Department for Education Board Meeting

10 July 2023, 14:00 – 16:00

Member Attendees	**Title**
Rt Hon Gillian Keegan	Secretary of State for Education (Chair)
Baroness Barran	Minister for the School System and Student Finance (until 15:00)
Susan Acland-Hood	Permanent Secretary
Richard Pennycook	Lead Non-Executive Board Member
Toby Peyton-Jones	Non-Executive Board Member
Peter Bazalgette	Non-Executive Board Member
Stuart McMinnies	Non-Executive Board Member
Jack Boyer	Non-Executive Board Member
Jane Cunliffe	Chief Operating Officer
Graham Archer	Interim Director General, Families
Tony Foot	Director General, Strategy

Presenters	**Title**
Charlotte Briscall	Director, Chief Digital Officer
Bridie Tooher	Deputy Director, Digital Strategy for Education
Sian Cooke	Head of Emerging Technology
Simon Blake	Deputy Director, Attendance
David Simpson	Deputy Director, Family Analysis
Alex Turner	Assistant Director, Attendance
Sarah Clarence-Smith	Head of Strategy Setting
Dan Keeley	Senior Delivery Advisor

Other Attendees	**Title**
Julia Kinniburgh	Director General, Skills
Juliet Chua	Director General, Schools (until 15:00)
John Edwards	Director General, Regions
Emily Roche	Director, Strategy and Delivery
Laura Hoskins	Board Secretary
Anna Haynes	Board Secretariat Officer
Patrick Allen	Boardroom Apprentice
Robyn McEvoy	Executive Officer, DWP (observer)

Apologies	**Title**
None	Not applicable

1. INTRODUCTION, MINUTES, AND ACTION TRACKER

1.1 The Chair welcomed members and attendees to the meeting.

1.2 There were no new or changed conflicts of interest and the minutes and action tracker of the previous meeting were approved.

2. FUTURE AGILITY OF THE EDUCATION SYSTEM

2.1 The Board received an update of the Department's work and understanding of the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and technology in education and the associated challenges and opportunities presented.

2.2 Board members discussed examples of good practice in the use of AI in the education sector and means of improving the sector's technological capability.

2.3 Board members were encouraged to promote the call for evidence for the use of AI in schools, colleges, and other education settings.

3. SCHOOL ATTENDANCE

3.1 The Board received an update on the Department's work to improve attendance in schools.

3.2 Board members noted the barriers to reducing the number of persistent absences in schools and the challenges that existed pre-COVID-19 which contributed to these.

3.3 Board members discussed the role of the Department in the use of comms to schools, local authorities, parents, and learners.

4. TERMLY STRATEGIC REVIEW

4.1 The Board was provided with an update on the most recent Termly Strategic Review, a stocktake on the Department's medium-term priorities and trends.

4.2 Board members discussed the delivery challenges facing the Department's priorities.

4.3 Board members discussed challenges to the social worker and teacher workforces, noting the wider trends in the labour market.

5. AOB

5.1 The Board gave their thanks and congratulations to the teams involved in the Department's Annual Reports and Accounts which were, at the time of this meeting, due to be laid in Parliament, unqualified, pre-recess.

5.2 The meeting closed at 16:00