



Notes of Meeting: Yorkshire and Humber Advisory Board

27 February 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
- Mark Wilson
- Carol Dewhurst OBE
- Jonny Uttley
- Jenn Plews

Guests

- None

Apologies

- Tom Banham
- Kash Rafiq
- Rowena Hackwood

DfE senior civil servants

- Charlotte Marr (Deputy Director)

Representations received

- None

Converter Academy Orders

Points discussed in relation to school conversion.

Project: To discuss Rossington Tordedale Infant School, Doncaster, to convert and join Leger Education Trust.

AB Discussion:

- Rossington Tordedale Infant School is a 232 capacity infant school located in Doncaster with 143 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in March 2023 and is currently rated as good.
- The school governors considered various options and chose Leger Education Trust to be the most suitable Multi Academy Trust to join due to shared vision and values.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside the Tordedale and Doncaster's strategic needs. No significant school improvement issues have been made known to DfE and the most recent Ofsted report for Tordedale (March 2023) is positive. However, consideration was also given to the school improvement needs of the trust's current portfolio of schools and the Regional Director wanted to discuss the Trust's school improvement capacity with the Trust before making a decision.

RD decision: Defer

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of the decision.
- Regional Director to meet with Trust.

Project: To discuss Sutton in Craven Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

AB Discussion:

- Sutton in Craven Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School is a 105 capacity Primary school located in Keighley, West Yorkshire with 95 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in June 2022 and is currently rated as good.
- The school has chosen to join this Trust due to a shared ethos and values and would join the Trust's Skipton hub of schools.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Sutton in Craven Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School's strategic needs. In making the decision, the trust's educational and school-improvement offer has been considered as being well matched in addressing the school's needs. The school is keen to work with other trust schools to share best practice and consider how they can improve the outcomes at Sutton.
- The Trust has recently grown its central team, and this project fits the Diocesan strategy. The project was considered a sensible proposal.
- This item was considered alongside the proposal for St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust. The schools involved in this proposal represent the final schools to join before a period of consolidation.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

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

Project: To discuss St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

AB Discussion:

- St Peter's Church of England Primary School is a 210 capacity primary school located in Leeds with 260 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in November 2023 and is currently rated as outstanding.
- The Trust has recently grown its central team, and this project fits the Diocesan strategy. The project was considered a sensible proposal.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside St Peter's Church of England Primary School's strategic needs. In making the decision, St Peter's strong performance was considered, with the trust viewing the addition of St Peter's as bringing additional capacity to the trust. St Peter's will join the trust's Leeds hub of schools.
- This item was considered alongside the proposal for Sutton in Craven Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, North Yorkshire, to convert and join Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

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

Project: To discuss Morley Victoria Primary School, Leeds, to convert and join Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust.

AB Discussion:

- Morley Victoria Primary School (MVPS) is a 420 capacity primary school located in Leeds with 467 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in December 2023 and is currently rated as outstanding.
- There is an existing relationship between the school and the trust. Board members agreed that this is a good match in terms of ethos and geographical fit.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside MVPS's strategic needs. MVPS is geographically and contextually close to a number of other schools in this trust and the vision of the school is aligned with that of the trust. The trust is growing its central teams which will support the trusts development in preparation for future growth. The trust performs strongly on the High Quality Trust Framework across all pillars.
- In making the decision, a number of Academy Trusts were considered, and the conclusion was that Owlcotes Multi Academy Trust (OMAT) was the best match when considering strategic need. MVPS was keen to join a primary MAT which preserved the unique identity of its schools and the communities they serve, which is a fundamental value of OMAT.
- The Regional Director acknowledged that the Trust should look to implement a robust education investment strategy with the trust reserves in mind.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: Mark Wilson, Chief Executive of Wellspring 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 school / trust / local authority of the decision.

Sponsored Route

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

Project: To discuss Anston Park Junior School, Rotherham, to be sponsored by White Woods Primary Academy Trust

AB Discussion:

- Anston Park Junior School is a 300 capacity primary school located in Rotherham with 220 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in May 2023 and is currently rated as requires improvement.
- Anston Park Infant School, co-located, is already part of White Woods Primary Academy. The board considered the local strategic context for the Anston Park area. It was agreed that White Woods sponsoring Anston Park Junior school made strong sense considering this local strategic context. The Trust has capacity to provide immediate support to the junior school, including support from the executive headteacher of Whiston Worrygoose Junior and Infant School, which leads the Learner's First English Hub. The proposed match makes sense in terms of continuity of provision from the infant to junior phase.
- The Trust has been working closely with the ESFA and is currently being supported by a School Resource Management Adviser.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Anston Park Junior School's strategic needs. The board agreed that the sponsor had the capability to address the school's needs and would be a viable solution in supporting the school moving forward.
- Board members were supportive and suggested the match should be mutually beneficial, and recommended a period of consolidation following the approval of this project.

RD decision: Approve

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 school / trust / local authority of the decision.

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

AB Discussion:

- Heritage Park School is a 100 capacity foundation special school located in Sheffield with 96 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in January 2023 and is currently rated as requires improvement. The school is operating with an in-year deficit, and with an ongoing deficit position. The school has been working with the Trust since October 2022, and this project formalises and strengthens the existing relationships.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside Heritage Park School's strategic needs. In making the decision, the trust's educational and school-improvement offer has been considered as being suited to addressing the school's needs, and the school are already closely embedded with the trust's ways of working and are in receipt of support. The trust are working closely with the school to tackle the deficit position, and have provided plans to ESFA to provide assurance on how they plan to make necessary savings
- The Trust is working with the ESFA on its financial forecasting. Advisory Board members recommended a School Resource Management Adviser to assist this process after the school has formally joined the Trust.

RD decision: Approve with conditions

Conflicts: Andy Child, Member, Director & Chair of Nexus Multi Academy Trust, and Mark Wilson, Chief Executive of Wellspring Academy Trust, were not present and did not receive papers for this item due to personal connections.

Further actions required:

- Delivery Officer to inform school / trust / local authority of the decision.
- An SRMA is to be deployed to the Trust post Heritage joining.

Trust Change

Points discussed in relation to academies moving to another trust.

Project: To discuss South Ossett Infants Academy, Wakefield, joining Accord Multi Academy Trust from South Ossett Infants Academy Trust.

AB Discussion:

- South Ossett Infants Academy is a primary school located in Ossett, West Yorkshire with capacity for 90 pupils and 91 pupils on roll. The school was last inspected in December 2023 and is currently rated as good.
- Officials assessment of the trust using the Commissioning High Quality Trusts Framework was considered alongside South Ossett Infants Academy's strategic needs. In making the decision, we considered the geographical context of the match and the relationships that already exist between senior leaders across the trust and the school. The trust has already provided extensive support to the school and this match formalises that. The trust knows the area and the local community well and has an in-depth understanding of the school's current position and needs.
- Board Members agreed that this match made sense as there is an existing relationship between the school and the trust. South Ossett Infant School is a feeder for the junior school in the MAT and the trust is well established with a good understanding of the local community.

RD decision: Approve

Conflicts: None

Further actions required:

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

Academy Opening Approved in Principle

List of academies approved to open.

Project: Barwick-in-Elmet Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School, Leeds Diocesan Learning Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

Proposed opening date: None

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/a

Project: Clifford All Saints CofE Primary School, James Montgomery Academy Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

Proposed opening date: None

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/a

Project: Eastborough Junior Infant and Nursery School, Delta Academies Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

Proposed opening date: None

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/a

Project: Heckmondwike Primary School, Delta Academies Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

Proposed opening date: None

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/a

Project: Ladywood Primary School, Every Child Matters Academy Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

Proposed opening date: None

Conflicts: Further actions required: N/a

Project: St Wilfrid's Catholic Primary School, The Bishop Wheeler Catholic Academy Trust

AB discussion: N/a

RD decision: Proposed Opening Date 01/03/2024

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

There were no projects of this type for this month

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