internal Management Reviews have resulted in a number of recommendations relating to information sharing, using evidence, and access to correct records. Following the recommendations, we have increased the amount of training, workshops, and informational blogs relating to these issues.

5 Update from the National Director, Education

5.1 The National Director, Education presented his report and noted the following:

- There have been discussions about the future nature of Early Years inspection.
- Ofsted has been contributing to the DfE's workload advisory group report, which is due to be published in the week commencing 23 July.
- As of 15 June 2018 visits to 20 new apprenticeship providers have taken place. Constructive discussions have been held with the DfE about these monitoring visits and the resource challenges of inspecting large numbers of new providers.
- A meeting has been held with ASCL and NAHT to set out current thinking and development on EIF judgments. Positive feedback was received from both parties, and discussions are continuing with DfE and unions.
- We are involved in a small amount of education work outside the UK being co-ordinated through other government departments.

6 Update from the Director, Corporate Strategy

6.1 The Director, Corporate Strategy presented his update and noted the following:

- The obesity report, which launched on 18 July, shows that schools have limited impact on obesity rates even when they take all recommended steps to improve diet, exercise, and children's understanding.
- The Research and Evaluations team is currently working on projects relating to curriculum research, the functions of multi-academy trusts, inspection methods and practice, how schools and colleges protect children from knife crime, and practices that reduce workload and improve teacher wellbeing.
- Evidence collection for the social care common inspection framework implementation review is now complete. The evidence is currently being evaluated and an update will be brought back to the Board.
- Ofsted has agreed to host the Standing International Conference of Inspectorates in November 2019.
- The strategy implementation review is nearly complete. The three themes currently being explored by the review team are the planning process, evaluation and metrics, and capacity to deliver. The results will be discussed further at the Board and Executive Board away day in September.

7 Strategic Risk Register

- 7.1 It was noted that the strategic risk register was reviewed in detail at the last meeting of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee. The two highest risks relate to working hours and unforeseen events, and work is continuing to mitigate the first and to improve planning and preparation for the second.
- 7.2 The Board also noted that the ongoing review of Ofsted's strategic risks was nearing completion, and that the results of this work would be discussed with the Board in September.

8 Finance Report

- 8.1 The Board considered the year to date position at the end of May.
- 8.2 It was confirmed that there are no financial risks to the delivery of statutory or framework constrained inspections.

9 Audit and Risk Assurance Committee update

- 9.1 The Annual Report of the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee was discussed. It was noted that the committee's focus for the coming year will be on assessing performance against strategic measures, providing scrutiny and challenge of Ofsted's financial management, monitoring completion of Ofsted's actions arising from the National Audit Office's value for money study, and engagement in the retender of the internal audit contract.
- 9.2 It was confirmed that there are no areas of non-compliance with the GDPR in Ofsted, and that all staff undertake mandatory training on data protection.

End of meeting
