



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

13 June 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
- Jenn Plews
- Andy Child MBE
- Mark Wilson

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Jonny Uttley
- Tom Banham
- Kash Rafiq
- Rowena Underwood

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)
- Matthew Edwards (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- None

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: Discussion to consider Gleadless Primary School, Sheffield, to convert and join Sheffield South East Trust

- The school is located in south east Sheffield, where the trust operates its 6 schools. The school is currently Ofsted-rated requires-improvement. The school wishes to become an academy to realise the benefits of joining a MAT
- The schedule of trustee meetings was discussed. While it was accepted that the schedule meets the minimum requirements, board members recommended that trustees meet more often.
- The conversion would strengthen the existing relationship between the school and the Trust, which began through the Sheffield South East Learning Partnership and has developed over the last 18 months.
- The Trust's school improvement strategy and capacity was discussed. Board members recommended the trust consider the future shape and size of the central team in order to provide the right level of support to the CEO and schools in the MAT.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.

Project: Discussion to consider Heptonstall Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Calderdale, to convert and join The Family of Learning Trust.

AB discussion:

- Heptonstall Junior Infant and Nursery School is a 4-11 community school that is located in Heptonstall, Hebden Bridge (HX7). It is a small school serving a relatively affluent area and classified as rural under the Designation of Rural Primary Schools (England) October 2022. The result of the last Ofsted judgement for the school was Good. The school was last inspected on 05 November 2021.
- This project was considered alongside the proposal for Shirley Manor Primary School (Shirley Manor Academy) joining The Family of Learning Trust. Board Members questioned the capacity of the Trust to take on both projects at the same time.
- The Board considered the Trust's financial forecasts in light of current pressures on budgets and requested a revised budget for the school.
- The Board would also like to see further details on the Trust's school improvement model and how Heptonstall fits within it.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform the school / trust of the deferral decision.
- Delivery Officer to ask for more information on the school improvement strategy of the Trust and a revised budget for the school.

Sponsored Route

Points discussed in relation to the sponsored route.

Project: Discussion to consider sponsor options for Naburn Church of England Primary School, York.

AB discussion:

- Naburn Primary School is a smaller than average sized primary school in the small village (population of circa 500 people) of Naburn - lying on the eastern banks of the river Ouse, about 4 miles south of the City of York.
- Advisory board members noted that this was a potentially vulnerable school that would benefit from the support of a strong trust.
- Board members agreed that The Education Alliance have the experience and capacity to provide the necessary long-term support the school requires.

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: Discussion to consider sponsor options for Mallard Primary School, Doncaster

AB discussion:

- Mallard Primary School is an average sized primary school in Doncaster. Judged as Requires Improvement in June 2018, Mallard received a second Requires Improvement judgement at their following inspection in March 2022. The governors at the school agree that the school would benefit from joining a strong MAT. Governors have explored MATs they would like to join.
- It was considered that Maltby Learning Trust be approved to sponsor Mallard Primary School.
- Board Members recommended the trust consider the future shape and size of the central team in order to provide the right level of support to the CEO and schools in the MAT
- Board Members noted the general trend of reducing primary pupil numbers in this part of Doncaster and that this would need careful consideration by the sponsoring Trust.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of decision.
- Regional Director to meet with Trust for a strategic conversation

Project: Discussion to consider sponsor options for Scholes Infant and Junior School (The Mast Academy Trust)

AB discussion:

- Scholes Junior and Infant School, located in the south of Kirklees, has received 2 Requires Improvement judgements (June 2018 and March 2022), consequently bringing it under scope for intervention as a 'coasting' school. In 2018, the school was Requires Improvement in all areas except behaviour and early years provision, in which it was Good. In 2022, only behaviour remained Good. A new headteacher started at the school in September 2022, following the previous head leaving at the end of the 2022 spring term.
- It was considered that the Trust has schools of similar demographics and relevant recent experience having strengthened their central capacity. The Board recommended that the Trust now focus on their own school improvement offer.
- The Trusts financial forecasts were discussed, and no major issues were identified.

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 Shirley Manor Primary School (Shirley Manor Academy) joining The Family of Learning Trust

AB discussion:

- Shirley Manor Academy became a Single Academy Trust in March 2014. The school is a 1 form-entry, 3-11 academy convertor located in Wyke, Bradford (BD12). This area of Bradford is considered to have high levels of deprivation.
- This project was considered alongside the proposal for Heptonstall Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Calderdale, to convert and join The Family of Learning Trust. Board Members questioned the capacity of the Trust to take on both projects at the same time
- Board Members recognised that the school would benefit from the support it would receive from joining a multi academy trust. The project makes sense from a geographic perspective.
- The advisory board discussed the risk of this Trust to take on both this school and Heptonstall Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Calderdale.
- Board Members questioned the condition of the school estate. The Board requested more detail on the Trusts due diligence.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform the school / trust of the deferral decision.
- Delivery Officer to speak to this school to get a better understanding of the condition of the building.

List of projects listed on the published draft agenda, but were removed before the meeting

There were no projects of this type.

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

There were no decisions of this type.

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