



Notes of meeting: East Midlands Advisory Board.

15 May 2024.

Attendance

Regional Director (RD) chair

- Carol Gray, Regional Director.

Advisory Board (AB) members

- Mark Thomas.
- Sian Hampton.
- Paul Heery.
- Sarah Armitage MBE.
- Paul West.
- Julian Scholefield.
- Ashfaq Rahman.

Guests

- None.

Apologies

- Chris Wheatley OBE.

DfE senior civil servants

- Kelly Hughes, Deputy Director, East Midlands Region Group.

General discussion points

- No discussion points were raised.

Lincolnshire Region

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss Billingborough Primary School, Lincolnshire, converting to join Community Inclusive Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

Billingborough Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join Community Inclusive Trust. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body. Billingborough Primary School is an Ofsted graded good school (March 2019).

Billingborough Primary school is experiencing a change in pupil make-up with a greater number of pupils with complex and additional needs. Alongside the increasing number of children requiring SEND support, the characteristics of the school's SEND students have also changed. Over the last 12 months the number of children with Social, Emotional and Mental Health needs has also increased.

Community Inclusive Trust was the school's preferred option due to the opportunities to benefit from the experience and expertise of practitioners in special school settings so that they can continue to adapt and evolve their mainstream provision to match the needs of all pupils. In addition, Community Inclusive Trust also has primary schools that are comparable with Billingborough Primary school in terms of their size and context, so there will be further opportunities for developing good working practices.

There are 7 primary schools within Community Inclusive Trust - three joined as inadequate sponsored schools. Two of these were judged to be good on their first inspection under the trust and one has not yet been inspected. There are also 2 free schools, one has been inspected and found to be good at its first inspection.

This proposal is aligned with the department's published Trust Development Statement for Lincolnshire, which identifies a need to grow trusts already operating in the area and in the wider East Midlands region. The quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the trust as outlined in the High-Quality Trust Framework was considered against the school's strategic needs.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: Ash Rahman. Ash is the CEO of Nova Education Trust. A board member for Nova Education Trust is a trust leader at Community Inclusive Trust. Ash was not present for this discussion, nor was he in receipt of associated project papers.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Lincolnshire County Council of the decision.

Project: To discuss Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School, Lincolnshire, converting to join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust.

Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School is a good school (Ofsted October 2021) and has been part of the Emmaus Federation, along with Sutterton Fourfields Church of England Primary School, since 2010. At the Advisory Board meeting on 8 November 2023, the Regional Director gave approval for Sutterton Fourfields Church of England Primary School to join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust as a sponsored academy.

The governing body of Swineshead St Mary's Church of England Primary School has since passed a resolution to convert to academy status and join Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust. This will allow the two schools to stay together and minimise disruption for staff and pupils in the school. It will also allow the school to benefit from the school improvement and collaboration opportunities afforded by being part of a larger multi-academy trust.

Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust has a strong track-record of primary school improvement, and the trust has capacity for growth. Of the 20 primary schools within the trust, 11 have received a section 5 Ofsted inspection under the trust. Of these 11 schools, 5 have maintained good judgements and 3 improved on their previous section 5 judgement, including 2 schools that moved from inadequate to good. One school has moved from outstanding to good.

This proposal is aligned with the department's published Trust Development Statement for Lincolnshire, which identifies a need to grow trusts already operating in the area and in the wider East Midlands region. The quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the trust as outlined in the High-Quality Trust Framework was considered against the school's strategic needs.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Lincolnshire County Council of the decision.

Leicestershire Region

Converter academy orders

Project: To discuss Booth Wood Primary School, Leicestershire, converting to join The David Ross Education Trust.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

AB discussion:

Booth Wood Primary School seeks to voluntarily convert to academy status and join The David Ross Education Trust. A resolution has been passed by the school's governing body.

Booth Wood Primary School is a single-form primary school located in Loughborough, Leicestershire. The school received an Ofsted inspection (section 5) in December 2012 which graded the school as outstanding in all areas.

The David Ross Education Trust was the school's preferred option. Booth Wood Primary School feeds in to one of the trust's Secondary schools, Charnwood College, and so would offer continuity of education for their Year 6 leavers and that there would be greater opportunities of collaboration for their school.

The David Ross Education Trust formed in 2007 and currently comprises of 35 academies across the East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber and London regions. The trust has a proven track record of school improvement. Of the 14 primary schools that joined the trust with a requires improvement or inadequate Ofsted rating, 12 are now either good or outstanding. Of these 14 schools, 7 improved by the first Ofsted inspection in the trust. No schools have declined to requires improvement or inadequate whilst in the trust.

The quantitative and qualitative evidence relating to the trust as outlined in the High-Quality Trust Framework was considered against the school's strategic needs.

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery officer to inform the school, trust, and Lincolnshire County Council of the decision.

Academy opening approved in principle

List of academies approved to open the following month.

This is a list of schools expected to open on the first of the month following that in which this meeting took place. They must have been given agreement in principle to open.

Project: King Edward Primary School and Nursery.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2024.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Draycott Community Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2024.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Shenton Primary School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2024.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Project: Stanhope Primary and Nursery School.

Points raised in discussion: Proposed school opening date – 01 June 2024.

Conflicts: None.

Further action required: No action required.

Decisions taken between AB meetings

Project: To discuss a new satellite site for Stubbin Wood School (T.E.A.M Education Trust), Derbyshire, based on the site of The Brunts Academy (Greenwood Academies Trust), Nottinghamshire, to provide secondary SEND provision.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the schools, trusts, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

Project: To discuss a new satellite site for Stubbin Wood School (T.E.A.M Education Trust), Derbyshire, based on the site of Chesterfield Football Club, Derbyshire, to provide post-16 SEND provision.

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the schools, trusts, and Nottinghamshire County Council of the decision.

Project: To discuss the addition of nursery provision at Oundle Church of England Primary School (Peterborough Diocese Education Trust), North Northamptonshire

Representations received: No representations were made for this project.

Decision type: Significant Change

RD decision: Approve.

Conflicts: None.

Further actions required: Delivery Officer to inform the school, trust, and North Northamptonshire Council of the decision.