



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

21 February 2023

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

- Alison Wilson

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Tom Banham
- Rowena Hackwood
- Kash Rafiq
- Jenn Plews
- Andy Child MBE
- Mark Wilson
- Jonny Uttley

Guests

- None

Apologies

- None

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

- Carolan Goggin (Deputy Director)

Representations received

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

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider The Humberston CofE Primary School, North East Lincolnshire, to convert and join St Lawrence Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school has considered becoming an academy for several years and believes St Lawrence Academies Trust's vision and values closely align with their own.
- Board recommended strengthening the Trust's School Improvement capacity.
- It was considered that the school would bring additional capacity into the Trust.
- The proposed conversion is supported by the Diocese.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andy Child was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Broughton Primary School, North Lincolnshire, to convert and join The Enquire Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- Broughton Primary School would join the trust's East hub (covering Kingston-Upon-Hull, Lincolnshire and NE Lincolnshire), which includes eleven schools, of which four are outstanding and seven are good.
- Declining pupil numbers are reflective of trends across North Lincolnshire. The Enquire Learning Trust is aware of the forecasted decline in pupil numbers and has built these forecasts into their due diligence and has experience of financial restructuring at their other schools.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- An External Review of Governance was recommended to support the Trust in ensuring it operates effectively with appropriate separation between governance layers.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. External Review of Governance to be commissioned. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Ladywood Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join Every Child Matters Trust.

AB discussion:

- The trust operates in a geographically similar part of Barnsley and is already collaborating closely with the school. The trust has access to system-leaders via the Tykes Teaching School Alliance, as well as strong links to the local Maths and English Hubs.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- Board members advised this was a good match, and recommended mentoring for the Trust's CFO.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Clifford All Saints CofE Primary School, Sheffield, to convert and join James Montgomery Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- There is an existing relationship between the school and the Trust, who are already working together and have both undertaken extensive due diligence.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and falling pupil numbers. A School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended prior to conversion.
- The proposed conversion is supported by the Diocese.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Barnborough Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join Leger Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- Barnborough Primary is a feeder school to Ridgewood school (see below in Trust Change section).
- The school has undertaken extensive due diligence and feels that conversion to the

trust is the right move, as the values and ethos align with theirs and, if approved, the proposal will provide an 'all through' education offer.

- It was considered that the school would bring capacity to the primary arm of the Trust.
- There were no specific concerns raised about this conversion, however, the Regional Director wanted further clarity on the School Improvement capacity and plan for developing the secondary arm of the trust, in relation to the potential transfer of Ridgewood school into the Trust.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Regional Director to meet with the Trust.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Bardsey Primary Academy, The Gorse Academies Trust, Leeds

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Project: Brompton Hall School, Venn Academy Trust, North Yorkshire

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Project: Mill Hill Primary School, Areté Learning Trust, North Yorkshire

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Project: Oastlers School, Exceed Academies Trust, Bradford

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/03/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/A

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: Discussion to consider Ridgewood School (The Academy @ Ridgewood Trust), Doncaster, joining Leger Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- It was considered that the school would bring capacity to the secondary arm of the Trust, with the headteacher at Ridgewood already working closely with the trust's other secondary school.
- The Regional Director wanted further clarity on the School Improvement capacity and plan for developing the secondary arm of the trust, as well as the plans for post 16 education.
- Members advised that the transfer could provide a good local solution.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Regional Director to meet with the Trust.

Project: Discussion to consider Huntcliff School (Huntcliff Academy Trust), North Lincolnshire, joining Delta Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- Delta is currently providing support to Huntcliff's leadership team, focusing on behaviour and attitudes and the EBacc subjects. In addition, Huntcliff is also receiving maths support from the Education Exchange.
- The school believes Delta's values and ethos align with theirs. Board members agreed with the school's opinion that Delta has the capacity and track record to provide rapid and sustained growth.
- The Trust is aware that the school is under capacity and believes this can be improved.
- The Trust's governance structure was discussed and the Regional Director is to meet with Delta to discuss this in more detail.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision. Regional Director to meet with the Trust.

Project: Discussion to consider Bramley Grange Primary School (The Grange Trust), Rotherham, joining White Woods Primary Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Trust has been providing interim support to Bramley Grange Primary School since 15 November 2022.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- Board members agreed that the Trust has a good track record of providing the type of support the school needs.

RD decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: Andy Child was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider The Boulevard Academy (The Boulevard Academy Trust), Hull, joining Thrive Co-operative Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The Trust has been supporting the school through a Memorandum of Understanding for 2 years. The Board agreed the transfer would further strengthen this relationship.
- The Board also agreed that the Trust is best placed to provide the support the school needs to sustain improvement.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider The Huntington Primary Academy (The Huntington Primary Academy Trust), York, joining Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Huntington Primary has chosen Pathfinder as the preferred MAT to join as they have a clear, shared vision with common values.
- It was considered that the school would bring additional capacity into the Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- Board Members advised that the Trust's School Improvement capacity should be

strengthened in the future and mentoring for the CEO.

RD decision: Approve with condition

Conflicts: Jonny Uttley was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: SRMA to be deployed to the Trust. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings.

Project: Whether to approve the addition of a 16-place SEN additional resourced provision (ARP) for cognition and learning at Old Bank Academy (Impact Education MAT), Kirklees.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Whether to approve the addition of a 12-place SEN additional resourced provision (ARP) for social, emotional, and mental health needs (SEMH) at Beaumont Primary Academy (South Pennine Academies), Kirklees.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: N/A

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Note – the 2 decisions above taken between AB Meetings were taken by previous Interim Regional Director, Carolan Goggin, before the appointment of Alison Wilson, Regional Director.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

List of projects that were on the published draft agenda but not discussed at the AB meeting.

Project: Whether to approve the age-range change at Willsden Primary School (Focus Academy Trust UK Ltd) to allow delivery of 30 FTE nursery places.

Type of decision: Significant Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: The Regional Director has asked the school to put the nursery provision on hold until they move out of Requires Improvement.

Project: Discussion to consider trusts for White Rose Academies Trust academies (Alder Tree Primary Academy, Leeds, Leeds City Academy, Leeds, Leeds East Academy, Leeds and Leeds West Academy, Leeds) to join.

Type of decision: Trust Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further detail on the proposal has been requested from the trust.

Project: Discussion to consider trusts for Milton School (Interaction and Communication Academy Trust), Rotherham, to join.

Type of decision: Trust Change

Reason for why it was taken off agenda: Further detail on the proposal has been requested from the trust.