



Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

18th October 2022

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 Director (RD) chair

- Vicky Beer (RD)

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anita Ghidotti
- Tania Lewyckyj
- Karen Burns
- Annette Williams
- Helen O'Neill
- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle
- Jonathan Nichols

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- SFSO representatives

Representations received

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

General Discussion Points

- Regional Director provided an update on recent ministerial changes.
- AB members provided reflections on recent matters within the sector.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Broadfield Primary School, Oldham, to convert and join The Pinnacle Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- The board and SFSO agreed that the trust would benefit from an SRMA visit and suggested this as a condition for the project.
- The board also recommended that the trust review their trust board and complete a skills audit to identify areas of weakness.

RD decision: Approved with conditions.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Moorfield Community Primary School, Salford, to convert and join Kings Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board recommends a supportive SRMA to uncover the trust's finances and ability to take on the school.
- The board also recommended the trust review their trust board and ensure it has a wide range of skills set across the board.
- The board requires clarity on who will take on the role of Primary Lead.
- The board requires more confidence in the trust's School Improvement plan and delivering improvement.

RD decision: Deferred

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider The Canterbury Centre PRU, Salford, to convert and join Kings Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The board were happy to support this proposal.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Knuzden St Oswald's Voluntary Aided Primary School, Lancashire, to convert and join Cidari Education Ltd

AB discussion:

- The board noted that several members of the Trust Board have dual roles at the trust. The board requires the trust to review this and provide a response giving reassurances that the board membership issue highlighted has been resolved.
- SFSO recommended a supportive SRMA

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Longridge High School, Lancashire, to convert and join The Bay Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- The board supported this proposal and reflected on the expertise on the trust board.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider St Oswald's CE Primary School, Cheshire West & Cheshire, to convert and join Chester Diocesan Academies

AB discussion:

- The board suggested an external review of governance to help support the trust's growth plans.
- The board agreed to deploy an SRMA review earlier than planned to provide further support.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Stretton St Matthews C of E Primary School, Warrington, to convert and join Chester Diocesan Academies

AB discussion:

- The board suggested an external review of governance to help support the trust's growth plans.
- The board agreed to deploy an SRMA review earlier than planned to provide further support.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Project: Discussion to consider Weaverham High School, Cheshire West & Chester, to convert and join Sandstone Trust

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the expertise on the trust board and suggested an external review of governance to help identify areas which need strengthening.
- The board shared no major concerns regarding this project.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

Sponsored Route:

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

Project: Discussion to consider St Michael's Roman Catholic Primary School, Bury, to convert and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board recognised the trust's efforts in collaborative work at primary level.
- The board would like to see the trust board evolve to match the growing size and need of the trust.
- Trust to complete external review of governance.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust of decision

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