



Department
for Education

RISE Operations Working Group 14 April minutes

These minutes reflect discussion and recommendations from the RISE Operations Working Group. They do not represent formal policy decisions.

Chairs

Chair: Tim Coulson, Director General of Regions Group, DfE

Deputy chair: Jon Howlin, Senior Responsible Officer (SRO) RISE, DfE

Members

Mark Davis · Lee Wilson · Amanda Corcoran · Joanne Sanchez-Thompson · John Camp · Gail Brown · Stephen Wheatley · Tony Wilson · Rebecca Meredith CBE · Dr Jennifer Blunden

Attendance

A total of 16 attendees were present, including members and invited colleagues from regional RISE teams, policy leads and engagement functions.

Members in attendance

Mark Davis · Lee Wilson · Rebecca Meredith CBE · Gail Brown · John Camp · Amanda Corcoran · Tony Wilson

Apologies

Joanne Sanchez-Thompson · Stephen Wheatley · Dr Jennifer Blunden

Papers presented and purpose

Four agenda items were circulated in advance. The meeting centred on regional planning, evaluation work, and forward planning.

1. Welcome, Introduction and Feedback
2. RISE Regional Delivery Boards
3. Summer Term priorities and comms plan
4. Any Other Business (AOB)

Meeting minutes

Below are the full minutes taken from the meeting.

1. Welcome and Introductions

The Chair welcomed members and set out the aims of the meeting. The group was invited to provide views on proposals for RISE Regional Delivery Boards and to reflect on the planned focus and shape of RISE activity over the summer term.

2. RISE Regional Delivery Boards

The group discussed proposals to establish RISE Regional Delivery Boards to oversee delivery of RISE regional plans.

Key points from the discussion included:

- Broad support for streamlined arrangements with a clear purpose and a strong focus on delivery.
- The importance of reflecting regional perspectives and engaging a range of system leaders, without being overly complex.
- A shared view that arrangements should prioritise oversight of progress and outcomes, rather than becoming primarily discussion-based forums.
- An expectation that participants would play an active role in supporting delivery in their regions and maintaining effective links with wider sector leadership.
- Emphasis on simplicity, clarity and transparency, including clear communication about roles and remit.

3. Summer Term priorities and comms plan

The group considered an overview of planned RISE activity for the summer term, including engagement, communications and sector-facing activity.

Key points from the discussion included:

- Broad agreement that the overall priorities are clear and appropriate, with attendance, attainment, reception year quality and mainstream inclusion remaining central.
- Recognition that regional plans will be critical in helping leaders understand how national priorities translate locally.
- Positive feedback on showcase events and roundtables, which were seen as effective in building engagement and momentum.
- Discussion of the importance of a clear call to action for schools and trusts, including how they can both access support and contribute effective practice.

- Recognition that identifying and sharing strong practice should be intentional and supported, rather than relying on self-nomination alone.
- Acknowledgement that some leaders may be cautious about sharing practice, and that proactive identification and clear messaging could help address this.

The group agreed that communications should continue to focus on clarity, simplicity and practical value for schools and trusts.

4. Any Other Business and close

No additional items were raised. The Chair thanked members for their contributions and closed the meeting.

These minutes will be published on GOV.UK ahead of the next meeting.

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