



## Notes of Meeting: North West Advisory Board

Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March 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

- Vicky Beer (RD)

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Anita Ghidotti
- Karen Burns
- Annette Williams
- George Beveridge
- Nic Brindle
- Tania Lewyckyj
- 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**

- RD provided an update on the Regulatory Review, SEND policy and CSC review.

## **AB member reflections**

- AB members reflected on the transparency of Advisory Board discussions and engagement level with Academy Trusts.

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

### **Project: Discussion to consider Cromwell High School, Tameside, to convert and join Kingfisher Learning Trust.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board discussed the ways in which the trust will manage the combination of the capacity of the new Free School and the below good mainstream primary schools.
- The board suggested that the team check on the wider challenges at the trust, such as the leadership changes at school level and to consider, if appropriate, to have an independent specialist expertise on the board.

#### **RD decision: Approved**

#### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

### **Project: Discussion to consider St Ethelbert's RC Primary School, Bolton, to convert and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board reviewed the performance of the secondary schools currently within the trust.
- The board suggested before more schools join the trust, their recently improved School Improvement (SI) plan should be given time to prove its efficiency.
- The board made observations on the trust board and suggested they use this as an opportunity to strengthen their business representatives.
- The board want to be secure about the sequencing of schools and visibility on the SI plan.

#### **RD decision: Approved**

#### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

### **Project: Discussion to consider St Joseph & St Bede RC Primary School, Bury, to convert and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board reviewed the performance of the secondary schools currently within the

trust.

- The board suggested before more schools join the trust, their recently improved School Improvement (SI) plan should be given time to prove its efficiency.
- The board made observations on the trust board and suggested they use this as an opportunity to strengthen their business representatives.
- The board want to be secure about the sequencing of schools and visibility on the SI plan.

**RD decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

**Project: Discussion to consider St Cuthberts RC High School, Rochdale, to convert and join St Teresa of Calcutta Catholic Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:**

- The board reviewed the performance of the secondary schools currently within the trust.
- The board suggested before more schools join the trust, their recently improved School Improvement (SI) plan should be given time to prove its efficiency.
- The board made observations on the trust board and suggested they use this as an opportunity to strengthen their business representatives.
- The board want to be secure about the sequencing of schools and visibility on the SI plan.

**RD decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

**Project: Discussion to consider St Stephen's RC Primary School, Tameside, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:**

- The board suggested that the trust take this opportunity to review the trust board and appoint new members with a range of expertise.
- The board acknowledged the trust's appointment of a safeguarding lead to provide support on some of the concerns.

- Offer of External Review of Governance to identify gaps on board and support recruitment.

**RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

**Project: Discussion to consider St Edward's RC Primary School, Oldham, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:**

- The board suggested that the trust take this opportunity to review the trust board and appoint new members with a range of expertise.
- The board acknowledged the trust's appointment of a safeguarding lead to provide support on some of the concerns.
- Offer of External Review of Governance to identify gaps on board and support recruitment.

**RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

**Project: Discussion to consider St Thomas Moore High School, Tameside, to convert and join Emmaus Catholic Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:**

- The board suggested that the trust take this opportunity to review the trust board and appoint new members with a range of expertise.
- The board acknowledged the trust's appointment of a safeguarding lead to provide support on some of the concerns.
- Offer of External Review of Governance to identify gaps on board and support recruitment.

**RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Lyndhurst Community Primary School, Tameside, to convert and join Victorious Academies Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board acknowledged the improved School Improvement offer.
- The board suggested an appointment of a deputy to provide additional support of the SI offer as the trust grows.

### **RD decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: Karen Burns was not present for this discussion.**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider St Joseph's Stockport Catholic Primary School, Stockport, to convert and join Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board were pleased to hear that an External Review of Governance has been commissioned to help identify areas of improvement on the trust board. They agreed that with the support of the ERG and SRMA findings, the trust will be able to evolve in line with its growth.

### **RD decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider St Joseph's Catholic Primary School Trafford, Trafford, to convert and join Corpus Christi Catholic Academy Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board were pleased to hear that an External Review of Governance has been commissioned to help identify areas of improvement on the trust board. They agreed that with the support of the ERG and SRMA findings, the trust will be able to evolve in line with its growth.

### **RD decision: Approved**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Woodlands School, Blackpool, to convert and join The Sea View Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board agreed this was a sensible proposal.

### **RD decision: Approved**

### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Up Holland High School, Lancashire, to convert and join Everyone Matters School Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board made observation that the SI report needs strengthening but acknowledged that the trust is at the start of its development.
- The board also require some clarity on the trust's future projects.
- The board suggested that the trust review its governance structure and focus on areas of accountability.

### **RD decision: Approved**

### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Rainford Brook Lodge, St Helens, to convert and join Everyone Matters School Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board made observation that the SI report needs strengthening but acknowledged that the trust is at the start of its development.
- The board also require some clarity on the trust's future projects.
- The board suggested that the trust review its governance structure and focus on areas of accountability.

### **RD decision: Approved**

### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Halton Lodge Primary School, Halton, to convert and join Weaver Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board agreed to pause any further growth involving RI or Inadequate schools joining the trust until they see demonstrated progress made at existing schools and to enable a secure period of consolidation for this school to be supported.
- CEO to seek mentor from a large trust outside the local area to provide support.
- The board also agreed to recommend an SRMA deployment to see if any potential savings can be found for the trust.

### **RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: Annette Williams was not present for this discussion.**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Mendell Primary School, Wirral, to convert and join Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board made an observation on the trust's School Improvement strategy, which is based on a collaborative model with local primary schools. They agreed that as the trust grows, this will become a more difficult approach.
- The board also recognised that the membership on the trust governance board was varied, however they acknowledged that the trust is actively looking for new trustees.
- SFSO suggested an SRMA to be commissioned to address concerns.
- DO to check if there are any further concerns in the SRMA report findings and trust to build a robust plan which covers these areas.

### **RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## **Project: Discussion to consider Manor Primary School, Wirral, to convert and join Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- The board made an observation on the trust's School Improvement strategy, which is based on a collaborative model with local primary schools. They agreed that as the trust grows, this will become a more difficult approach.



- The board also recognised that the membership on the trust governance board was varied, however they acknowledged that the trust is actively looking for new trustees.
- SFSO suggested an SRMA to be commissioned to address concerns.
- DO to check if there are any further concerns in the SRMA report findings and trust to build a robust plan which covers these areas.

**RD decision: Approved with conditions**

**Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer 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 Sandbrook Primary School, Wirral, to convert and join Leading Learners Multi-Academy Trust.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board made an observation on the trust's School Improvement strategy, which is based on a collaborative model with local primary schools. They agreed that as the trust grows, this will become a more difficult approach.
- The board also recognised that the membership on the trust governance board was varied, however they acknowledged that the trust is actively looking for new trustees.
- SFSO suggested an SRMA to be commissioned to address concerns.
- DO to check if there are any further concerns in the SRMA report findings and trust to build a robust plan which covers these areas.

#### **RD decision: Approved with conditions**

#### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision and Academy Order to be sent.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

### **Project: Discussion to consider Cumbria Academy for Autism, Cumbria, to transfer to The Eden Academy.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- The board were supportive of this proposal.
- The board made an observation that there was no northern presence on the trust board.
- SFSO to suggest to South region to deploy SRMA at trust level.

#### **RD decision: Approved**

#### **Conflicts: None**

**Further actions required:** Delivery Officer to inform Trust and DCS of decision.

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