



Notes of Meeting: London Advisory Board

25 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

- Claire Burton

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Rama Venchard
- Vanessa Ogden
- Gill Bal
- Cassie Buchanan
- Penny Barratt
- Lee Mason-Ellis

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Emma Bradshaw
- Susan Douglas

DfE senior civil servants

- Alan Parnum

Representations received

- No representations were made for any items discussed at this meeting.

General Discussion Points

High Quality Trust Framework (HQTF)

- Looked at the commissioning process as set out in the HQTF, which will help to identify the right trust for each school, taking into account the local context and to be more transparent on decision making.

LA overview

- LA overview provided for Barnet, Kensington & Chelsea, Hackney, and Lambeth.
- Discussed challenges around high needs funding.
- Discussed challenges of surplus school places in London, particularly at primary stage.

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: To discuss the conversion of Osidge Primary School, Barnet - to join Ashmole Trust, Barnet

AB discussion: Osidge Primary School is a 2FE Community school in Barnet with 415 pupils on roll aged 4 -11. It has applied to convert to academy status and join Ashmole Trust. Osidge Primary was inspected by Ofsted in June 2018 and was judged good.

Ashmole Trust is a small two school trust with strong educational performance. The two schools in the trust are: Ashmole Academy and Ashmole Primary School.

Ashmole Academy is part of the department's Behaviour Hub programme, where it provides support, training and advice to improve behaviour culture in schools.

Both Ashmole trust and Osidge School are currently working in collaboration where they share resources such as teaching expertise and staff development.

AB members discussed performance at the schools and the trust's school improvement plan.

AB members discussed trust finances.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision.

Project: To discuss the conversion of Loughborough Primary School, Lambeth - to join The Charter Schools Educational Trust, Southwark.

AB discussion: Loughborough Primary School is a 1FE Community school in Lambeth with 320 pupils on roll aged 2 -11. It has applied to convert to academy status and join The Charter Schools Educational Trust (TCSET). Loughborough Primary School was judged good by Ofsted.

AB member discussed school's performance data and the trust's school improvement strategy.

AB members discussed school's finances.

Recommendation for an SRMA deployment for TCSET.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Cassie Buchanan, CEO of The Charter Schools Educational Trust, was not present for this item and did not receive the papers.

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision, and to seek a plan from TCSET for financial recovery and growth going forward, working with Loughborough Primary School.

Significant Change

Points discussed in relation to significant changes application(s).

Project: To discuss Parkwood Hall Co-Operative Academy (single-academy trust), Kensington and Chelsea - physical expansion of premises of a special school.

AB discussion: Parkwood Hall Co-Operative Academy (PWH) is a single academy trust operating in Kent as a special school, including some residential pupils, for children aged 8-19.

PWH are requesting an increase in their capacity from 80 pupils to 120 to reflect the high demand for places.

PWH currently accepts students from around 16 Local Authorities across London and Kent.

Pupils at the school have a variety of disabilities with significant number of pupils having an Autism Spectrum Disorder.

AB members discussed risks.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision, and to seek a response from the trust on how they will ensure safeguarding both at trust level and LA level.

Project: To discuss The Bridge Academy (single-academy trust), Hackney - opening an Additional Resource Provision.

AB discussion: The Bridge Academy is a co-educational secondary school with a sixth form located within the London Borough of Hackney, with a capacity of 1150, including a sixth form of up to 250 pupils.

The Bridge Academy, with the support of the local authority, are seeking to develop an Additional Resource Provision (ARP) for 15 pupils with Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

The provision will grow incrementally each year.

Recommendation for a SRMA deployment.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision and, to understand the trust/ LA's strategy for demand on places at the ARP.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

List of decisions taken by the RD outside of AB meetings.

Project: Conversion of Dollis Primary School, Barnet - to join Bellevue Place Education Trust (BPET) MAT, Wandsworth

Decision type: Converter Academy Orders

Comments: Since the decision taken to defer, Regions Group has raised the issues discussed at advisory board with BPET. The Regional Director is satisfied with their responses and has taken the decision outside of the Advisory Board to approve BPET to take on Dollis Primary.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required: Inform the school, trust and local authority of the decision.

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