



## Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

12 December 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
- Rowena Hackwood
- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Kash Rafiq

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- Jonny Uttley

## **DfE senior civil servants**

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

## **Representations received**

- None

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: To discuss The Boyle and Petyt Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Northern Star Academies Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- The Boyle and Petyt Primary School is a voluntary aided school located in North Yorkshire with 83 pupils on roll and a capacity of 98 places. The school was last inspected in December 2021 and is currently rated as Good. The school chose to join Northern Star Academies Trust after assessing various options.
- The Board questioned and were assured about the Trust's school improvement plan at primary and had confidence in the Trust's recently strengthened school improvement capacity.
- There were no financial concerns. Both the school and Trust are in a stable position.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Jenn Plews, CEO of Northern Star Academies Trust, was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of North Yorkshire of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Malton School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Pathfinder Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Malton School is a community school located in North Yorkshire with 1019 pupils on roll and a capacity of 980 places. The school was last inspected in March 2019 and is currently rated as Good.
- The Board agreed Malton is a strong school and would bring additional capacity into the MAT.
- The Board noted the ambitious growth plans of the trust.
- Board Members recommended the Trust develop further clarity of accountability below the CEO, including more detail as to who is responsible for school improvement.

**RD decision:** Approved

**Conflicts:** Jonny Uttley, CEO of The Education Alliance, was not present due to a personal connection and did not receive papers for this item.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of North Yorkshire of the decision.

## Sponsored Route

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

**Project: To discuss Linthwaite Clough Junior and Infant Early Years Unit, Kirklees, to be sponsored by Together Learning Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Linthwaite is a community school located in Huddersfield with 283 pupils on roll and a capacity of 315 places. The school was last inspected in September 2023 and is currently rated as being in Special Measures.
- The Together Learning Trust has submitted thorough financial projections, and the school is in a stable financial position. The match makes geographical sense, with the school close to 4 other Trust schools.
- Board members recommended further education expertise should be recruited to the board of trustees, and requested further clarity on the central structure, particularly around quality of assurance.
- The Regional Director made it a condition of approval that the Trust begin the process of recruiting an additional member prior to the conversion of the school.

**RD decision:** Approve with condition

- Begin the process of recruiting an additional member to the Trust

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:**

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

## Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

### **Project: To discuss Dinnington High School, Rotherham, joining New Collaborative Learning Trust from LEAP Multi Academy Trust.**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Dinnington High School is an Academy Converter school located in Rotherham with 990 pupils on roll and a capacity of 1444 places. The school was last inspected in February 2020 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- This project was discussed alongside the proposal for Brinsworth Academy, Rotherham, joining New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) from LEAP Multi Academy Trust. This is part of a trust transfer with all schools from LEAP transferring to NCLT. The two Trusts are already working together. Board members agreed that the proposal was sensible.
- The governance structure of NCLT was discussed. The Trust has plans to increase the number of members to 5.
- Financial information regarding NCLT was provided and there were no concerns.
- Board members recommend finding a mentor for NCLT that has managed a transfer of a similar size, in order to help manage the practicalities of the project.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Carol Dewhurst, Vice Chair of New Collaborative Learning Trust, 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 Brinsworth Academy, Rotherham, joining New Collaborative Learning Trust from LEAP Multi Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Brinsworth Academy is a secondary school located in Rotherham with 1481 pupils on roll and a capacity of 1487 places. The school was last inspected in February 2022 and is currently rated as Good.
- This project was discussed alongside the proposal for Dinnington High School, Rotherham, joining New Collaborative Learning Trust (NCLT) from LEAP Multi Academy Trust as part of a trust transfer with all schools from LEAP transferring to NCLT. The two trusts are already working together. Board members agreed that the proposal was sensible.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Carol Dewhurst, Vice Chair of New Collaborative Learning Trust, was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

### **Further actions required:**

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

## Sponsored Route

Points discussed in relation to a school's sponsor status.

### **Project: To discuss Heritage Park School, Sheffield, to be sponsored by T.E.A.M. Education Trust.**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Heritage Park School is a foundation special school located in Sheffield with 96 pupils on roll and a capacity of 100 places. The school was last inspected in January 2023 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- The Trust are currently supporting the school and board members agreed that the match was sensible from an educational perspective.
- More clarity on the school's financial projections is required. Board members also suggested that mentoring for the Trust's CEO may be beneficial.

#### **RD decision:** Defer

**Conflicts:** Mark Wilson, CEO and Accounting Officer of Wellspring Academy Trust, and Andy Child, Member, Director & Chair of Nexus Multi Academy Trust, were not present and did not receive papers for this item.

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

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of Sheffield of the decision and to work on obtaining further information for a future Advisory Board meeting.



## **Project: To discuss Scartho Infants School and Nursery, North East Lincolnshire, to be sponsored by Wellspring Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Scartho Infants is a community school located in North East Lincolnshire with 181 pupils on roll and a capacity of 245 places. The school was last inspected in March 2022 with a monitoring visit in May 2023 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- It was agreed that the Trust, with existing schools in this LA area, have the expertise and track record to provide the necessary support to the school.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** Mark Wilson, CEO and Accounting Officer of Wellspring Academy Trust, was not present and did not receive papers for this item.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of North East Lincolnshire of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Toll Bar Primary School, Doncaster, to be sponsored by Exceed Learning Partnership.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Toll Bar Primary School is a community school located in Doncaster with 192 pupils on roll and a capacity of 262 places. The school was last inspected in February 2023 and is currently rated as Requires Improvement.
- Board members were assured of the Trust's central capacity for school improvement and agreed that the Trust have the expertise and track record to provide the necessary support to the school.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

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

## **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

### **Project: Batley Parish Church of England Voluntary Aided Junior, Infant and Nursery School, Kirklees, Enhance Academy Trust.**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

### **Project: Beechcliffe Special School, Bradford, Carlton Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

### **Project: Christ Church Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

### **Project: Gleadless Primary School, Sheffield, Sheffield South East Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

**Project: Luddenden Church of England School, Calderdale, Learning Accord Multi Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

**Project: North Stainley Church of England Primary School, North Yorkshire, Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed opening date 01/01/2024

**Conflicts:** None

**Further actions required:** N/A

## 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.

**Project: To discuss Trinity Academy Grammar, Calderdale, adding 50+ Alternative Provision places to serve pupils both in Trinity Academy Grammar School and in other trusts/maintained schools.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** Approved outside of Advisory Board meeting.

**Project: To discuss Brinsworth Whitehill Primary School, Rotherham, and the proposal for a 20 place integrated resource unit for children with additional Communication and Interaction needs.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** A decision will be taken on this proposal outside of Advisory Board during February 2024.

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