



Notes of Meeting: South West

18 September 2023

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

- Hannah Woodhouse

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Mark Ducker
- Jennifer Blunden
- Margaret Simmons-Bird
- Adele Haysom
- Steve Savory
- Jackie Fieldwick
- Stuart Ingram
- Rachel Howie

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Adele Haysom

DfE senior civil servants

- Lucy Livings
- Matthew Stevenson

Representations received

- None

General Discussion Points

Regional Director Update

- Hannah Woodhouse provided an update on priorities both nationally and for South West at the start of the academic year.
- AB members shared local intelligence and provided insight on the challenges being faced by the sector.
- Ofsted inspection outcomes from the start of this academic year were shared.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: To discuss Cubert School, **Cornwall** converting to academy status and joining Aspire Academy Trust.

Points raised in Discussion:

Strategy:

- Cubert School is a 4 to 11 Community Primary School that has applied to convert to academy status and join Aspire Academy Trust.
- Aspire is a well-established primary MAT based in Cornwall of 36 primary schools.
- The vision, values and ethos of Aspire Academy Trust align well with those of Cubert School.

School Improvement (SI):

- Aspire will support the new leadership and management team at Cubert by assigning an experienced strategic partner. Cubert School's recent Ofsted report highlighted the need for curriculum development, Aspire will ensure leaders and teachers have access to all subject networks and resources
- The SI model of the trust was discussed, this will be raised with the trust and the Regions Group team.

Finance:

- The finance team at Aspire will be working with the governors of Cubert School to ensure financial efficiencies are made.
- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) will be supporting the trust to review alternative funding options available.

Other:

- The future growth strategy of the trust was discussed, this will be reviewed with the trust and the Regions Group team

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss Kingsbridge Community Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Education South West (ESW).

Points raised in Discussion: **

Strategy:

- Kingsbridge Community Primary School (KCPS) is a 4-11 community primary school that has applied to join Education South West (ESW). KCPS is part of the South Hams Federation.
- The South Hams Federation has worked in a management partnership with ESW, with support provided for KCPS. The full Ofsted inspection for KCPS (July 2019) was graded - Requires Improvement.
- Kingsteignton is a 2-11 primary free school in Devon, and is growing through the progression of year groups through the school.
- ESW has worked closely with both KCPS and Kingsteignton to identify specific school improvement needs for each school.
- The trust currently comprises of seven primary schools, four secondaries, and one all-through. They have provided leadership in South Devon and also provides leadership and development opportunities for staff within and outside of ESW.

Governance:

- The CEO is an experienced educationalist assisting the LA on its educational strategy and preparing the ground for a new Director of Education to take up post.

School Improvement (SI):

- ESW's school improvement offer is led by its CEO and Director of School Improvement who meet with school leaders every two weeks to drive and monitor the efficacy of the school improvement planning.

Finance:

- There are no financial concerns with the trust.

Other:

- The capacity and future growth strategy of the trust was discussed, this will be reviewed with the trust and the Regions Group team, with the focus on their existing schools.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

** This project discussion includes Kingsteignton School, **Devon** (United Schools Trust) transferring to Education South West.

Project: To discuss St George's Church of England Primary School, Langton Matravers, Dorset converting to academy status and joining Coastal Learning Partnership.

Project: To discuss Lulworth and Winfrith CofE VC Primary School, Dorset converting to academy status and joining Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP).

Points raised in Discussion:

Strategy:

- St Georges and Lulworth & Winfrith are two of four small rural LA maintained primary schools in Purbeck, Dorset, which want to join Coastal Learning Partnership (CLP).
- Swanage Primary School and Stoborough Church of England Primary School were approved to join CLP at the Advisory Board of 19 June 2023.
- CLP is an all primary MAT that currently comprises of 16 schools in Bournemouth, Christchurch, Poole and Dorset. CLP already have an existing hub of 3 schools in the Purbeck area so it is a good fit geographically.
- Both the Local Authority and the Diocese of Salisbury support the schools joining CLP.
- There is already a working relationship between CLP and the schools, and they are accessing CLP's training programme. The schools are also strongly aligned to the trust's culture and values

Governance:

- The diversity of the Trust Board and the need to strengthen the education expertise was discussed. This has been raised with the Trust along with their plans to mitigate through future recruitment.
- The schools' current governing bodies will become local governing bodies (LGBs) on joining CLP, with governors remaining in place. The LGBs will join the governance support structures which exist within the Trust.

School Improvement (SI):

- The trust has completed an assessment of the support required in both schools and how this will align to the trust's SI model.
- The trust will focus on the curriculum, inclusion, SEND practice and teacher knowledge at Lulworth and Winfrith.
- AB members positively commented on the trusts SI model.

Finance:

- SFSO (Schools Financial Support & Oversight) confirmed that the trust are financially healthy and are supportive of the proposal.

Other:

- Discussion on support for the CEO and a recommendation to partner with a trust of a similar size and structure. The Regions Group team will raise with the trust.
- It has been agreed that all four schools will join CLP at the same time – aim December 2023.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss St Nicholas CofE Primary School, Henstridge, **Somerset** converting to academy status and joining the Diocese of Bath and Wells Multi Academy Trust.

Points raised in Discussion: The board members considered the case and did not raise any concerns with the proposal.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss Cherry Garden Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** converting to academy status and joining the Castle School Education Trust (CSET).

Points raised in Discussion:

Strategy:

- Cherry Garden Primary School is a one-form entry primary school. The school was judged Ofsted Good in 2015 and continued as Good in 2018.
- This is a voluntary conversion, the Governors would like to join an established trust and the value, vision and ethos of both Castle School Education Trust (CSET) and Cherry Gardens are closely aligned.
- CSET consists of 4 primary schools and 4 secondary schools in South Gloucestershire. They are currently providing support to local primary schools by offering leadership and school improvement guidance, which links to their growth strategy.

Governance:

- AB members asked about the interim support being provided to another trust by the CEO. The Regions Group team will review with the trust their future growth plans and the additional support being delivered by CSET.

School Improvement (SI):

- Cherry Gardens is a strong performing school with an experienced headteacher that will bring capacity and contribute to the wider development of the primary phase of the trust.

Finance:

- The trust is in a stable financial position.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: To discuss Kingsteignton School, **Devon** (United Schools Trust) transferring to Education South West.

Points raised in Discussion: **

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

** This project was discussed together with Kingsbridge Community Primary School, **Devon** converting to academy status and joining Education South West

Project: To discuss the following three academies from Somerset Road Education Trust (SRET), **Wiltshire** transferring to Brunel Academies Trust.

- St Mark's CofE Junior School, Salisbury, **Wiltshire**
- Wyndham Park Infants' School, **Wiltshire**
- Exeter House Special School, **Wiltshire**

Points raised in Discussion:

Strategy:

- Somerset Road Education Trust (SRET) is a small three-school MAT based in Wiltshire that consists of one all-through special school, an infant school and a junior school.
- Brunel Academies Trust and SRET specialise in SEND provision with Brunel recently moving into mainstream primary provision in Swindon.
- Brunel currently operates solely in Swindon. On SRET transferring, this will mean the trust develops a presence in Salisbury and SRET schools will form the trust's Salisbury Hub.
- Merging will bring increased stability and sustainability for both Brunel and the SRET schools. The vision, values and ethos of the two MATs are closely aligned.

Governance:

- The trust's application to convert to a mixed article MAT has been approved by Salisbury Diocesan Board of Education and will be implemented alongside the transfer of SRET.
- The diversity of the Trust Board and the need to strengthen the education expertise was discussed. This will be raised with the trust along with their plans to mitigate through future recruitment.
- It was also advised that in line with best practice trustees should not be members of a local governing body.

School Improvement (SI):

- The Education Improvement Team, led by the CEO, Director of Education and Deputy Director of Education plan to implement school improvement across all schools within Brunel. Members of SRET's existing Executive Leadership Team will support the team bringing further capacity and expertise.
- The trust currently has an acting Director of Education and a recruitment plan is in place for a permanent role to be in post for January 2024.
- Church schools joining Brunel is an important part of their growth plan. The strategy and commitment to safeguard the Christian distinctiveness will be at the centre of the trust across all levels.
- The recent Ofsted judgement for The Chalet School – requires improvement (May 2023) was raised by AB members. Assurances were provided by the Regions Group team that they are in dialogue with the trust leadership.

Finance

- The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) do not have any concern with the proposal.
- Additional funding available to both trusts will be reviewed.

RD decision: Approve with conditions.

Conflicts: Jackie Fieldwick did not receive the papers and was not present for the discussion.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

All of the projects have gone through previous Advisory Board meetings for consideration and discussion. These projects are checked for any legal inconsistencies to ensure they are in line with departmental requirements and that all conditions are met.

Project: Avening Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (The Athelstan Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Blackhorse Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Bowsland Green Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Cadbury Heath Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Emersons Green Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Hanham Abbots Junior School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Kings' Forest Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Samuel White's Infant School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Barnabas CofE Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Stanbridge Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Staple Hill Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: The Tynings School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Wheatfield Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Charmouth Primary School, **Dorset** (The First Federation Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Gulworthy Primary School, **Devon** (Learning Academy Partnership (South West))

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Lamerton Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, **Devon** (Learning Academy Partnership (South West))

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Tortworth VC Primary School, **South Glos** (Castle School Education Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Widden Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (Greenshaw Learning Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 September 2023.

Conflicts: None.

Project: Mangotsfield Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, **South Gloucestershire** (The Leaf Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Mary Dean's CofE Primary School, **Plymouth** (The First Federation Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Newnham St Peter's Church of England Primary School, **Gloucestershire** (Severn Federation Academy Trust)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: Newtown Primary School, **Devon** (The Academy for Character and Excellence)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St George's Church of England (VA) Infant and Nursery School, **Devon** (Ventrus Ltd)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Project: St Margaret's Church of England (Aided) Junior School, **Devon** (Ventrus Ltd)

Points raised in discussion: No questions or concerns were raised.

Opening date 1 October 2023.

Conflicts: No

Further actions required: No action required.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

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

Project: To discuss a significant change for Newlyn School, **Cornwall** (Truro & Penwith Academy Trust) to change the age range from 5-11 to 2-11 to incorporate nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss a significant change for Easton Church of England Academy, **Bristol** (Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust) to add a 12-place resource base for children with

Autism Spectrum Conditions (ASC) and Speech Language and Communication Needs (SLCN).

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss a significant change for The Deanery CE Academy, **Swindon** (Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust) to close its Sixth Form provision.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Decline

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss a retrospective significant change application for Bishop Wordsworth's Church of England Grammar School (SAT), Wiltshire to increase the capacity number in their funding agreement from 884 to 1200.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss a significant change for Christ The King Catholic School, Amesbury, **Wiltshire** (The Dunstan Catholic Educational Trust) to increase capacity of the Resource Base by 6 places.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

Project: To discuss a significant change for Staunton and Corse Church of England Primary Academy, **Gloucestershire** (Primary Quest MAT) to change the age range from 4 - 11 to 2-11 to incorporate nursery provision.

Decision type: Significant Change.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the schools and trust.

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.

None

© Crown copyright 2023