



## Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

14 November 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 OBE

### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Andy Child MBE
- Tom Banham
- Jenny Plews
- Mark Wilson
- Jonny Uttley
- Rowena Hackwood

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Kash Rafiq

## **DfE senior civil servants**

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)
- Alan Parnum (Deputy Director)

## **Representations received**

- None

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: To discuss Stanford Junior and Infant School, North East Lincolnshire, to convert and join Wellspring Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Stanford Junior and Infant School is an average-sized 4-11 primary school based in Laceby, a village to the west of Grimsby. The school is currently rated as Good.
- It was accepted that the school would benefit from joining a Multi Academy Trust. The match to Wellspring makes geographical sense with the Trust having a hub locally.

**RD decision: Approve.**

**Conflicts:** Mark Wilson was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Barugh Green Primary School, Barnsley, to convert and join Every Child Matters Academy Trust**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Barugh Green is a 315-capacity primary school with a 4-11 age range and 306 pupils on roll. The school is currently rated as Requires Improvement (RI).
- The improvement support the school will need was discussed and the benefits of being in a trust.
- The Trust's succession planning and growth of its central team services, including school improvement, were discussed. An External Review of Governance was recommended which should take place in the new year. The Trust's central team capacity as well as the Trust's current pipeline of projects will continue to be monitored through regular engagement.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts: None**

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Eastburn Junior and Infant School, Bradford, to convert and join Moorlands Learning Trust**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Eastburn Infant & Junior School is a one form entry school situated near the border of Bradford and North Yorkshire within the Keighley area, with 209 pupils on roll. Eastburn has existing working relationships with the primary schools that are part of Moorlands Learning Trust.
- It was acknowledged that the school would benefit from the support of a strong Multi Academy Trust and formalising the existing relationships with other local primary schools. School improvement support which could be offered to Eastburn was also discussed.
- The Advisory Board members recommended further strengthening of the Trust's governance and committees. Best practice will be discussed with the Trust.
- This match makes geographic sense given the primaries already have working relationships. The speed of growth was also discussed briefly.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Earlsheaton Infant School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Earlsheaton is a 120 capacity infant school located in Dewsbury, Kirklees with 107 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2021 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- Advisory Board members were supportive of this proposal as the Trust has experience of similar schools and a well thought out, strong school improvement plan.
- This item was discussed alongside Hebden Royd Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Calderdale, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust. Both applications were approved.

### **RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Hebden Royd Church of England Voluntary Aided Primary School, Calderdale, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Hebden Royd CofE VA Primary School is a 105 capacity primary school with a 3-11 age range and 111 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2023 and is currently rated as Good.
- Academy conversion has been considered and discussed at length by governors at Hebden Royd for a substantial period of time. A number of trust options were considered, as well as diocesan approval being sought. In order to further strengthen and achieve additional levels of sustainability, leaders at the school feel that now the time is right to join an established multi-academy trust. Discussions have been positive between the school and leaders of the MAT, with Hebden Royd being viewed as bringing more capacity to Learning Accord.
- Advisory Board members were supportive of this proposal. The Trust has experience of similar schools and well thought out, strong school improvement plan.
- This item was discussed alongside Earlsheaton Infant School, Kirklees, to convert and join Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust. Both items were approved.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

### **Project: To discuss Bradshaw Primary School, Calderdale, (Single Academy Trust) joining The Family of Learning Trust.**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Bradshaw Primary School is a 347 capacity Primary school with a 4-11 age range and 341 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in April 2019 and is currently rated as Good.
- It was accepted that the school would bring additional capacity to the Trust and help bring school improvement support to the other schools in the process of joining the Trust.
- The school's current financial position was discussed. Some of the reserves have been allocated to a partial rebuild of the estate, and a School Resource Management Advisor has already been assigned.
- The Regional Director made it a condition of approval that the Trust appoint a dedicated CEO prior to the school joining the Trust, and also recommended further strengthening of the trust board.

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

**Conflicts:** None

#### **Further actions required:**

- A substantive CEO role (with no HT responsibilities) should be recruited prior to the conversion taking place.
- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.



## **Project: To discuss Great Smeaton Academy Primary Trust, North Yorkshire, (Single Academy Trust) joining Dales Academies Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Great Smeaton Academy Primary School converted to academy status in 2011 as a single academy trust (SAT). Great Smeaton is a very small school with 24 pupils on roll, in the rural village of Great Smeaton situated near Northallerton, North Yorkshire. This school was last inspected in December 2019 and is currently rated as Good.
- The current and future financial challenges of the school was discussed and it was agreed that being part of a MAT would offer better prospects of financial stability.

### **RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

## Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

### **Project: Northfield Primary School: With Communication Resource, Pontefract Academies Trust, Wakefield.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

### **Project: Scholes (Holmfirth) J & I School, The Mast Academy Trust, Kirklees.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

### **Project: Hepstonstall Junior Infant and Nursery School, The Family of Learning Trust.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

### **Project: Lowerhouses Church of England (Voluntary Controlled) Junior Infant and Early Years School, Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Roundhay St John's Church of England Primary School, Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: Stocksbridge Junior School, Chorus Education Trust.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

**Project: The Hub School, The Education Alliance.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/12/2023

**Conflicts: Further actions required:** N/a

## **Decisions taken between AB meetings.**

List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings

**Project: Springwell Alternative Academy to move 20 pupils temporarily from the Kendray Site, to a site in Jump, Barnsley, whilst the Kendray site is renovated.**

**Decision Type:** Significant Change

**RD Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further Actions Required:** Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

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