



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

14 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

- Alison Wilson

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Tom Banham
- Rowena Hackwood
- Andy Child MBE
- Mark Wilson

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Kash Rafiq
- Jenn Plews
- Jonny Uttley

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: To consider Howden CofE Infant school, East Riding of Yorkshire, to convert and join The Education Alliance.

AB discussion:

- The school shares a boundary with Howden Junior School which is part of The Education Alliance, Board members agreed it makes sense that both schools are in the same trust. The Trust is confident that further efficiencies can be realised.
- Board members recommended the Trust add an additional member to its governance, something the Trust is already in the process of doing.
- Overall it was agreed that this was a good, sensible match.

RD decision: Approve

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

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

Project: To consider Darley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Darley Community Primary has been federated with Summerbridge Community Primary since 2016 and has jointly decided to convert and join Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT). The schools considered a number of trusts and chose YCAT due to aligned ethos and a good existing relationship.
- Board members agreed that the Trust has experience of running similar schools, but noted an ageing school estate could become expensive.
- Board members suggested that the Trust add an additional trustee.
- The Trust's growth strategy was discussed, Board members were assured that this is sensible and sustainable.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: To consider Summerbridge Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Summerbridge Community Primary has been federated with Darley Community Primary since 2016 and has jointly decided to convert and join Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust (YCAT). The schools considered a number of trusts and chose YCAT due to aligned ethos and a good existing relationship.
- Board members agreed that the Trust has experience of running similar schools, but noted an ageing school estate could become expensive.
- Board members suggested that the Trust add an addition trustee.
- The Trust's growth strategy was discussed, Board members were assured that this is sensible and sustainable.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: To consider Nidderdale High School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school considered several trust options prior to resolving to join Moorlands Learning Trust, and believe the Trust has experience in running a similar school. There is an existing relationship between the school and the trust through the Red Kite Alliance.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets. To provide further assurances it was recommended that the Trust provides consolidated financial forecasts prior to conversion.
- Board members recommended mentoring for the Trust's CEO, to support the current growth phase, as well as the addition of primary expertise to the Trust Board. Board members also recommend the strengthening of the Trust's School Improvement Plan and central capacity.
- It was agreed that the current growth allowed for more centralisation of services and increased efficiencies through shared resources.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Prior to conversion, the Trust is to provide consolidated forecasts to the Department, add primary expertise to the Board and engage with CEO Mentoring. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: To consider Silsden Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school would like to strengthen the school to school support in their locality and believes joining the Trust would bring benefits to both themselves and other local schools.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets. To provide further assurances it was recommended that the Trust provides consolidated financial forecasts prior to conversion.
- Board members recommended mentoring for the Trust's CEO, to support the current growth phase, as well as the addition of primary expertise to the Trust Board. Board members also recommend the strengthening of the Trust's School Improvement Plan and central capacity.
- It was agreed that the current growth allowed for more centralisation of services and increased efficiencies through shared resources.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Prior to conversion, the Trust is to provide consolidated forecasts to the Department, add primary expertise to the Board and engage with CEO Mentoring. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: To consider Ashlands Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is keen to access the school to school support available through joining the Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets. To provide further assurances it was recommended that the Trust provides consolidated financial forecasts prior to conversion.
- Board members recommended mentoring for the Trust's CEO, to support the current growth phase, as well as the addition of primary expertise to the Trust Board. Board

members also recommend the strengthening of the Trust's School Improvement Plan and central capacity.

- It was agreed that the current growth allowed for more centralisation of services and increased efficiencies through shared resources.
- The school is forecasting falling pupil numbers, but the Trust is aware and confident in their ability to mitigate this risk.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Prior to conversion, the Trust is to provide consolidated forecasts to the Department, add primary expertise to the Board and engage with CEO Mentoring. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: To consider Burley Oaks Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school brings primary capacity into the Trust and is looking to support other schools joining the Trust.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets. To provide further assurances it was recommended that the Trust provides consolidated financial forecasts prior to conversion.
- Board members recommended mentoring for the Trust's CEO, to support the current growth phase, as well as the addition of primary expertise to the Trust Board. Board members also recommend the strengthening of the Trust's School Improvement Plan and central capacity.
- It was agreed that the current growth allowed for more centralisation of services and increased efficiencies through shared resources.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Prior to conversion, the Trust is to provide consolidated forecasts to the Department, add primary expertise to the Board and engage with CEO Mentoring. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to Menston Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is a feeder school to a secondary school that is already a part of Moorlands Learning Trust, and the Trust is currently providing support to the school through service level agreements. The conversion would therefore strengthen these existing relationships.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets. To provide further assurances it was recommended that the Trust provides consolidated financial forecasts prior to conversion.
- Board members recommended mentoring for the Trust's CEO, to support the current growth phase, as well as the addition of primary expertise to the Trust Board. Board members also recommend the strengthening of the Trust's School Improvement Plan and central capacity.
- It was agreed that the current growth allowed for more centralisation of services and increased efficiencies through shared resources.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: Prior to conversion, the Trust is to provide consolidated forecasts to the Department, add primary expertise to the Board and engage with CEO Mentoring. Delivery Officer to inform school/trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider North Stainley Church of England Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

AB discussion:

- The school recognises it needs support and believes LDLT shares the school's ethos, and that the Trust has recent experience of taking on similar schools. The conversions are supported by the Diocese.
- Board members requested further clarity on the positions of CFO and CEO within the Trust. Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) colleagues would also welcome further details of the Trusts financial projections.
- Board members also requested further information on the Trust's School Improvement strategy and how schools across the Trust will work together.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

AB discussion:

- The school feels LDLT is a natural fit due to shared ethos and shared links with the local community. The conversions are supported by the Diocese.
- Board members requested further clarity on the positions of CFO and CEO within the Trust. Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) colleagues would also welcome further details of the Trusts financial projections.
- Board members also requested further information on the Trust's School Improvement strategy and how schools across the Trust will work together.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Barwick-in-Elmet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

AB discussion:

- The school is currently facing a slight drop in pupil numbers, linked to local birth rates. The conversions are supported by the Diocese.
- Board members requested further clarity on the positions of CFO and CEO within the Trust. Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) colleagues would also welcome further details of the Trusts financial projections.
- Board members also requested further information on the Trust's School Improvement strategy and how schools across the Trust will work together.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Roundhay St John's Church of England Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

AB discussion:

- The school is popular in the local community and is generally over-subscribed. The conversions are supported by the Diocese.
- Board members requested further clarity on the positions of CFO and CEO within the Trust. Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) colleagues would also welcome further details of the Trusts financial projections.
- Board members also requested further information on the Trust's School Improvement strategy and how schools across the Trust will work together.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider St Matthew's CofE VA Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT).

AB discussion:

- The school has several experienced staff that will bring capacity and expertise to the Trust. The conversions are supported by the Diocese.
- Board members requested further clarity on the positions of CFO and CEO within the Trust.
- Board members also requested further information on the Trust's School Improvement strategy and how schools across the Trust will work together.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Stanley Grove Primary and Nursery School, Wakefield, to convert and join Accomplish Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school is already a part of the Accomplish MAT English Hub and has developed a strong working relationship with 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 also recommend an External Review of Governance.
- Overall, the match was considered a good fit both strategically and geographically.

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 Beechcliffe Special School, Bradford, to convert and join Carlton Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Beechcliffe Special School is keen to join Carlton Academy Trust because the trust has a particularly strong local network within the Bradford community and their pupils would benefit from this through the Carlton Edge programme. The trust is keen for the school to join in order to benefit from the school's expertise in working with students who have emotional, social and behavioural needs and personalised learning.
- The school also recognises the opportunity for close partnership working that will come from being on the same site as Carlton Keighley.
- The Trust is aware of the potential need for investment in the school's estate.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Parkside School, Bradford, to convert and join Wellspring Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Parkside school sees this option as a good cultural fit for the school, based on similar beliefs around teaching practices, pupil populations and development opportunities. There is also an existing, close working relationship with other Trust schools.
- The Trust's growth plan was discussed, following a period of consolidation.
- It was considered that the school will bring capacity and expertise to the Trust, specifically related to developing KS3 and KS4. This was deemed a good match for both the school and the trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Wilson 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 Barnburgh Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join Leger Education Trust.

AB discussion:

- Barnburgh 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 the school's 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. The Regional Director has met the Trust and is assured about the Trust's current capacity, plan for KS4 improvements and Post 16. Board members were content with this but encouraged the CEO to undertake mentoring opportunities to provide further support.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Bankwood Community Primary School, Steel City Schools Partnership, Sheffield

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Birdwell Primary School, HCAT, Barnsley

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Bradleys Both Community Primary School, Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust, North Yorkshire

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Scawsby Junior Academy, The Rose Learning Trust, Doncaster

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Town Field Primary School, The Rose Learning Trust, Doncaster

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Travis St Lawrence CofE Primary School, The Diocese Of Sheffield Academies Trust, Doncaster

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/04/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: Whether to approve the age-range change at Green Way Academy (Academy Enterprise Trust), Kingston Upon Hull, to allow delivery of 180 FTE nursery places on a satellite site.

AB discussion:

- The Local Authority approached Academies Enterprise Trust (AET) with a proposal to close the nursery, transfer the land to the trust and allow the trust to open replacement provision in the same location using existing resources and staff.
- The local birth rate is falling, the Trust is aware of this and has planned accordingly.
- Public consultation has been favourable to the changes.
- Proposal supported by Board Members.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

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.
- Members advised that the transfer could provide a good local solution for Doncaster.
- The Regional Director has met with the Trust and is assured about the Trust's capacity, plan for KS4 improvements and Post 16. Board members were content with this but encouraged the CEO to undertake mentoring opportunities to provide further support.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Milton School (Interaction and Communication Academy Trust), Rotherham, joining Venn Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Following the recent Ofsted report, the school is currently receiving support from across the sector, including from Venn Academy Trust.
- There was a recognition of the need to act quickly and secure rapid improvements at the school. Venn Academy Trust was considered to have the capacity to provide the support that is needed.
- Board members noted the current vacancies in the Trust's central team but was satisfied that this shouldn't be a barrier to this Trust Change.
- Further conversations are ongoing re: Interaction and Communication Academy Trust's remaining school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andy Child and Tom Banham were 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 High Park School (Interaction and Communication Academy Trust), Bradford, joining Carlton Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- It was noted that all the schools in the Trust are mainstream, but it was considered that the school will bring long term SEND capacity into the Trust, which is in need within the Local Authority.
- It was considered that this was a good, sensible match, bringing benefits to the school, Trust and local area.
- Further conversations are ongoing re: Interaction and Communication Academy Trust's remaining school.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Andy Child and Tom Banham were not present and did not receive papers for this item.

Further actions required: 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 creation of a 20 place Internal Referral Unit at Malin Bridge School (Chorus Education Trust), Sheffield.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

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: 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.

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