**Department for Education Board Meeting**

**21 September 2023, 9:15 – 12:10**

| **Member Attendees** | **Title** |
|---|---|
| Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP | Secretary of State for Education (Chair, until 11:10) |
| Baroness Barran | Minister for the School System and Student Finance (Deputy Chair from 11:10) |
| Richard Pennycook | Lead Non-Executive Board Member |
| Susan Acland-Hood | Permanent Secretary |
| Stuart McMinnies | Non-Executive Board Member |
| Toby Peyton-Jones | Non-Executive Board Member |
| Jack Boyer | Non-Executive Board Member |
| Jane Cunliffe | Chief Operating Officer |
| Sophie Taylor | Acting Director General, Families |
| Tony Foot | Director General, Strategy |

| **Presenters** | **Title** |
|---|---|
| Donna Ward | Director, Strategic Policy |
| Gillian McFarland | Deputy Director, Disadvantage and Strategic Policy |
| Kayleigh Walker | Deputy Director, Schools Strategy |
| Nick Todd | Deputy Director, Central Operations, Finance and Performance, Capital Directorate |
| Anne Spinali | Strategic Finance Director |
| Paul Baker | Deputy Director, Central Strategic Finance |
| Tom Stephens | Deputy Director, Delivery Unit |
| Tillie Paul | Head of Performance Analysis |
| Jonathan Furay | Head of Governance and ALB Risk Management |

| **Other Attendees** | **Title** |
|---|---|
| Julia Kinniburgh | Director General, Skills |
| John Edwards | Director General, Regions |
| Emily Roche | Director, Strategy and Delivery |
| Laura Hoskins | Board Secretary |
| Lynne Brumpton | Secretariat Manager |

| **Apologies** | **Title** |
|---|---|
| Sir Peter Bazalgette | Non-Executive Board Member |
| Graham Archer | Interim Director General, Families |
| Juliet Chua | Director General, Schools |
| Patrick Allen | Boardroom Apprentice |

## 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. EDUCATION RECOVERY

2.1 The Board received an update on the most recent Key Stage 2 results and what these demonstrated in terms of education recovery since the COVID-19 pandemic.

2.2 The Board discussed the challenges facing education recovery and the important role that Local Authorities, Multi-Academy Trusts, and school leaders play in education recovery. Members discussed the National Tutoring Programme and its impact on education recovery.

## 3. SCHOOL BUILDING RISK

3.1 The Board received an update on the impact of Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) in school buildings, following the Department becoming aware of the three cases of RAAC in schools over the 2023 summer holidays.

3.2 Board members discussed the short and long-term impacts of RAAC on the education sector and the responses across government to RAAC.

3.3 Members noted the fast pace of the Department to respond to RAAC and thanked colleagues for their hard work.

## 4. FINANCE UPDATE

4.1 The Board was provided with an update on the Department's financial position at P4 and the Autumn Statement.

4.2 Board members discussed further education following the Office for National Statistics' reclassification of colleges into the public sector.

4.3 Board members noted the important role of employers in Further Education to help establish strong links between colleges and industry.

## 5. PERFORMANCE UPDATE

5.1 The Board was provided with an overview of departmental performance against the Secretary of State's priorities, including numbers on attainment relating to education recovery.

5.2 Board members discussed the delivery of reforms to childcare and social care workforce, in addition to the delivery of T Levels.

## 6. BOARD EFFECTIVENESS EVALUATION

6.1 The Board was provided with an overview of the 2023 Board Effectiveness Evaluation. The Board, Audit and Risk Committee, and Nominations Committee are reviewed annually to assess the effectiveness of their arrangements.

6.2 Board members discussed the role of the Board in relation to the Department's Arms-Length Bodies,

6.3 Members committed to improving the diversity of the departmental Board membership.

## 7. AOB

7.1 No other business was raised.

7.2 The meeting closed at 12:10