



## Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

30 January 2024

### 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
- Mark Wilson
- Rowena Hackwood
- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Kash Rafiq
- Jonny Uttley

### Guests

- Gail Tolley, Director Children's Services Sector Led Improvement, Local Government Association

## **Apologies**

- Jenn Plews

## **DfE senior civil servants**

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

## **Representations received**

- None

## Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

**Project: To discuss Adwick Primary School, Doncaster, to convert and join Venn Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Adwick Primary School is a 459 capacity primary school located in Doncaster - with 419 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in Nov 2019 and is currently rated as good.
- The Board noted the ambitious growth plans of the trust. The Advisory Board recommended further strengthening of the trust's existing structure and practices before further growth and expansion.
- The governance and trustee structure of the trust were also discussed. Clarification that the governance structure is in line with DfE expectations.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of the decision.
- Delivery Officer to confirm that the governance structure is in line with DfE expectations.

## Sponsored Route

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

**Project: To discuss Beverley Minster Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, East Riding of Yorkshire, being sponsored by The Education Alliance.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Beverley Minster Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 333 capacity primary school located in East Riding of Yorkshire with 254 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2021 and is currently rated as requires improvement.
- The current number of pupils on roll and the school's capacity were discussed. While declining birth rates across the Local Authority are an issue, the Trust's experience of similar schools is a positive.
- The school's current financial forecasts were considered. Schools Financial Support and Oversight (SFSO) officials were content with the Trust's financial plan and forecasts. The board noted that the Trust has a strong track record, clear school improvement model, and sound governance structures. Advisory Board members were supportive of this proposal. The board noted this is a good match in terms of ethos and geographical fit.

**RD decision:** Approve

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

### **Further actions required:**

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

## **Project: To consider Mallard Primary School, Doncaster, being sponsored by Exceed Learning Partnership.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Mallard Primary School is a 420 capacity primary school located in Doncaster with 361 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2022 and is currently rated as requires improvement.
- The Advisory Board noted that the Exceed Learning Partnership Trustees currently meet four times a year and recommended that the number and regularity of Trustee meetings be increased.
- Although the Trust is considered to be in a stable financial position, SFSSO colleagues recommended a School Resource Management Adviser (SRMA) deployment.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

### **Further actions required:**

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

## Trust Changes

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

### **Project: To discuss Ryedale School, North Yorkshire, joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust.**

#### **AB Discussion:**

- Ryedale School is a 750 capacity secondary school located in North Yorkshire with 737 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in October 2023 and is currently rated as outstanding.
- This proposal was to consider, in effect, the merger of Ryedale Learning trust and the Areté Learning Trust, to be delivered through the transfer of all Ryedale schools into Areté. This would involve the re-structure of the Areté trust board and central structures to form, in effect, a new merged MAT and the closure of Ryedale MAT.
- The Board recommended equal representation from both trusts on the shadow board to oversee the merger. The Delivery Officer was asked to ensure clear understanding of all parties on the formation of the new board and the process for determination of the trust chair.
- This item was discussed alongside Norton College, North Yorkshire, Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, Sinnington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire and Helmsley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust. All the above academy transfers to effect this merger were approved.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

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

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision and to obtain a better understanding of the chair appointment process and how the directors of the shadow board will be selected.

## **Project: To discuss Norton College, North Yorkshire, joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Norton College is a 1028 capacity Secondary school located in North Yorkshire with 790 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in February 2023 and is currently rated as good.
- This proposal was to consider, in effect, the merger of Ryedale Learning trust and the Areté Learning Trust, to be delivered through the transfer of all Ryedale Schools into Areté. This would involve the re-structure of the Areté trust board and central structures to form in effect a new merged MAT and the closure of Ryedale MAT.
- The Board recommended equal representation from both trusts on the shadow Board to oversee the merger. The Delivery Officer is to ensure clear understanding of the formation of the new Board and the election of the Trust Chair.
- This item was discussed alongside Ryedale School, North Yorkshire, Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, Sinnington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire and Helmsley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust. All projects were approved.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts: None**

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision and to obtain a better understanding of the Chair appointment process and how the Directors of the shadow board will be selected.

## **Project: To discuss Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School is a 240 capacity primary school located in North Yorkshire with 209 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in September 2018 and is currently rated as good.
- This proposal was to consider, in effect, the merger of Ryedale Learning trust and the Areté Learning Trust, to be delivered through the transfer of all Ryedale Schools into Areté. This would involve the re-structure of the Areté trust board and central structures to form in effect a new merged MAT and the closure of Ryedale MAT.
- The Board recommended equal representation from both trusts on the shadow Board to oversee the merger. The Delivery Officer is to ensure clear understanding of the formation of the new Board and the election of the Trust Chair.
- This item was discussed alongside Ryedale School, North Yorkshire, Norton College, North Yorkshire, Sinnington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire and Helmsley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust. All projects were approved.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts: None**

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision and to obtain a better understanding of the Chair appointment process and how the Directors of the shadow board will be selected.



## **Project: To discuss Sinnington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Sinnington Community Primary School is an 84 capacity primary school located in North Yorkshire with 107 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2019 and is currently rated as good.
- This proposal was to consider, in effect, the merger of Ryedale Learning trust and the Areté Learning Trust, to be delivered through the transfer of all Ryedale Schools into Areté. This would involve the re-structure of the Areté trust board and central structures to form in effect a new merged MAT and the closure of Ryedale MAT.
- The Board recommended equal representation from both trusts on the shadow Board to oversee the merger. The Delivery Officer is to ensure clear understanding of the formation of the new Board and the election of the Trust Chair.
- This item was discussed alongside Ryedale School, North Yorkshire, Norton College, North Yorkshire, Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School and Helmsley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust. All projects were approved.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts: None**

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision and to obtain a better understanding of the Chair appointment process and how the Directors of the shadow board will be selected.

## **Project: To discuss Helmsley Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Helmsley Community Primary School is a 168 capacity primary school located in North Yorkshire with 169 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in September 2016 and is currently rated as good.
- This proposal was to consider, in effect, the merger of Ryedale Learning trust and the Areté Learning Trust, to be delivered through the transfer of all Ryedale Schools into Areté. This would involve the re-structure of the Areté trust board and central structures to form in effect a new merged MAT and the closure of Ryedale MAT.
- The Board recommended equal representation from both trusts on the shadow Board to oversee the merger. The Delivery Officer is to ensure clear understanding of the formation of the new Board and the election of the Trust Chair.
- This item was discussed alongside Ryedale School, North Yorkshire, Norton College, North Yorkshire, Kirkbymoorside Community Primary School and Sinnington Community Primary School, North Yorkshire, all joining Areté Learning Trust from Ryedale Learning Trust. All projects were approved.

**RD decision: Approve**

**Conflicts: None**

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision and to obtain a better understanding of the Chair appointment process and how the Directors of the shadow board will be selected.

## **Project: To discuss Scawby Academy, North Lincolnshire, joining The Rose Learning Trust from St Hybald's Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Scawby Academy is a 210 capacity primary school located in North Lincolnshire with 209 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2023 and is currently rated as good.
- The Regional Director acknowledged that The Rose Learning Trust's recent Ofsted judgements had shown evidence of their impact, however, would like to see an improvement in the trust's performance data to go alongside the Ofsted judgements.
- This project was discussed alongside the proposal for Hibaldstow Academy, North Lincolnshire, joining The Rose Learning Trust from St Hybald's Academy Trust. Both projects were declined.

**RD decision:** Decline.

**Conflicts:** Andy Child, Member, Director & Chair of Nexus Multi Academy Trust, was not present and did not receive papers for this item due to a personal connection.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision.

## **Project: To discuss Hibaldstow Academy, North Lincolnshire, joining The Rose Learning Trust from St Hybald's Academy Trust.**

### **AB Discussion:**

- Hibaldstow Academy is a 140-capacity primary school located in North Lincolnshire with 110 pupils on roll. It is part of a two school MAT with Scawby Academy, North Lincolnshire. This MAT is seeking for its schools to join a larger trust. The school was last inspected in June 2022 and is currently rated as good.
- The Regional Director acknowledged that The Rose Learning Trust's recent Ofsted judgements had shown evidence of their impact, however, would like to see an improvement in the performance data to go alongside the Ofsted judgements.
- This project was discussed alongside the proposal for Scawby Academy, North Lincolnshire, joining The Rose Learning Trust from St Hybald's Academy Trust. Both projects were declined.

**RD decision:** Decline.

**Conflicts:** Andy Child, Member, Director & Chair of Nexus Multi Academy Trust, was not present and did not receive papers for this item due to a personal connection.

### **Further actions required:**

- Delivery Officer to inform trusts of the decision.

## **Academy Opening Approved in Principle**

List of academies approved to open.

### **Project: Barkston Ash Catholic Primary School, The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/02/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

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

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

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/02/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

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

### **Project: Little London Community Primary School, The GORSE Academies Trust**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/02/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

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

### **Project: The Humberston CofE Primary School, St Lawrence Academies Trust Ltd**

**AB discussion:** N/a

**RD decision:** Proposed Opening Date 01/02/2024

**Proposed opening date:** None

**Conflicts: 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 the addition of a 10 place Special Educational Needs unit at the McAuley Catholic High School, Doncaster as a satellite site of Pennine View Academy (Nexus Multi Academy Trust).**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

**Reason for why it was taken off agenda:** To be decided outside of Advisory Board

**Project: To discuss Humberston Park School, North East Lincolnshire, having expanded to increase capacity from 105 places to 140 places.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

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

**Project: To discuss Sacred Heart Catholic Primary School, Bradford, adding a nursery and lowering their age range.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

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

**Project: To discuss One in a Million Free School, Bradford, changing its age range from 11- 18 to 11-16 and the removal of their non-operational sixth form.**

**Type of decision:** Significant Change

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