

**MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST**

**MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON**

**FRIDAY 5 MARCH 2021 AT 11.00AM**

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

**In Attendance:** R Leonard (Vice-Principal) and E Stoddard (ES) –Clerk to Trust

**M SIDEBOTTOM IN THE CHAIR**

**1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

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

**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.

**4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 13 November 2020 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

**Curriculum Development (Minute Number 5)**

MS asked if teachers were prepared for teacher assessment grades now that exams had been cancelled. RL stated that more formal assessments had been introduced last year so teachers were now more well prepared. Links across the academies would be created to provide teachers with additional support, this would be a layered approach to ensure grades were accurate. Trustees were informed that whilst some pupils would leave as usual in May, others would stay in school until the end of June to catch-up on missed work. This included pupils with EHCPs and those in the red and amber categories. RL reported that there would be a focus on solidifying the transition into college or work. DMc advised that the DfE had published information on skills top-ups, which might be useful for those pupils who did not yet have a destination. RL reported that Park School were looking at additional qualifications to boost skills and there was a push on vocational qualifications as this was likely to provide more opportunities for many pupils. There would be a centralised hub at Youth Challenge for BTEC qualifications. MS stated that his school would be interested in any short to medium

term packages that BIT could provide during the holidays, to provide more opportunities for his pupils to develop their vocational skills. PH stated that a lot of work was currently taking place on how BIT could support schools and the community. DMc suggested that the Trust look at appointing staff to Affluent Leader positions, to enable them to work on any areas already identified for development.

MS asked if Remote Learning would change practice within the academies moving forward. RL explained that BIT had always provided a remote offer to those pupils who refused to engage, and the increased amount of remote learning had benefitted these pupils. Park School had seen an increase in engagement during the pandemic, with pupils keen to join in on the live lessons. The Trust had invested in ICT and staff training to further promote the remote offer; however, it was recognised that this did not work for everyone so a blended offer would be available.

PH advised that there had been a significant increase in the number of children entering hospital and it was felt that this was due to them not attending doctor's appointments as they usually would during the pandemic. This may have implications on the resources available in the hospital classrooms.

#### **Quality of Assessment, Curriculum, Teaching & Learning (Minute Number 6)**

DMc asked if Academy Leads were becoming more confident with WAGOLL's (What a Good One Looks Like). RL replied that although there had been a lot of improvement in this area but there was still further room for improvement.

DMc stated that two academies had judged English as good, but both these academies were very different and maybe there should be different levels of 'good'. RL stated that the current circumstances had made it very difficult to get into the academies to look at this; however, a lot of work had happened remotely, and a finalised model would soon be able to be provided. DMc stated that this would be a useful piece of work as there needed to be a consistency across the Trust regarding judgements, making descriptors very specific for Academy Leads would help to provide consistency.

PH reported that each academy's SEF would be analysed at Easter and in summer an external review of standards would be arranged. PH stated that it would be useful to include staff from mainstream schools in this to obtain a mainstream view. MS stated that he would be happy for his staff to be involved in this process.

#### **5. TRUST STANDARDS REPORT INCLUDING PUPIL OUTCOMES**

The autumn term 2020 Standards report had been uploaded to the Gateway.

RL provided an overview of the outcomes for each academy and reported that the pandemic had had a varying impact on each of the academies but overall, it did affect some pupil's performance be this academic progress or attendance of phase 1 progress. Pupils who attended on site provision throughout overall fared better than

those at home and those engaging with work at home fared better than those who did not. As already discussed, for some pupils the offer of a robust remote learning package removed many barriers and anxieties.

DMc stated that it was clear that there had been a positive impact on outcomes across all areas but there was still a disparity between Maths and English and asked if English was a significant barrier for pupils within the Trust. RL stated that literacy was a huge barrier, the reading age across the academies was very low and English in KS3 at Youth Challenge was a particular issue. RL reported that there would be a focus on analysing gaps in learning and there had been investment in baselines to provide a more diagnostic approach. Senior Leaders had got intent right, but this still needed translating into the classroom. RL added that some children arrived at the provisions without being able to add up or spell, so consideration needed to be given as to whether this was the main focus or providing life chances. DMc stated that there may need to be a focus on a specific element to get the best grade for students. PH stated that case studies may be useful, and more thought needed to be given to alternatives to GCSEs.

RL reported that the progress data presented for English did not include all aspects i.e., grammar was not included, so she would look at the format of the reports moving forward. DMc stated that reading was a key part of the English judgement, so a focus on this should help with outcomes. There were many schemes available that the Trust could utilise. DMc stated that he used a Northern Education scheme which enabled pupils to choose the genre and pupils had engaged well with this.

MS stated that it was natural to automatically compare Maths against English, but he was aware that this was not always fair as the two subjects were very different. PH suggested that he and RL conduct a review of English and provide a more detailed report.

**Agreed:** That PH and RL conduct a review of English

## **6. QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, TEACHING & LEARNING**

A report on the quality of Teaching, Learning and the Curriculum for the autumn term 2020 had been uploaded to the Gateway.

RL reported that there had been a lot of work completed in oracy at Youth Challenge Primary and the next step would be to embed oracy as a non-negotiable. RL stated that a lot of work had taken place in English at this provision and this was now very established. Trustees agreed that the offer was excellent for a 2-day provision.

MS thanked RL for the detailed reports for each academy. PH thanked Trustees for their challenge and stated that there would be a real push on English throughout the academies.

**7. SUPPORT FOR 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.

**8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business.

**9. DATES OF NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Summer Term: Friday 11 June 2021 at 11.00am

**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 7 (Support for Lever Park)

With no further business the meeting closed at 11.55 am

**SUMMATIVE ACTIONS**

<b>Minute Number</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Action</b>
5	PH and RL	Conduct review of English

Signed as a correct record: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

(Chair of Standards Committee)