

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST
MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON
FRIDAY 4 MARCH 2022 AT 11.00AM

Present: M Sidebottom (MS) - Chair of the Committee, P Hodgkinson (PH) – Executive Principal, D McKeon (DMc) and P Norton (PN)

In Attendance: E Stoddard (ES) –Clerk to Trust and A Woosey – Director of Standards (AW)

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 R Leonard, Vice-Principal.

2. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

3. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business reported at this point.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 12 November 2021 had been circulated with the agenda papers and had been approved at the autumn term Trust meeting.

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

5. TRUST STANDARDS REPORT

The autumn term 2021 Standards report had been uploaded to the Gateway. AW provided the headlines:

Key Performance Data

AW explained that pupils at the Forwards Centre were unlikely to meet national progress targets so both national progress data and Forwards Centre progress data were included in the report. There had been a slight dip in Maths with a reduction in the number of pupils making national progress from the summer term. This had been investigated further with the leadership team and it was clear this dip was due to a change in the cohort rather than any decline in teaching.

PN asked what plans were in place for teacher absence as pupils did not get a second chance at their education. PH explained that absence was covered internally by Grade 6 Learning Mentors, who were also qualified teachers. PH added that high quality

supply cover was very difficult to source at the moment and internal cover also provided more consistency for pupils.

DMc stated that the new Ofsted framework lent itself to end points with a focus on personalised knowledge and stated that this was likely to suit BIT pupils. DMc added that this would be a good opportunity to use the framework to support this. AW stated that she had had a lengthy meeting at the Forwards Centre on this subject and an action point arising from the meeting had been to look at this further with a focus on end goals. AW added that there was a continued focus on trying to capture the personalised work being undertaken at each academy.

MS referred to the Quality of Education at the Forwards Centre and questioned whether curriculum intent could be rated as 1 considering the data presented today. PH reported that he had challenged this during the SEF meeting as he did not feel that the academy was quite there yet. DMc stated that Ofsted would look at this in fine detail so the Forwards Centre would need to be very confident in their judgement and would need to be able to substantiate this.

AW reported that there had been a dip in English at Lever Park. This had been investigated and it was apparent that progress measures in English were not as accurate as those for Maths. The English Lead had been absent during the autumn term but was now working with AW to refine and improve how progress was measured in English. AW added that other English teachers at Lever Park did not have the same experience as the English Lead and a lot of work was taking place to upskill these teachers. Schemes of work were being developed to improve the delivery of the subject.

AW reported that a Learning Mentor Hub would be developed, which would be similar to the Teaching & Learning Hub, with a clear focus on upskilling staff throughout the academies.

MS asked if the increase in pupil numbers at Lever Park had impacted on progress data. PH suggested that this be discussed further under agenda item 8.

AW stated that Youth Challenge Maths data looked like it had dipped but this was due to dramatic changes within the cohort, so it was very difficult to compare term on term. Measurements used in Maths were summative and therefore might not provide an accurate picture. There would be a focus on using external maths expertise moving forwards.

AW reported that a detailed reading analysis report had been presented at the last meeting. This had been reviewed and it had been agreed that the same measure be used in all settings. Trustees were informed that reading would be moderated in secondary academies. A Trust wide reading charter was being developed with a view to this commencing in April. This would outline how every academy would work to improve their reading and there would be some parts of the charter that all academies would be expected to commit to.

There was a push on Phonics in the primary academies and staff training had taken place. Statements of intent had started to be written; AW reported that she had provided all Academy Leads with a framework to use to make intent more Ofsted

ready. PH stated that consideration was being given to including SEND as a separate section as this was a very important part of the curriculum.

DMc stated that the report was very useful in providing Trustees with an understanding of the current position of each academy. PH stated that he felt academies were in a mid-point position, there were clear areas for improvement, and this needed to be tackled with some vigour. PH added that he welcomed Trustees' challenge on this as this then pushed the Central Team to provide challenge to Academy Leads.

Academy SEFs

PH provided an update on the Academy SEFs:

Forwards Centre – PH stated that the SEF was well written but not well constructed so this would be a focus.

Youth Challenge – The SEF was very well constructed but included too many quotations. Behaviour had been graded as 1, but PH stated that he had challenged this and after reviewing the exclusion report had downgraded this judgement from 1 to 2.

Youth Challenge Primary – a full Safeguarding review had been completed.

Lever Park – the SEF was well written but the section on Behaviour & Attitudes included the term 'exemplary' and this needed attention. The Personal Development section would also be reviewed.

Park School – The SEF was an improving document.

In response to questions PH stated that all academy SEFs had areas for improvement and were live documents. PH reported that he would send the SEF analysis to Trustees after 14 March.

Action: PH (send SEF analysis to Trustees)

Gatsby Benchmarking Progress

AW reported that the enclosed report had been produced by RL who had visited each academy. The table outlined the progress of the three secondary academies towards the 8 Gatsby Benchmarks and the figures showed the current position with regards fulfilling the requirement of each benchmark. AW explained that the benchmarks were discussed as part of the Trust Hub system and the VP met with each of the careers leads to QA the responses and evidence. All 3 academies had made progress since the start of the academic year and continued to work on those areas which fall short of 100%. DMc stated that he had visited Lever Park earlier in the week and he felt that the Gatsby Benchmarks could be a transformational piece of work.

6. SAFEGUARDING

A Safeguarding Report had been uploaded to the Gateway, this included:

- Actions from previous meeting
- Academy Safeguarding Numbers
- Trust Safeguarding Visit

- Training

Trustees were informed that the Vice-Principal conducted termly Safeguarding visits with each Academy. The focus of the most recent visit had been the use of CPOMs and analysing the latest Section 175 Safeguarding Audit. AW reported that CPOMs was now embedded at each academy and leaders had effective systems in place to ensure safeguarding information was acted upon quickly and actions and outcomes were recorded.

DMc asked if systems were in place to enable staff to refer accurately. PH stated that this posed a big challenge at Lever Park as the pupils had very complex needs, but a Grade 6 administration post had been recruited to and this would release staff to attend referral meetings etc.

The Chair stated that the report was very detailed, and he did not feel there were any areas of concern that needed flagging to the Risk & Audit Committee.

7. NATIONAL TUTORING PROGRAMME

At the last meeting Trustees had requested that a report on the National Tutoring Programme be provided. This had been uploaded to the Gateway prior to today's meeting.

RL had visited each academy to see how the funding was being spent and a detailed outline of spend for each academy was included in the report. Trustees were advised that all academies had chosen the School Led Tutoring model and were either using existing staff outside of directed hours or had recruited supply staff to support with 1-1 and small group interventions. DMc stated that the funding seemed to be working well and consideration should be given as to how the budget could continue to support this moving forward. The outcomes would need to be monitored and impact reviewed at the end of the year to justify if this could continue. PH stated that a column for impact would be added to the report.

Action: PH / RL (add outcomes column to report)

8. LEVER PARK

The Board of Trustees, 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.

9. POLICY RATIFICATION

A copy of the Early Career Teacher (ECT) Induction Policy had been uploaded to the Gateway.

In response to questions AW explained that Teach First was Trust's chosen ECT provider.

Agreed: That the Early Career Teacher (ECT) Induction Policy be approved and adopted

10. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

10.1 Youth Challenge

MS asked for an update on the Youth Challenge Leadership vacancy. PH reported that the Trust had successfully recruited to the post yesterday.

11. DATES OF NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Friday 10 June 2022 at 11.00am

12. CONFIDENTIALITY

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

Minute Number 8 (Lever Park)

With no further business the meeting closed at 12.00 pm

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS

Minute Number	Responsible	Action
5	PH	Send SEF analysis to Trustees
7	PH / RL	Add outcomes column to report
8	PH	Produce plan
	ES	Include on Risk & Audit agenda

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Standards Committee)