

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE

BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER 2019 AT 12.00PM AT YOUTH CHALLENGE

Present: M Sidebottom (MS) -Chair of the Committee, B Atkinson (BA), T Grimshaw (TG) and K Halliwell (KH)

In Attendance: R Leonard (Vice-Principal and Youth Challenge Academy Lead), D Smith (Finance Director) and E Stoddard (ES) –Clerk to Trust

M SIDEBOTTOM IN THE CHAIR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trustees were welcomed to the meeting. An apology for absence had been received from P Hodgkinson (PH) - Executive Principal and D McKeon (DMc).

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Business reported.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting held on Thursday 13 June 2019 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Matters Arising

Ofsted Inspection Updates (Minute Number 5)

MS reported that the offer of support from his school was still available. RL stated that this was appreciated and would be pursued further during the spring term.

5. PUPIL OUTCOMES

A report on outcomes from the summer term 2018/19 for non-year 11's had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Forwards Centre

Phase 1

Attendance

RL reported that the headline figure for the summer term attendance was 93%, which was adjusted to 94% when absence due to appointments for CAMHs was taken into account. This was a drop of around 1% from the summer term but the swing data was 16%, which was an improved picture.

Pupil Behaviour

RL reported that across the summer term, 53% (20/38 pupils) made excellent progress by either achieving or exceeding all their targets. A further 47% (18/38) pupils made progress against their targets although did not achieve them all. MS stated that more detail was needed against this data. RL reported that a tool for progress was currently being developed so a different reporting tool would be provided at the next meeting once more data had been received or Phase 1 outcomes.

Phase 2

RL reported that the Forwards Centre measured progress against national mainstream targets and the Forwards Centre's own expectations. Pupils would work towards the national targets and assessed after four weeks; an appropriate target would then be set depending on several factors. KH asked how Trustees could be confident that the targets set were appropriate. RL explained that more than one person was involved in this decision and a robust process was in place. MS asked how the Forwards Centre progress compared. RL explained that this depended on the individual pupil and their level of need or context. MS asked who quality assured the data. RL reported that a very rigorous process was in place and all data was checked by the Academy Lead, Link Governor and School Improvement Partner. The process was also overseen by the Vice-Principal.

Trustees were directed to the Pupil Destination data and informed that around 80% of Forwards Centre pupils transferred to Lever Park Special School. Academy Leads from both academies would be working together looking at the curriculum to make this flow from Year 6 through to Year 7. TG asked why this had not been a focus before. RL reported that historically both academies had functioned as separate entities. KH asked if this would now be a core objective; RL stated that this would now be included in the academy development plans.

MS asked if there was a robust transition process in place. RL stated that there would now be much more focus on transition and added that Lever Park taught a primary model in Year 7 and 8. MS asked if there was cross-over collaborative work taking place with primary schools. RL stated that historically this had just focused on behaviour but moving forward would focus more on curriculum. TG asked if the secondary academies had close links with any feeder schools. RL stated that this was difficult to develop as pupils came from many different areas of the borough.

Youth Challenge Primary

Pupil Destinations

Trustees were informed that 88% of pupils from Youth Challenge Primary returned to mainstream school. BA asked if pupils were able to be tracked once they returned to mainstream provision. Pupils without an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) attended YC Primary for 2 days a week and remained in their mainstream school for the other 3 days. Once pupils return to school full time staff from the academy kept in touch and had follow-up meetings. BIT staff also worked in the schools on a Friday afternoon. RL stated that those pupils with EHCPs should be going onto special schools but usually returned to mainstream due to the lack of places.

KH asked if the transition process had been costed and built into the Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) price. RL explained that transition from primary provision had not been built into the price for but further consideration needed to be given to this. KH stated that although this would increase the price it would save the Council money in the long term.

Lever Park

Phase 1

Attendance

Attendance at Lever Park had risen from 86.17% in 2016-17 to 88.04% in 2017-18 to 90.07% in 2018-19. MS stated that this was a very positive three-year trend. RL reported that attendance was improving due to the PST tracking and interventions and the target for 2019-20 had been set at 92%.

Behaviour

MS asked for more information on the 39% of pupils who had not yet met their personal success target (PST) for behaviour. RL reported that the PST was an ipsative measure based on a previous termly score and was made more challenging every term. Although 39% may seem a high percentage, Lever Park expected a constant higher standard from pupils. MS suggested that this could be included in the narrative to support the data. RL stated that she had spoken with each Academy Lead as there seemed to be significant differences in the information received in each report. RL had requested that analysis and actions be included in each report moving forward.

Phase 2

MS asked why the Behaviour Report included data for 53 pupils whilst the Academic Outcomes Report included data for 63 pupils. RL reported that the Academic Outcomes Report also included those pupils who attended the Gloves provision and

those who accessed Outreach provision. TG suggested that this be included in the narrative.

RL reported that English remained strong at Lever Park with 64% meeting or exceeding target and 34% of pupils exceeding target. A new English teacher was now in place at Lever Park and had settled in well.

Park School

Phase 1

A Trustee asked why there was such a significant increase in unauthorised absence from Autumn 2018 (1.1%) to Summer 2019 (7.2%) at Park School. RL explained that historically absence had been due to medical reasons; however, the profile was now changing due to the huge rise in mental health and some pupils simply refused to attend. The academy was a medical school so was unable to issue fines. RL added that any absence impacted noticeably on the figures due to the low numbers of pupils on roll. MS stated that the pupils were constantly changing, and this also needed to be taken into account.

Phase 2

MS asked how academic outcomes were measured at Park School. RL explained that the academy used the Pearson Assessment, pupils were baselined upon arrival and expected to make the same amount of progress as in a mainstream setting.

A Trustee asked for further information on ICT and Asdan. RL explained that an alternative curriculum had been implemented for non-Year 11 students due to long term teacher absence.

Youth Challenge Secondary

Phase 1

Attendance

Attendance had dropped for the 3rd year in a row and sat at 73% compared to 76% last year. However, pupil attendance had still increased from mainstream school attendance with a 9% positive swing. In response to questions RL confirmed that payment was still received if a pupil did not attend the provision. BA asked if the reduction in attendance was due to the academy no longer providing a taxi service. RL reported that the mini-bus service and taxi service had been much reduced due to the costs involved so this inevitably had an impact on attendance for some pupils. In response to questions RL explained that the Local Authority did not fund transport for Youth Challenge and only funded transport costs for special schools.

MS asked what strategies were in place to tackle attendance. RL explained that many strategies were in place including: Key Workers chasing a response until they get an

answer, increased home visits, early interventions, fines and an improved reward system. Key Workers would now be held accountable for attendance; Trustees agreed that this was a positive step forward.

Phase 2

MS referred to the Maths and English academic progress data and stated that it was vital to address the Year 10 data now that this cohort had entered Year 11. RL reported that there had been many new arrivals in last year's Year 10 cohort and the data would have now improved. RL added that she would be looking at different pathways from January 2020.

Personal Learning Centre (PLC)

Phase 1

RL reported that there was a 25% positive swing from previous school attendance. Trustees agreed that this was very positive.

Phase 2

MS asked if the big difference in progress data for Maths and English was due to the cohort or due to teaching. RL explained that there was so much content to cover in maths that there was not enough time to do this considering attendance issues and significant gaps in learning. MS suggested that the PLC could look at reducing the content. RL provided an update on the strategies currently being used in maths using a cross-curricular approach.

6. QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT, TEACHING & LEARNING

A Teaching and Learning Report for 2018/19 had been circulated with the agenda.

Lever Park

The Trust Board having designated details of the discussion that followed as confidential in accordance with Article 125 of the Articles of Association, this information is excluded from these minutes.

7. SELF-EVALUATION UPDATE

RL reported that she would email the Forwards Centre Ofsted Preparation Update report to Trustees.

In response to questions RL confirmed that each Academy followed the same format to produce their SEF, which was currently being updated to link with the new framework. TG asked how Trustees could be confident that the self-evaluations were accurate. RL reported that there was a robust system in place and all SEFs were checked by the Executive Principal and the school Improvement Partner.

Action: RL (email Forwards Centre report to Trustees)

8. DATES OF NEXT TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Agreed: That the next meeting dates be as follows:

Friday 6th March 2020 at 11.00am

Friday 12th June 2020 at 11.00am

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Business.

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreed: That the following matters discussed at this meeting be designated as confidential in accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association:

Minute Number 6 (Teaching & Learning Report – Lever Park)

With no further business the meeting closed at 1.00 pm

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS

Minute Number	Responsible	Action
7	RL	Email Forwards Centre report

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Standards Committee)