

MEETING OF MEMBERS - BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

MONDAY 19 JUNE 2017 AT YOUTH CHALLENGE

Present: Bob Atkinson (BA), K Gribbin (KG), T Grimshaw (TG) and Su Long (SL)

In Attendance: Paul Hodgkinson (PH) - Executive Head Teacher, David Smith (Finance Director) and Emma Stoddard (ES) –Clerk

SU LONG IN THE CHAIR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Members were welcomed to the meeting and introductions were made.

An apology for absence had been received from Mary Powell.

2. DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

No declarations of pecuniary interests were made.

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

i) Two vacant positions on the Trust Board

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Agreed: To approve as a correct record the minutes of the last Members' meeting held on Tuesday 17 May 2016

MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising, which were not already covered on today's agenda.

5. FINANCIAL UPDATE

Pupil Referral Units

A Financial Update 2017 was circulated.

PH provided an overview of the financial position to date, including the revised charging strategy for Pupil Referral Units (PRU). There was a projected in year deficit in 2016-17 but it was noted that the new funding model was expected to bring the Trust out of deficit in the next 12-18 months.

The Trust was awaiting a decision from the Local Authority (LA) regarding the proposal to increase places at Youth Challenge Primary Provision. If the LA did not support the proposal then the unit would need to close and increased provision at

KS3 would be provided instead. BA stated that there was obviously a clear demand for both provisions (KS2 and KS3) and asked what would happen to KS3 provision if the LA did accept the proposals for primary provision. PH explained that the Trust would develop a hub and spoke model to meet demand. PH added that the LA had provided base funding for 183 places but he expected demand to be more in the region of 260-280 places. This created problems in enabling the Trust to plan ahead and be pro-active.

Members were informed that the Trust had already received referrals from schools and there was also a strong demand for the Personal Learning Centre.

The Chair welcomed questions from members. TG reiterated his concerns regarding the non-payment of invoices by the LA. DS explained that this related to Lever Park and would be discussed during the next agenda item. SL asked whether schools would be offered places within or over the 183rd place. PH stated that provision would be offered to schools at any point due to the huge demand. DS added that he would like to see differentiated prices in place, with increased charges (£120) for permanent exclusions.

Lever Park

PH informed members that Lever Park remained the Trust's main concern. The funding model, agreed by the previous leadership team, did not work and was not sustainable. PH explained that when he was deployed as Interim Head Teacher at Lever Park in November 2014, behaviours had been very dangerous with the majority of pupils needing to be classed as EBD2. However, a huge amount of work and intervention had taken place with excellent results. Behaviour had greatly improved and this was reflected in the significantly reduced number of pupils now being classed as EBD2. This, however, had a significant impact on the budget as pupils no longer brought in the EBD2 funding but the school still needed to pay for the same level of support.

A benchmarking exercise had been completed and an average charging price of £19,000 per pupil with £10,000 top-up had been agreed by Trustees. PH stated that this was a fair price and would enable the Trust to break even. This, however, had not yet been agreed with the LA and PH was to meet with John Daly (Director of People) to discuss this further. DS added that he was also due to meet with L Butcher, Head of Finance (People Services) regarding the payment of Lever Park invoices.

In response to questions DS explained that, moving forward, the PRUs would be making money and would be supporting Lever Park. However, the Trust needed to demonstrate to the Education Funding Agency (EFA) that the Lever Park deficit would be reduced. SL asked for clarification regarding the current contract status

with the LA. DS explained that there had never been a contract in place and the LA still continued to apply the previous charging strategy.

DS directed members to the proposed budget from September 2017 to August 2018 and the three year forecast. It was noted that the three year forecast was based on the increased charging structure for Lever Park and projected that the Trust would return to a balanced position by August 2018, and then maintain a surplus position thereafter. KG asked whether the LA would be willing to write off the debt that the Trust had inherited. PH explained that this would be a welcome resolution to enable the Trust to work on a balanced budget and this would form part of the discussions with John Daly. SL requested that members receive an update following the discussions with the LA.

Action: PH (contact members with an update)

6. STRATEGIC PLAN

Members had received a copy of the Finance & Resources Committee meeting minutes (9 June 2017) prior to the meeting.

PH reported that the provision provided by the Trust was very strong and there continued to be a huge demand for PRU places. SL asked if there were other new business opportunities that the Trust could explore. DS explained that the main issue regarding expansion of the provision was limited space. The 12 pupils in the PLC required alternative accommodation and the Executive Principal was due to meet with a representative from Smithills School with a view to accessing temporary accommodation on their site. PH added that it was an expectation of the EFA that the Trust would expand outside Bolton but it was felt at this present time that a strong Bolton model first needed to be consolidated before any expansion took place. Trustees had however agreed that changing the name of the Trust would allow for expansion in future and this proposal needed to be considered and approved by Members.

7. BOLTON IMPACT TRUST – CHANGE OF NAME

KG asked if changing the name of the Trust would have any financial implications. DS explained that there would be a charge of £400 to update the funding agreement but added that the Trust had been pro-active in saving money by delaying the publishing of the prospectus, so this did not need to be re-printed if the name changed. Following a unanimous vote it was:

Resolved: That the name of the Trust be changed to Impact Trust (Bolton)

8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Members discussed the next meeting date and it was agreed that a meeting should be convened in November to coincide with the Trustee meeting. Year end KPIs would be presented at this meeting.

Action: PH (confirm next meeting date)

9. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

9.1 Vacant positions on the Trust Board

There remained a vacancy on the Trust Board due to Dr Birch stepping down as a Trustee. Mary Powell, Chair of Trustees, had also indicated her intention to retire, which would leave two vacancies. SL asked whether the new Chair of Trustees would be appointed from the current membership or whether the Trust was looking to appoint a new Chair. PH stated that due to the current Trustees work commitments, and giving consideration to the demands of the role, it was expected that the Trust would be looking to appoint a Chair of Trustees.

Agreed: That PH and DS be delegated responsibility to recruit two new Trustees to the Trust Board, one of whom would also be appointed as Chair of Trustees

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreed: That none of the matters discussed at this meeting be designated as confidential in accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association.

The meeting closed at 2.00pm

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS:

Minute No.	Responsible	Action
5	PH	Contact members with update following the meeting with the LA
8	PH	Confirm next meeting date
9	PH / DS	Recruit two new Trustees

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

Signed as a correct record:

Date:

(Chair of Members Board)