



Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

22nd November 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
- Karen Burns
- Annette Williams
- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle
- Jonathan Nichols
- Tania Lewyckyj

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Helen O'Neill

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 Hillside Primary School, Wirral, to convert and join The Co-Operative Academies Trust

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the declining pupil numbers across the LA but were confident in the trust's viability through cluster model.
- The board shared confidence in the trust's cohort of primary schools.

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 Appleton Thorn Primary School, Warrington, to convert and join The Challenge Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board recognised the positive impact the trust has had with its current schools.
- The board agreed that both the school and trust would benefit from this.
- SRMA to be deployed

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 Wimboldsley Community Primary School, Cheshire West & Cheshire, to convert and join Concordia Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the sustainability of the trust board and recommended an external review of governance to help support this.
- SFSO recommended a supportive SRMA visit

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 William Stockton Community Primary School, Cheshire West & Cheshire, to convert and join Concordia Multi-Academy Trust

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the sustainability of the trust board and recommended an external review of governance to help support this.
- SFSO recommended a supportive SRMA visit

RD decision: Approved

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 Ellesmere Port Catholic High School, Cheshire West & Chester, to convert and join Holy Family of Nazareth MAT

AB discussion:

- The board agreed that although the school is taking necessary steps to improve, the trust board must take the action to reset and take a broader look at the experience gaps.
- Trust to provide a plan on how they will manage the deficits even if they haven't recruited a permanent CFO.
- CEO to seek formal programme and MAT to MAT support to provide additional support for CFO

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Project lead to inform Trust of decision

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Discussion to consider Bamford Academy, Rochdale, to transfer to Altus Education Partnership

AB discussion:

- The board reflected on the number of members on the trust and suggested the trust recruit more members to fill gaps.
- The board recommended an external review of governance and SRMA deployment.

RD decision: Approved

Conflicts: Karen Burns was not present for this discussion

Further actions required: Project lead to inform trust of decision

Project: Discussion to consider St Augustine's Catholic Primary School, A Voluntary Academy, Halton, to join to Holy Family Catholic Multi-Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Trust to take this opportunity to reset governance and focus on the number of members and expertise.
- Trust to recruit a member with secondary expertise.

RD decision: Approved with conditions

Conflicts: none

Further actions required: Project lead to inform trust of decision

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