



## Notes of meeting: London Advisory Board

25 April 2024

### Attendance

#### Regional Director (RD) chair

- Claire Burton

#### Advisory Board (AB) members

- Gill Bal
- Lee Mason-Ellis
- Rama Venchard
- Susan Douglas
- Emma Bradshaw
- Penny Barratt
- Cassie Buchanan
- Vanessa Ogden

### Guests

- None

### Apologies

- None

### DfE senior civil servants

- Alan Parnum, Deputy Director, London region
- Anna Barker, Deputy Director, London region

## General discussion points

- Board discussion around how to ensure trusts are engaging with each of the pillars of the high-quality trust framework and what effective evidence of this could look like.
- Board members expressed interest in gathering feedback from stakeholders on the HQTF.
- Use of data which is publicly available would ensure the AB is able to be more transparent with stakeholders.
- The Board expressed an interest in revisiting projects which had conditions attached in order to learn from them.

## **Brent**

### **Converter academy orders**

**Project: To discuss the conversion of two schools - to join All Saints' Trust, Brent**

- **St Mary's RC School, Brent**
- **Newman Catholic College, Brent**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **AB discussion:**

St Mary's RC Primary School is a Voluntary Aided school with 197 pupils on roll and is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. Newman Catholic College (NCC) is a Voluntary Aided college for boys aged 11 – 19 with 712 pupils on roll, judged 'Good' by Ofsted. Both schools operate under the Diocese of Westminster. Both schools applied to convert to academy status and join the All Saints' Trust (AST) as they feel it is a good fit.

Board discussed performance at schools.

Board discussed governance at the trust.

On school improvement the board heard that each school has a SI plan which fits with the trust's SI strategy.

#### **RD decision:**

Approve

#### **Conflicts:**

None

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

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## **Kensington and Chelsea**

### **Converter academy orders**

**Project: To discuss the conversion of St Thomas More Language College, Kensington and Chelsea - to join Saint John Southworth Catholic Academies Trust, Kensington and Chelsea**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **AB discussion:**

The conversion of Saint Thomas More Language College (STMLC) to join the Saint John Southworth Catholic Academy Trust (SJSCAT) is part of the academisation strategy of the Archdiocese of Westminster and builds on existing links between parties. STMLC is judged 'Good' by Ofsted.

The board heard about the trust's growth strategy.

The board discussed performance of schools in the trust as well as trust finances.

**RD decision:**

Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## Westminster

### Significant changes to an open academy

**Project: To discuss the merger of Churchill Gardens Primary Academy, Westminster, with Millbank Academy, Westminster**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**AB discussion:**

Future Academies is a multi-academy trust with ten schools across Westminster, Hertfordshire, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham. The trust is proposing to amalgamate two of its academies: Churchill Gardens Primary Academy and Millbank Academy, due to surplus places in Westminster. The trust seeks to achieve this by terminating both funding agreements and form one new academy with a new identity.

Both schools are within 0.6 miles of each other and share a local governing body.

The board discussed risks such as space management.

The board also discussed SEND provision.

The LA are supportive of the proposal.

**RD decision:**

Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## Newham

### Converter academy orders

#### **Project: To discuss the conversion of Plaistow Primary School, Newham - to join The LETTA Trust, Tower Hamlets**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**AB discussion:**

Plaistow Primary School is a community school with 379 pupils on roll and is rated 'Good' by Ofsted. Hermitage Primary School is a community school with 312 pupils on roll and is rated 'RI' by Ofsted. Both schools believe that The LETTA Trust is a good match due to the trusts track record in the primary phase. The schools also hope to benefit from the trusts school improvement model as well as its funding model.

The LETTA Trust is currently made up of 2 primary schools both of which are Ofsted 'Outstanding'. A third school, Columbia Primary, is due to join the trust in September 2024. The trust also runs a SCITT which works with 26 schools and was judged to be 'Outstanding' in all areas.

The board discussed LETTA's growth plan as well as its capacity to provide SI support to the proposed onboarding schools.

The board acknowledged LETTA's SI strategy and its work in the community.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## Tower Hamlets

### Converter academy orders

#### **Project: To discuss the conversion of Hermitage Primary School, Tower Hamlets - to join The LETTA Trust, Tower Hamlets**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**AB discussion:**

See discussion under Newham.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## Sutton

### Trust Changes

#### **Project: To discuss the transfer of Folio Education Trust, Sutton, to Greenshaw Learning Trust, Sutton**

**Representations received:**

- 7 representations received regarding the item 'To discuss the transfer of Folio Education Trust, Sutton, to Greenshaw Learning Trust, Sutton', which is a Trust Change project.
- A summary of these representations was shared in advance of the meeting with all attendees and considered alongside the corresponding item.

**AB discussion:**

Folio Education Trust (FET) is a trust of four schools; two primary schools and two secondary schools, one of which is a Grammar School. All schools are Ofsted rated 'Good' or better. FET board have been considering how best to secure the future of their schools and after considering a number of MATs, have concluded that transferring all their schools into GLT, a larger MAT, will provide them with greater access to a diverse and collaborative community of practice that benefits from economies of scale. GLT has a strategic objective to grow its existing Sutton and Croydon hub of two secondary schools and five primary schools.

The board discussed representations from parents which included concerns about the status of the Grammar school. The board also discussed consultations process and recommended targeted communication to provide reassurances.

The board acknowledged GLT's SI strategy and it's collaborative working with the LA.

The board broadly supported the proposal but raised concerns about the consultation process as well as the point on a potential conflict of interest. Regional Director was content to approve this voluntary transfer, pending a review of the following:

- Stakeholder engagement, including that which has taken place thus far and the plan for stakeholder engagement moving forward.
- Assurances around the process the trust undertook to ensure that any potential conflicts of interests had been properly managed.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority. Delivery Officer to speak to GLT seeking assurances regarding their consultation process and conflicts of interest.

## **Bromley**

### **Converter academy orders**

**Project: To discuss the conversion of Marjorie McClure School, Bromley - to join Nexus Education Schools Trust, Bromley**

**Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

**AB discussion:**

Marjorie McClure School (MM) is a foundation special school with 112 pupils on roll and judged 'Outstanding' by Ofsted.

This is a voluntary conversion proposal for MM to convert to an academy and join Nexus Education Schools Trust (NEST). Both school and trust feel they are a good match as their vision and values are closely aligned.

The board heard that the school will also bring capacity to the trust, particularly in their leadership team.

The board discussed trust finances.

**RD decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:**

None

**Further actions required:**

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.

## Greenwich

### Establishing a new academy through the free school presumption route

**Project: To discuss the Royal Borough of Greenwich Council's recommended sponsor for a new all-through presumption special school for children with ASD and complex needs.**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **AB discussion:**

The Royal Borough of Greenwich has proposed to establish a new all-through special school to meet increasing demand for local specialist provision. The proposed new special free school will provide an additional 240 specialist places for pupils diagnosed with ASD with complex learning needs from reception age to Year 14.

The board heard about the demand of specialist places in Greenwich.

The LA ran a competition to select a preferred sponsor and after completion of the assessment process, the LA have chosen The Compass Partnership of Schools.

The Compass Partnership of Schools is currently made up of 13 schools, 12 of which are primary schools and one an all-through special school.

The board discussed risks including delivery of secondary/sixth form phase as well as the site for the primary school provision.

The board heard about the trust's track record of providing school improvement support to its schools.

The board acknowledged the trust's governance model.

**RD decision:** Approve

#### **Conflicts:**

None

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

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority.



## Lewisham

### Converter academy orders

**Project: To discuss the conversion of three schools - to join to join Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (MAT), Southwark**

- **St Michael's Church of England Primary School, Lewisham**
- **St James's Hatcham Church of England Primary School, Lewisham**
- **St Stephen's CofE Primary School, Lewisham**

#### **Representations received:**

- No representations were made for this project.

#### **AB discussion:**

St James's Hatcham, St Michael's and St Stephen's are all voluntary aided schools with current pupil numbers on roll of 187, 204 and 217 respectively.

As a Church of England trust, Southwark Diocesan Board of Education (SBDE) feels it's vision and values align with that of the schools.

The board noted falling rolls in Lewisham.

Discussed location of schools and noted proximity to one of the trust's current schools, which may be an opportunity to create a hub.

The board also discussed risks, including potential land issues at St James's Hatcham.

The board noted the CEO is currently in post on a part time basis.

The board raised a question on opportunities for CofE schools to join other MATs and is interested to hear from the Diocese of Southwark regarding their strategic plan.

#### **RD decision: Approve with condition:**

- Delivery Officer to discuss with the trust the need for a review of MAT structures in anticipation of further growth.

#### **Conflicts:**

None

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

- Feedback decision to the schools, trust and local authority. Delivery Officer to invite the Diocese of Southwark to present their strategic plan to the London Advisory Board alongside next proposal for change.

## Decisions taken between AB meetings

**Project: Harris Primary Academy Haling Park, part of Harris Federation, change of lower age limit (adding a nursery).**

**Decision Type:** Significant Change

**RD Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further Actions Required:** Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

**Project: Harris Primary Academy Benson, part of Harris Federation, change of lower age limit (adding a nursery).**

**Decision Type:** Significant Change

**RD Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further Actions Required:** Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

**Project: Lammas School and Sixth Form, part of The Griffin Schools Trust, removing sixth form.**

**Decision Type:** Significant Change

**RD Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further Actions Required:** Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.

**Project: Van Gogh Primary School, part of The Dunraven Education Trust, adding an ARP unit.**

**Decision Type:** Significant Change

**RD Decision:** Approve

**Conflicts:** None

**Further Actions Required:** Delivery Officer to inform school / trust of the decision.