

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON

FRIDAY 9 JUNE 2023 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: R Leonard (RL) – Director of Business Operations, A Woosey (AW) – Director of Standards and E Stoddard (ES) – Clerk to Trust

M SIDEBOTTOM IN THE CHAIR

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Trustees were welcomed to the meeting, there were no apologies for absence, but it was noted that DMc may arrive slightly late.

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.

D McKeon joined the meeting.

4. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Trust Standards Report (Minute Number 5)

A Trustee asked if the discussions around suspensions at Youth Challenge had been added to the Trust Risk Register. RL confirmed that this had been added and that each Local Governing Board (LGB) now had their own Risk Register operating at a local level.

Quality of Education (Minute Number 6)

A Trustee asked if phonics training had been delivered. AW explained that the Forwards Centre staff had delivered phonics training to all academies, this had been very useful, particularly for the secondary academies. AW added that a software programme from Bedrock Learning had been purchased, which was designed to develop pupils' reading comprehension and vocabulary acquisition and could be tailored to the curriculum. Training for all staff was planned for 9 June and the programme would be fully launched in September.

RL added that the Trust continued on their journey in reading and the culture and perception of reading was changing. Staff were aware that reading was everyone's responsibility.

5. **TRUST STANDARDS REPORT INCLUDING OUTCOMES**

The spring term 2023 Standards report had been uploaded to the Gateway. AW provided an overview of the report. The total number of students across the Trust was 277, which was the highest number since summer 2021. Attendance across the Trust was 80% for the actual number of sessions offered to students, this was just 1% less than in the autumn term.

There had been a significant reduction in the number of suspensions across the Trust, with some academy suspensions being halved. AW explained that this was due to the academies taking a more inclusive approach to suspensions.

The Forwards Centre (FC)

AW explained that progress had dipped slightly in the spring term. This had been due to the significant number of admissions coming in (11 full time and 12 part time) and the absence of key members of staff, which impacted on the consistency of teaching & learning. In response to questions AW explained that those pupils who had been there for some time had made good progress and the issue had been the influx of new pupils, some of whom had been very challenging.

In response to questions AW clarified the difference between national and FC progress. A Trustee asked if reading was based on chronological reading age. AW advised that there was a personalised system in place. Pupils would be placed on the stage that matched their ability and would be expected to move through the stages as they made progress.

A Trustee commented that the curriculum intent for maths was judged as outstanding and asked how this was quality assured. AW explained that the judgements were decided by the Academy Lead, but the FCs judgement had not yet been quality assured by the Trust. However, conversations around the judgement had taken place and the quality assurance would be completed next term. RL added that the External SIP also quality assured the FC, and this report could be provided to Trustees.

Lever Park GB

Trustees were advised that pupil progress remained at a similar level to the autumn term with an average of 63% of pupils achieving and exceeding in both English and Maths. Trustees were informed that N Hockenhull had been working with the English team at Lever Park to provide additional support and this had had a significant impact. In response to questions RL explained that N Hockenhull had previously been Academy Lead at Youth Challenge until his retirement. An English Specialist, Mr Hockenhull was also very experienced in pastoral and behavioural issues and would also be doing some English work at Youth Challenge.

A Trustee asked for further details regarding motor vehicle. AW explained that this had dipped as the new measures were being used and this subject had not yet gone through the curriculum process. RL added that some subjects were often at different points in the journey of writing, planning and delivering the Trust's new curriculum.

Trustees were informed that suspensions were at a record low of 5 in the spring term with a 9-week period of no suspensions at the beginning of term. The SLT had

recognised that suspensions were not changing behaviours and had committed to the philosophy that pupils were safer and happier at school and any suspensions must now be unanimously agreed by the SLT.

Park School

AW provided an update on the English and Maths progress data at Park School. A Trustee stated that Maths intent was ragged as outstanding at The Forwards Centre and Lever Park but was inadequate at Park School. The Trustee asked why there was such disparity between the academies. Trustees were advised that the inadequate grading was in the autumn term and there had been an improvement in the spring term. There had been a significant amount of disruption during the autumn term with the Academy Lead leaving and there had been no maths teacher in post. RL reported that an outstanding maths teacher had been employed in the spring term and had had a very positive start.

A Trustee commented that there was a risk to teaching and learning when staff left and asked if the intent was organised and developed centrally or if each academy had their own intent. AW explained that there was a Trust wide intent to prevent over reliance on any one member of staff: however, how they implemented the intent could vary.

D McKeon offered his apologies and left the meeting.

A Trustee commented that the Quality of Education ragging now seemed less erratic and asked if there was a reason for this. RL explained that a lot of this was down to the work of the Director of Standards and the staff in the academies. There had been a lot of disruption, which was now settling down.

Youth Challenge Secondary

Trustees were informed that pupil progress in reading had increased from 54% to 64% due to the focus on reading. AW advised that this was expected to improve further when Bedrock was introduced. Writing and maths data had dipped slightly, and quality assurance had shown that this had been due to the fluidity of the cohort rather than any change in teaching and learning.

Suspensions had dropped significantly from the autumn term from 83 fixed term suspensions to 36. Pupils who had arrived in the autumn term had now settled into school and pupils who required a different setting had moved on. A Trustee asked how the Trust could safeguard against such high suspension numbers in future. RL explained that there was now a change in attitudes regarding suspensions across the Trust and discussions had taken place with the LA re the huge number of referrals to Youth Challenge in the autumn term as this was very disruptive.

PH advised that he needed to leave the meeting shortly due and proposed that the Academy SEFs be discussed at this point.

6. ACADEMY SEFs

*In accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association, this matter has been designated as confidential in **PART B** of the minutes, thereby excluding the information from that which is to be made available to any interested persons.*

7. MANAGING ALLEGATIONS POLICY

A copy of the Managing Allegations Policy had been uploaded to the Gateway. RL advised that this had been updated slightly.

Agreed: To approve and adopt the Managing Allegations Policy

PH left the meeting at this point.

8. TERMLY SAFEGUARDING REPORT

A Safeguarding Report for the spring term and summer 1 half term had been uploaded to the Gateway.

RL provided an overview of the report and advised that the LA had undertaken Safeguarding audits at each academy. The visits had been very intense but very positive experiences. All staff had worked extremely hard to prepare for the audits and were now working on any recommendations. RL advised that Youth Challenge had received huge praise for their safeguarding displays around school, but this was a recommendation for Lever Park. RL stated that this needed to be standardised across the Trust. The LA had commented that the Trust's Safeguarding dashboard was the best that they had seen. Trustees agreed that it was great to receive such positive external validation.

A Trustee stated that there seemed to be a lack of encompass reports being received at Youth Challenge. RL reported that this had been raised an issue and the academy would continue to mitigate this somewhat by knowing their families well. RL added that encompass reports were being received at the other academies so the issue might be that they did not recognise Youth Challenge as a school.

9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business.

10. DATES OF NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Friday 10 November 2023 at 11.00 am

Friday 1 March 2024 at 11.00 am

Friday 7 June 2024 at 11.00 am

11. CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreed: That in accordance with the Academy's Memorandum and Articles of Association, the matter(s) designated as confidential, thereby excluding the information from that which is to be made available to any interested persons, is contained within **PART B** of the Minutes.

With no further business the meeting closed at 12.20 pm

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS

Minute Number Responsible Action

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Standards Committee)