

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

FRIDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2016 AT 3.15PM AT YOUTH CHALLENGE

Present: M Sidebottom (TG) – Chair of Committee, Christine Birchby (CB) – Vice Principal, Paul Hodgkinson (PH) - Executive Principal, D McKeon (DM), Mary Powell (MP) - Chair of Trustees and A Slater (AS)

In Attendance: David Smith (DS) – Finance Director and Emma Stoddard (ES) –Clerk

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trustees were welcomed to the first meeting of the Standards Committee. No apologies for absence had been received as all Trustees were present.

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Trustees were asked to agree the procedure for the election of Chair and to appoint a Chair to serve to the autumn term 2017.

Agreed: i) That written self-nominations in advance of the meeting for future elections

ii) That M Sidebottom be appointed as Chair of the Standards Committee to serve until the autumn term 2017.

MIKE SIDEBOTTOM IN THE CHAIR

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

3.1 Register of Business Interests

In accordance with the academies financial handbook, entries in the Academy Trust's Register of Business Interests were to be reviewed annually. It was noted that the following Trust Members hadn't already completed a form and were asked to do so and return it to the Academy for retention:

D McKeon

A Slater

3.2 Declarations of Interest

No declarations of pecuniary interest or conflict of interest were made.

4. MEMBERSHIP / GOVERNANCE ISSUES

Trustees were directed to the committee's terms of reference. PH reported that in response to Trustee suggestions a checklist of the responsibilities of the committee had been produced and the majority of items were included on today's agenda.

Agreed: That the committee's terms of reference be approved and adopted

5. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Business reported.

6. KPI PROCESS UPDATE

Members of the committee were directed to the Provisional Rolling Note of Visit 2016/17 from the School Improvement Partner (SIP) visits on 19 May and 20 June 2016.

A Trustee referred to the SIP's suggestion that the Academy would benefit from joining PiXL as a matter of urgency and asked whether this would be relevant for the Trust. PH reported that BKS assessment was used previously but was now out of date so alternative systems needed to be explored. The SIP had reported that 'the use of PiXL's Personal Learning Checklists would enable teachers to secure progress from a strong base as will the wide ranging teaching, learning and assessment strategies'. CB reported that she had attended a PiXL briefing, in response to questions about whether PiXL could replace current systems, CB reported that she felt PiXL could enhance systems rather than replacing them. DM reported that he would provide contact details for CB so she could obtain further information.

Trustees discussed benchmarking and the need to secure a reliable baseline. The Academy would be investing in CATS 4 tests to provide a baseline and an estimate of likely outcomes at KS4. PH stated that consideration needed to be given as to whether this would be standardised across the academies.

AS was to undertake a piece of work which would focus on developing three aspects:

- Baseline Testing (Ability)
- Formative assessment (Attainment)
- Summative assessment (Attitude)

AS reported that CATS 4 tests were now available online so were not as onerous as they used to be. MP suggested that the Academy could use a sample of pupils to complete the CATS 4 tests.

CB informed Trustees that the same test paper would be used in Maths across the Academies.

PH stated that he would be happy to bring some systems to the next committee meeting for further discussion.

Action: Clerk (Next agenda – Report back from the Hub)

7. SUMMER 2016 GENERAL PERFORMANCE KPI SUMMARY

Trustees were directed to the Pupil Performance KPIs (Summer 2016) for each Academy and an update was provided. A Trustee stated that it was hard to see what the Academy judgement was from the report and suggested that red/amber/green ratings be added to future reports, it was also suggested that other PRU data be provided for comparison. A Trustee asked if the KPIs had been set at the start of the year, PH explained that they hadn't but would be this year.

PH referred to the attendance figures for Lever Park (86%) and stated although this was low it was a significant improvement on previous years. A Trustee requested that historical data also be added to the report for comparison.

A Trustee expressed concern that the progress data in Maths at Lever Park was significantly lower than in English and asked why this was the case. PH explained that at the time there had been many priorities at the school and focus on maths may have slipped due to this however there were now new systems in place to prevent this happening again. A Trustee stated that there needed to be focus on teaching across the board at Lever Park.

PH reported that the committee would need to consider 'what does success look like'. A Trustee suggested that a Contextual Benchmarking process be developed. PH stated that he would produce a piece of work to support this and it was suggested that a group of Trustees meet to discuss this further.

Agreed: That a group of Trustees meet to discuss a Contextual Benchmarking process

Action: PH (add red/amber/green ratings, benchmarking and historical comparisons to KPI summary)

8. QUALITY OF TEACHING REPORT AUTUMN TERM

CB reported that Teachers' Performance Management had been completed across the Academies with joint observations taking place with herself and the Academy Lead to ensure an agreement of standards and expectations. Appraisal targets across the Trust would focus on improving standards of Teaching and Learning and embedding new scheme of work in Maths and English.

Trustees discussed the quality of Teaching at each Academy. A Trustee asked if the judgements given from purely from lesson observations or from a typicality of teaching. CB explained that the judgements had been given from one off observations

across the academies; MP stated that triangulation was needed and outcomes should be included in this process. CB invited a Trustee to join her on the next lessons observations. PH stated that the Trust was keen to conduct an 'INSTED' next year.

DM reported that David Hopkins carried out 1 day instructional tours and would provide quality assurance based on pedagogy and suggested that this may be something that the Trust might want to consider.

A Trustee asked what plans were in place to improve the Quality of Teaching & Learning at Lever Park. CB provided information regarding teachers currently judged at Grade 3 and 4 but added that Lever Park was a RI Academy and therefore it was expected that a higher level of support would currently be needed. CB added that she had presented the Vision for Improvement for Teaching & Learning to all Lever Park staff. MP stated that she would like assurance that a robust plan was in place to improve Teaching at Lever Park and that the school was receiving intensive support over and above the other academies. Trustees were informed that further strategies were outlined in the non-negotiable Lever Park Support Plan. A Trustee questioned if there was enough outstanding teaching at Lever Park for the NQTs to observe or if they needed to visit other academies across the Trust.

Agreed: To receive and note the Quality of Teaching report

9. CURRICULUM UPDATE

CB reported that the biggest curriculum changes had been at Lever Park with EdExcel Maths introduced at KS3 and KS4 and BTech Level 1 instead of GCSE PE. A Trustee asked if the Academy had any specialist Science teachers. CB explained that there was a specialist Science teacher at the Young Mums Academy but it would be difficult to utilise this member of staff due to her roles and responsibilities as Deputy Head. Science was being delivered at Lever Park via a supply teacher. In response to further questions CB explained that there were no laboratory facilities within the Trust and therefore the academies could not deliver Double Science and a longer term plan was needed for Science. A Trustee suggested that the Trust could develop links with Smithills High School.

MP left the meeting at this point.

10. CPD REPORT

Trustees were directed to the CPD report for each academy. PH referred to the Pathological Demand Avoidance training completed by Lever Park staff and explained that there was an increase in the complexity of issues and needs of pupils. PH added that staff faced very unique challenges in their daily work.

11. SUPPORT PACKAGE FOR LEVER PARK

Trustees were directed to the Support Package for Lever Park and it was noted that discussions had taken place throughout the meeting regarding this. The Chair of the Committee requested that timelines for actions and recommendations be added to the report so these could be monitored by Trustees.

The Chair questioned whether too much provision was being offered at Lever Park. AS suggested that D Swan be invited into school to work with staff and raise expectations in Maths. PH reported that there were very few specialist teachers and this would need to be addressed.

Action: CB (add timelines for actions and recommendations to LP report)

12. DATES OF NEXT TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PH reported that the Finance & Resource Committee members had requested that another Trustee join their committee to provide an additional layer of scrutiny.

Agreed: i) That A Slater join the Finance & Resources Committee
ii) That the next Standards Committee meetings be held as follows:

Friday 10 March 2017 at 3.30pm

Friday 9 June 2017 at 3.30pm

13. CONSENT TO ABSENCE

All Trustees were present at today's meeting.

14. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Business reported.

15. 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.

With no further business the meeting closed at 4.45pm

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS:

Minute No.	Responsible	Action
3.1	DM / AS	Compete Register of Business Interest Form
7		Trustees meet to discuss a Contextual Benchmarking process
7	PH	Add red/amber/green ratings, benchmarking and historical comparisons to KPI summary
11	CB	Add timelines for actions and recommendations to LP report

ITEMS FOR NEXT AGENDA:

- Report back from Hub

Signed as a correct record: _____ Mike Sidebottom

Date: _____ 10th March 2017

(Chair of Committee)