

## **Notes of Meeting: Lancashire & West Yorkshire Advisory Board**

**23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021**

### **Attendance**

Attendance data is published annually on the GOV.UK website.

AB members who sent their apologies for the meeting have, where possible, been consulted on all projects before the meeting. Their views are reflected in the discussion at the meeting (where appropriate). This excludes items where that member declared a conflict of interest.

### **Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) chair**

- Vicky Beer (RSC)

### **Advisory Board (AB) members**

- Duncan Jacques
- Karen Bramwell
- Julie Bradley
- Jonathan Nichols
- Lesley Gwinnett
- Julian Appleyard
- Chris Melia

### **DfE senior civil servants**

- ESFA Representatives

### **Representations received**

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

# General Discussion Points

## Local Update

- RSC provided a COVID 19 local update (as of 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2021) to the board

## AB member reflections

- The board reflected on the impact the pandemic has had on their schools and the wider community

## **Converter Academy Orders**

**Project: Discussion to consider Clayton Village Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Pennine Academies Yorkshire**

**AB discussion:**

- The board suggested that the trust should review their School Improvement plan
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**

**Project: Discussion to consider Peel Brow School, Bury, to convert and join Vision Multi-Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:**

- The board shared concerns over pupil numbers and the complexities of the schools
- SRMA to be deployed
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**

**Project: Discussion to consider Bury Church of England High School, Bury, to convert and join Bishop Fraser Trust**

**AB discussion:**

- The board were supportive of this project and agreed that this was a good match
- The board shared concerns over the School Improvement Strategy. Agreed that this needs to be more detailed
- The board concurred that the trust could benefit from joining the CST Learning sets which could provide them with the support needed to refine their strategy

**RSC decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**

**Project: Discussion to consider Preston St Matthew's Church of England Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Cidari Multi-Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:**

- The board challenged the trust board's composition and agreed that it requires more expertise from other backgrounds particularly as they are growing
- Board agreed that the trust have already had a positive impact in the school already
- Proof of improvement from recent Ofsted grading and the financial impact is evident but the trust need to go into further detail in their School Improvement strategy
- CEO membership on the trustee board should be considered as the trust grows so that trust governance can move from compliance to best practice

**RSC decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**

## **Sponsored Route:**

**Project: Discussion to consider Samuel Laycock School, Tameside, to convert and join Newbridge Multi-Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:**

- The board discussed the expertise on the trust board and agreed that this could be developed further
- The board supported this proposal

**RSC decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**

**Project: Update on St Joseph's Catholic Multi-Academy Trust (Catholic EdMAT) and discussion to update on the proposal for St Chad's Catholic and Church of England High School, Halton, to convert and join**

**AB discussion:**

- The board were supportive of the progression of this project and acknowledged the update provided

**RSC decision: Verbal Update Only**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: No further action required**

## **Sponsor Application**

**Project: Discussion to consider The Wythenshawe Catholic Academy Trust, Manchester, sponsor application**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board queried whether the trust have capacity to take on schools and whether they are able to create an impactful School Improvement offer (particularly at secondary level) to make necessary improvements
- The board recognised that recent changes made at the school had made a positive impact and brought further capacity
- The board requires the trust to set out how they will ensure that support for primary schools does not detract from their focus on improvement at their secondary schools.
- The board also asked that the trust consider strengthening financial expertise on the trust board

**RSC decision: Defer**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision**