



## Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

16 May 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**

- None

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

### **Project: To discuss Anns Grove Primary School, Sheffield, to convert and join Mercia Learning Trust**

AB discussion:

- Anns Grove Primary School is a popular primary school based in Sheffield in the south part of the city. It is an Ofsted rated good school and is popular in the local community. This is a school which would bring capacity to the Trust
- The Board considered the school's financial situation in light of current pressures on budgets and a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) was recommended.
- The Board recommended that the Trust further developed their school improvement strategy. The Regional Director would like to meet the Trust to discuss their role in the local education system.

**RD decision: Approve with conditions**

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:**

- SRMA to be deployed to Trust.
- Regional Director to meet the Trust.
- Delivery Officer to inform school / Trust of decision.

## **Project: To discuss Stocksbridge Junior School, Sheffield, to convert and join Chorus Education Trust**

### **AB discussion:**

- Stocksbridge Junior School is an outstanding Local Authority maintained school on the outskirts of Sheffield. The school is keen to become an academy as part of the Chorus Education Trust. The school is keen to access the benefits that being part of a Multi Academy Trust brings in terms of shared resources and continuing professional development (CPD) opportunities for staff.
- There is an existing relationship between the school and Trust which this conversion would further strengthen.
- The Board was assured that the Local Governing Board support this conversion.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and the School Financial Support and Oversight officer (SFSO) recommended a School Resource Management Advisor (SRMA) be deployed to focus on Stocksbridge joining the trust.

### **RD decision: Approve with conditions**

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

### **Further actions required:**

- SRMA to be deployed.
- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

## **Project: To discuss Grenoside Community Primary School, Sheffield, to convert and join Peak Edge Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB discussion:**

- Grenoside Community Primary School is a Local Authority maintained school which is set in a suburb within the West Ecclesfield ward of Sheffield. The school is keen to academise and become part of the Peak Edge Trust. The school and Trust have worked together since 2020, and this conversion would further strengthen and formalise the relationship.
- The Board considered the Trust's finances and financial situation in light of current pressures on budgets
- Grenoside is currently a PFI school, which could cause a delay in the conversion process, but the Board was content that the Trust and school have made sufficient plans to mitigate any risks.

### **RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

## **Project: To discuss Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust**

### **AB discussion:**

- Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School is a small school in Tadcaster, North Yorkshire. The school is within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds and the Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust (BWCAT) area. Joining BWCAT is part of the Bishop's vision for Catholic Schools working together as families of schools. Converting to BWCAT will help consolidate existing local partnerships and help develop effective wider partnership working.
- Barkston Ash is Ofsted good. The school is financially stable and has a consistent number of pupils over the next 3 years.
- The Board agreed that converting the 2 schools should not weaken the Trust's financial position, and ESFA will monitor this going forward.

### **RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

## **Project: To discuss St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust**

### **AB discussion:**

- St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School is a small school in Ripon, North Yorkshire. The school is within the Roman Catholic Diocese of Leeds and the Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust (BWCAT) area. Joining BWCAT is part of the Bishop's vision for Catholic Schools working together as families of schools. Converting to BWCAT will help consolidate existing local partnerships and help develop effective wider partnership working.
- The Board agreed that converting the 2 schools should not weaken the Trust's financial position, and ESFA will monitor this going forward.

### **RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

## Free School Presumption Sponsor Approval

Points discussed in relation to the above.

### Project: Sponsor approval for 2 presumption free schools in North East Lincolnshire

#### AB discussion:

- North East Lincolnshire Council has proposed to establish a new 210 place primary free school for Waltham village and a new 210 place primary free school for Scartho Top. To meet the sufficiency need for the area, the LA is proposing two separate 1 form entry primary schools, both to open in September 2024.
- Sites have been identified by the LA for both schools. The LA is of the view that Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust's (LGAT) proposals for both of the new primary free schools were robust, highly detailed and included all of the required information set out in the criteria.
- The Board questioned the Trust's experience in opening Free Schools and running Integrated Resource Units. The Trust recognises this and has identified a specialist team.
- Board member's recommended that year groups were introduced in sensible phases.
- The board discussed governance arrangements and it was recommended that there is a greater separation between the trust board and LGBs.

**RD decision:** Approve the proposal that both schools be sponsored by Lincolnshire Gateway Academies Trust

**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.



## **Sponsored Route**

Points discussed in relation to the Sponsored Route.

### **Project: To discuss sponsor options for Spring Bank Primary School, Leeds.**

#### **AB discussion:**

- Spring Bank Primary School is a 4-11 community school located in Headingley, Leeds.
- Following two consecutive ratings of 'Requires Improvement' in December 2017 and October 2021, Spring Bank recognises that joining Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust is the best option for securing the necessary improvements in the school.
- The school has been receiving leadership support from Owlcotes since January 2023 and is keen to formalise the relationship so that they can fully access staff development, peer support, and collaboration opportunities.
- Board members were in agreement of this proposal and that the Trust had sufficient capacity to improve the school.

#### **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: To discuss Inspire Trust academies (Oakwood High School, Rotherham, Sitwell Junior School, Rotherham, and Thomas Rotherham College, Rotherham) to join Leaders in Learning Multi Academy Trust**

### **AB discussion:**

- This proposal was for the voluntary transfer of all three schools in Inspire Trust (IT) into Leaders in Learning (LIL), enabling the subsequent closure of IT. This proposal is very much about the formation of a new trust, bringing together the shared expertise of the existing trusts. If approved, following transfer, LiL will be renamed and become Inspire Learning Trust (ILT).
- Board members were assured that the new Trust has forecasted to be financially viable, but recommended that the School Improvement Strategy is further developed.

**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 Advisory Board meeting

### **Project: To discuss The Hub School, East Riding of Yorkshire, to convert and join The Education Alliance.**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

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

### **Project: To discuss St Hilda's Ampleforth Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Ryedale Learning Trust**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

### **Project: To discuss Hertford Vale Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Staxton, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Ryedale Learning Trust**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

### **Project: To discuss North Stainley Church of England Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

### **Project: To discuss Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

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

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

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

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

**Project: To discuss St Matthew's CofE VA Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust (LDLT)**

Type of decision: Converter Academy Orders

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

**Project: To discuss sponsor options for Scholes Junior & Infant School, Holmfirth.**

Type of decision: Sponsored Route

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

**Project: To discuss sponsor options for Little London Community Primary School, Leeds**

Type of decision: Sponsored Route

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Further detail on the proposal is required.

## **Decisions taken between AB meetings List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings**

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

**Project: To discuss the approval of physical expansion of Stannington Infant School, Sheffield for the establishment of a 10 place Integrated Resource Unit**

**Decision type: Significant Change**

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None.

**Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

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