

## Department for Education Board Meeting

**7 December 2023, 13:30 – 16:40**

### **Member Attendees**

Rt Hon Robert Halfon  
Rt Hon Gillian Keegan

Susan Acland-Hood  
Richard Pennycook  
Stuart McMinnies  
Toby Peyton-Jones  
Jack Boyer  
Sir Peter Bazalgette  
Jane Cunliffe  
Justin Russell  
Tony Foot

### **Title**

Minister for Skills and Apprenticeships (Chair)  
Secretary of State for Education (attended for item 4)  
Permanent Secretary  
Lead Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Non-Executive Board Member  
Chief Operating Officer  
Director General, Families  
Director General, Strategy

### **Presenters**

Tom Stephens  
James Green  
Susie Owen

Jack Thomlinson  
Donna Ward  
David Greedus  
Owen Mooney  
Simone Bayes  
Gillian McFarland  
Patrick Curry  
Shauna Vulliamy

### **Title**

Deputy Director, Delivery Unit  
Deputy Director, Major Projects Portfolio and Risk  
Director of Early Years, Childcare, Families, and Analysis  
Deputy Director, Childcare Reform Delivery  
Director, Strategic Policy  
Disadvantage and Strategic Policy Unit  
Disadvantage and Strategic Policy Unit  
Deputy Director, Mental Health Delivery  
Director, Advanced British Standards  
Director, Higher Education  
Head of Sponsorship Team, OfS

### **Other Attendees**

Julia Kinniburgh  
John Edwards  
Juliet Chua  
Warwick Sharp  
Laura Hoskins  
Lynne Brumpton  
Anna Haynes  
Patrick Allen

### **Title**

Director General, Skills  
Director General, Regions  
Director General, Schools  
Director, Strategy and Delivery  
Board Secretary  
Secretariat Manager  
Board Secretariat Officer  
Boardroom Apprentice

### **Apologies**

Rt Hon Gillian Keegan  
  
Baroness Barran

### **Title**

Secretary of State for Education (apologies from all items less item 4)  
Minister for the School System and Student Finance and Minister for the Board

## **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.
- 1.3 Board members spoke to visits carried out on the morning of the meeting to a nursery school and secondary Multi Academy Trust (MAT) school in Manchester.

## **2. PERFORMANCE UPDATE**

- 2.1 The Board received an update of the Department's performance against the Secretary of State's priorities, including Major Projects activity.
- 2.2 Board members discussed the progress of the Childcare Reforms and the challenges it faced.
- 2.3 Board members also discussed teacher recruitment and retention, school attendance, and the Advanced British Standard.

## **3. CHILDCARE REFORM UPDATE**

- 3.1 The Board received an update on the progress and delivery trajectory of the Childcare Reforms.
- 3.2 Board members noted the importance of data and opportunities for cross-government working.
- 3.3 Board members also discussed the progress on the early years Skills Bootcamps.

## **4. MENTAL HEALTH IN EDUCATION SETTINGS**

- 4.1 The Board was provided with an update on the departmental and cross-government work to understand mental health among children and young people (CYP) in education settings.
- 4.2 Board members discussed the prevalence of mental health problems in CYP and noted the work of some Higher Education Institutions on early identification of mental health issues in a student's journey.

4.3 Board members discussed the complexity of this issue and encouraged cross-government working to identify the causes of mental health issues of CYP in education settings.

## **5. ADVANCED BRITISH STANDARD (ABS)**

5.1 The Board was provided with an overview of the reforms expected as part of the ABS in England.

5.2 Board members discussed the implementation timeline for the ABS and the impact on the qualifications framework for 16-18 year-olds.

## **6. HIGHER EDUCATION (HE) VALUE FOR MONEY**

6.1 The Board received an update on the Department's progress to gather evidence of value for money (VfM) in the HE sector.

6.2 Board members discussed the importance of effective data collection and the variety of ways to measure the value of a degree's outcome.

## **7. OFFICE FOR STUDENTS (OfS)**

7.1 The Board was provided with an update on the OfS.

7.2 Board members discussed the challenges facing the OfS in the wider HE landscape.

## **8. AOB**

8.1 The Board discussed means of increasing the diversity of its members through an upcoming non-executive board member recruitment campaign.

8.2 The meeting closed at 16:40.