

**Department for Education Board Meeting
8 February 2023, 13:00 – 15:30**

Member Attendees

Baroness Barran

Susan Acland-Hood

Toby Peyton-Jones

Suzy Levy

Peter Bazalgette

Stuart McMinnies

Jack Boyer

Jane Cunliffe

Indra Morris

Graham Archer

Tony Foot

Title

Minister for the School System and Student Finance (Chair)

Permanent Secretary (Chair from 15:15)

Non-Executive Board Member

Chief Operating Officer

Director General, Families

Interim Director General, Strategy

Strategic Finance Director

Presenters

Tom Stephens

Ieuan Bennett

Stephen Wan

Alice Lakeman

Fran Oram

Suzanne Lunn

Rory Kennedy

Lindsay Harris

Title

Deputy Director, Delivery Unit

Senior Delivery Analyst

Deputy Director, Skills Strategy

Deputy Director, Central Strategic Finance

Director, Care System Strategy

Director Safeguarding and Workforce

Director, Capital

Deputy Director, Capital Strategy and Intelligence

Rob Read

Suki Boora

Education Estates Building Safety Lead

Deputy Director, Industrial Action

Other Attendees

Julia Kinniburgh

Andrew McCully

John Edwards

Emily Roche

Laura Hoskins

Anna Haynes

Title

Director General, Skills

Director General, Schools

Director General, Regions

Director, Strategy and Delivery

Board Secretary

Board Secretariat Officer

Apologies

Gillian Keegan, Rt Hon MP

Richard Pennycook

Title

Secretary of State for Education

Lead Non-executive Board Member

1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES AND ACTION TRACKER

1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

1.2 No new or changed conflicts of interest were declared.

2 DEPARTMENTAL PERFORMANCE

2.1 The Board discussed departmental performance and data across the desired outcomes of departmental programmes and Secretary of State missions. Those presented noted that the Department was updating its Outcome Delivery Plan, which would underpin how the Department tracked its performance.

2.2 Board members received an update on performance against the Skills, Schools, and Families portfolios and discussed opportunities for and barriers to success with regards to key delivery programmes therein.

3 PROGRAMME UPDATE: SKILLS

3.1 Board members received an overview and update on the work that Sir Michael Barber was carrying out to advise the Secretary of State and Chancellor on Skills which included the themes of:

- Skills delivery
- A change in society's perception of skills
- The use of data to enable delivery of skills
- Careers information in secondary and tertiary education spaces
- A whole-of-government approach to skills

3.2 A review of Michael Barber's work would take place at the end of March 2023.

3.2 Board members discussed skills implementation in England.

4 FINANCE UPDATE

4.1 The Board reflected on updates on the spring budget, business planning and the Department's financial position at P9.

5 CHILDREN'S SOCIAL CARE REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION

5.1 Presenters provided attendees with an overview of Children's Social Care (CSC), following the publication of the delivery strategy following the CSC review.

5.2 Members discussed the shortage of social workers in England.

6 RISK DEEP-DIVE: SCHOOL BUILDING FAILURE

6.1 Board members were provided with an update on the nature of this top tier risk and mitigations that would be carried out by the Department. These included the collection of data on schools with Reinforced, Autoclaved, Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in their structures, buildings reaching the end of their structural lifespan, and those with other structural failures spotted by building surveyors.

6.2 After this discussion, the Chair left the meeting and was deputised by the Permanent Secretary. The meeting was not quorate from this point and so no decisions were made.

7 INDUSTRIAL ACTION

7.1 An update was given on recent strike action in the schools and Higher and Further Education sectors. Members noted that:

- February saw coordinated strike action between schools and Higher and Further Education at a national level, for the first time.
- The Department understood, through the collection of data, that approximately 46 per cent of schools were fully open, 45 per cent restricted attendance, and nine per cent were closed.

8 AOB

8.1 Board members had no comments on the sub-committee updates.

8.2 Members commented on the forward look for future Board meetings.

8.3 The meeting closed at 15:30.