



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

25 April 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

- This meeting was chaired by Carolan Goggin in Alison Wilson's absence.

Advisory Board (AB) members

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

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Alison Wilson was unable to attend due to personal circumstances.
- Kash Rafiq

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)
- Carolan Goggin (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- 1 received; White Rose Academies Trust academies (Alder Tree Primary Academy, Leeds, Leeds City Academy, Leeds, Leeds East Academy, Leeds and Leeds West Academy, Leeds) joining Wellspring Academy Trust (Trust Change)
- 140 received; King Edward VII school, Sheffield, joining Brigantia Learning Trust (Sponsored Route)

These representations were shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside their corresponding item.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Niels Junior Infant and Nursery School, Huddersfield, to convert and join Great Heights Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- The school carried out extensive due diligence before making the application to join Great Heights Academy Trust (GHAT). The school determined that GHAT was the best fit in terms of geography and their capacity to support the school.
- Advisory members commented that the school would benefit from a period of stability given the changes in the school's Senior Leadership team in recent years, and that GHAT was well placed to deliver this.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Lidget Green Primary School, Bradford, to convert and join Pennine Academies Trust.

AB discussion:

- Having undertaken due diligence, Lidget Green has decided to join Pennine Academies Yorkshire because they feel the Trust's ethos is in line with the school's values. The school is a good match geographically to the other schools in the Trust.
- Advice from Board members was to ensure the Trust was conducting regular performance assessments across all their schools and to continue to work with the Bradford Local Authority on sufficiency of school places.
- The match was considered a good fit overall.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Sponsored Route

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider King Edward VII School, Sheffield, joining Brigantia Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- Board Members requested further detail as to the rationale for matching the school to Brigantia Learning Trust and further evidence of the Trust's strengths specifically regarding safeguarding.
- A further comparative analysis of a number of suitable Multi Academy Trusts will be undertaken including Brigantia Learning Trust and presented at a future Advisory Board.

RD decision: Defer (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Oak Church of England Primary, Huddersfield, joining Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- This school opened in May 2016 following the amalgamation of 3 schools. In July 2021, the school signed a Memorandum of Understanding and agreed to become an Associate Member of the trust for the academic year of 2021/22 in order to receive school improvement support.
- The Trust recognises the complex financial position due to the school's existing PFI contract and falling pupil numbers. Board members were assured that the Trust has a plan to mitigate against these potential issues.
- The Trust was deemed a good match for the school, with sufficient capacity to secure the required improvements.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Luddenden Church of England Primary, Halifax, joining Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.

AB discussion:

- Luddenden Church of England Primary School is a relatively small school located in the Calder Valley area of Calderdale. The school would join the Trust's Calderdale cluster. Both the Local Authority and Diocese are supportive of the move to Learning Accord.
- Learning Accord has carried out due diligence and confirmed that SEND and Early Years are still two key areas of development. The trust has identified that they would support the school by building capacity for leaders at all levels, and supporting rigorous monitoring and coaching, with provision focused training for subject leaders across the school, as well as further curriculum development.
- The Trust was deemed a good match for the school, with sufficient capacity to secure the required improvements.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Sponsor Application

Points discussed in relation to applications for sponsor application.

Project: Discussion to consider the sponsor application from Pennine Academies Yorkshire

AB discussion:

- Pennine Academies Yorkshire was formed in 2017. The Trust consists of 6 primary schools (2 Good, 1 Outstanding, 3 yet to be inspected) which are all located in Bradford, West Yorkshire.
- Governance was discussed and board members were encouraged to hear that the Trust recognises the need to increase the number of members and are actively working on this. They have plans to recruit 2 more members by September 2023.
- It was agreed that the approval of Sponsor status would be a good thing for the area that the Trust serves.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

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: All Saints Catholic School York, Nicholas Postgate Catholic Academy Trust, York

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Beverley St Nicholas Primary School, Edukos Trust, East Riding of Yorkshire

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Cavendish Primary School, Exceed Academies Trust, Bradford

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Knowleswood Primary School, Exceed Academies Trust, Bradford

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: St Matthew's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy, Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust, Bradford

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: St. Mary's & St. Peter's Catholic Primary School, a Voluntary Academy, a Voluntary Academy, Blessed Christopher Wharton Catholic Academy Trust, Bradford

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Swallownest Primary School, The Diocese Of Sheffield Academies Trust, Rotherham

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: The Springfield Centre, Ethos Academy Trust, Wakefield

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Project: Wilberfoss Church of England Primary School, The Education Alliance, East Riding of Yorkshire

AB discussion: Proposed opening date 01/05/2023

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: No action required

Significant Change

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

Project: Discussion to consider the creation of an Integrated Resource Unit with a 20-place resource provision at Foljambe Primary School (Wickersley Partnership Trust), Rotherham.

AB discussion:

- The retrospective element of this proposal is due to the school taking pupils from within Wickersley Partnership Trust (WPT) into its resourced provision since September 2021, without prior approval. The trust would also like to provide 10 additional places for Rotherham council to place pupils who require specialist support from September 2023.
- The Local Authority is in full support of the additional places through their Safety Valve agreement.
- Board Members recommended an External Review of Governance, mentoring for the Trust CEO and continuation of the Trust's engagement with the department's Trust and School Improvement Offer.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The department will issue a letter to the trust to remind them of their responsibility to gain prior approval for any significant changes. The Regional Director will meet the Trust within 6 months.

RD decision: Approve with conditions (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

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. The Trust must:

- Agree to an SRMA deployment within 6 months of approval.
- Have an external review of governance within 6 months of approval.
- Continue to engage with the department's Trust and School Improvement Offer.
- Agree to have a strategic conversation with the Regional Director within 6 months of approval.
- Agree for the CEO to receive mentoring from a special education leader or CEO.

Project: Discussion to consider the creation of an Integrated Resource Unit with a 30-place resource provision at Thrybergh Academy (Wickersley Partnership Trust), Rotherham.

AB discussion:

- The retrospective element of this proposal is due to the school taking pupils from within Wickersley Partnership Trust (WPT) into its resourced provision since September 2021, without prior approval. Thrybergh Academy would now like to formalise this arrangement, whilst also adding 10 additional places to the provision to support Rotherham Council to place pupils who require specialist support into the unit. This change will take effect from September 2023.
- The Local Authority is in full support of the additional places through their Safety Valve agreement.
- Board Members recommended an External Review of Governance, mentoring for the Trust CEO and continuation of the Trust's engagement with the department's Trust and School Improvement Offer.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The department will issue a letter to the trust to remind them of their responsibility to gain prior approval for any significant changes made. The Regional Director will meet the Trust within 6 months.

RD decision: Approve with conditions (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

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. The Trust must:

- Agree to an SRMA deployment within 6 months of approval.
- Have an external review of governance within 6 months of approval.
- Continue to engage with the department's Trust and School Improvement Offer.
- Agree to have a strategic conversation with the Regional Director within 6 months of approval.
- Agree for the CEO to receive mentoring from a special education leader or CEO.

Project: Discussion to consider the addition of 25 places to an Integrated Resource Unit at Wales High School (Wales High School Academy Trust), Rotherham.

AB discussion:

- The proposed change is to increase the school's SEND resource provision capacity from 25 to 50 pupils – over a 5-year period. A physical expansion of the school's premises is required to accommodate the full increased number of pupils.
- There were no concerns about this project, given it is necessary expansion of a popular school which has been successful in applying to be part of the Schools Rebuilding Programme. The Local Authority will meet any costs associated with the physical expansion of the resource provision.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

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 Castle Hill School, Huddersfield, transferring from Interaction and Communication Academy Trust to Together Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- Castle Hill is a 3 to 19 special academy in Kirklees which is part of the Interaction and Communication Academies Trust (ICAT) – a three school MAT in Rotherham, Bradford and Kirklees. Following intervention in Milton School, Rotherham, the ICAT trustee board has resolved to dissolve the trust with each of their three schools being transferred to an appropriate MAT. With the agreement of the respective boards, it is proposed that Castle Hill transfer to Together Learning Trust.
- Board Members recommended that Together Learning Trust recruited an additional Member to take the total up to 5.
- Board Members also recommended that it would be beneficial for this transfer to take place as soon as possible. Castle Hill is currently a good school and the match could bring about benefits for both the school and Together Learning Trust.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: None

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

Project: Discussion to consider Rossett School, North Yorkshire, joining Red Kite Learning Trust (Single Academy Trust to Multi Academy Trust)

AB Discussion:

- Rossett School converted to an academy in 2011 as a Single Academy Trust. The school is a larger than average 11- 18 secondary school based in Harrogate. There is an existing relationship as the school is part of the Red Kite Alliance, a collaborative partnership of schools and a university across Yorkshire.
- Although pupil numbers are falling, Red Kite Learning Trust is proposing appropriate strategies to address this. Board members agreed that Rossett School would benefit from joining Red Kite Learning Trust.
- Red Kite Learning are to continue working with Education Skills Funding Agency on future financial forecasts.

RD decision: Approve (following an update from the Chair, the RD took the decisions on 27th of April).

Conflicts: Jenn Plews was 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: To consider the physical expansion to the Sixth Form area of Immanuel College, Bradford (Bradford Diocesan Academy Trust) to allow for additional 100 pupils.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Carol Dewhurst did not receive papers for this item and was not involved in the decision making process

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

Project: To consider the physical expansion to the Sixth Form area of Temple Moor High School, Leeds (Red Kite Learning Trust) to allow for additional 68 pupils.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Project: To consider changing the age range from 4-11 to 2-11 to incorporate a nursery provision, and to increase the capacity at the school to 210 at Enfield Academy of New Waltham, North East Lincolnshire (The Enquire Learning Trust).

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

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

Decisions escalated

List of decisions that have been escalated to the Minister.

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

AB discussion:

- Board members noted that the Minister will make the decision on this Trust Change
- Should the application be approved, Board members recommended an External Review of Governance for Wellspring Academy Trust given this proposal involves the simultaneous transfer of 4 academies.

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.

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