

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST
MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON
FRIDAY 10 JUNE 2022 AT 11.00AM

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

In Attendance: R Leonard (RL) – Vice-Principal, E Stoddard (ES) – Clerk to Trust and A Woosey (AW) – Director of Standards

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 D McKeon (DMc).

2. APPOINTMENT OF CHAIR

Agreed: That M Sidebottom be elected as Chair of the Committee to serve until the autumn term 2023

3. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

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

4. NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business reported.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

A copy of the minutes of the last meeting held on Friday 4 March 2022 had been circulated with the agenda papers and had been approved at the spring term Trust meeting.

It was noted that the reference to T Grimshaw on page 4 should read T Purcell.

6. TRUST STANDARDS REPORT

The spring term 2022 Standards report had been uploaded to the Gateway. AW provided the headlines:

Progress Data

AW explained that there had been an error in the original report with regards to Lever Park English progress data. Above and expected was 79%, not 49% as stated in the original report. English progress had improved from 47% to 79% and was the result of two key changes in the Spring term. The first being that staff who were absent during the autumn term had returned and this had had a positive impact on progress. The second being that Lever Park had worked closely with the Director of Standards (AW)

to standardise English assessments at Lever Park. The school now had a clear grading system in place that all staff knew and understood, and the school had a clear definition of what 'good' progress was in English for all pupils. Trustees were informed that this new system had been rolled out Trust wide for all secondary academies. The school had also taken part in a Trust wide moderation exercise to ensure that they were accurately grading English work.

AW reported that there had been a dip in maths progress data at Park School, but this had since been addressed. All students graded as red had a plan in place and there had already been impact seen from one-to-one sessions.

Attendance

AW reported that attendance across the Trust was 81% for all sessions offered to students, which was a 1% increase from the autumn term.

Exclusions

RL reported that she had conducted a piece of work on exclusions during the spring term due to rising exclusion numbers at Lever Park. RL reported that, on analysis of the data, and a meeting with the Academy Lead, it was clear the rise was linked to the new zero tolerance approach to smoking introduced in January 2022. Exclusion had not previously been used as a consequence of smoking, so this had impacted considerably on the data. Trustees were informed that although there had been many exclusions in spring 1, this had reduced significantly in spring 2 showing that the exclusions had had an impact. In response to questions RL stated that students at Lever Park had never actually been allowed to smoke; however, it was felt that the consequences had not been clear, but this had now been addressed. PN asked how long a student would be excluded for. RL explained that smoking would result in a one-day exclusion. There had been a couple of students who had been excluded for longer, but this was due to the issue escalating or being repeat offenders. PH stated that students often smoked at home so saw this as the norm so the Trust had to try and change cultures. This was a huge challenge for the Trust and would be on-going as new students joined. MS asked if the same rules applied for vaping; RL stated that vapes would be confiscated and destroyed and an exclusion applied.

MS commented positively on the low number of LADO referrals, positive handling incidents, bullying incidents etc. and stated that they were significantly lower at BIT than at mainstream settings. RL stated that any incidents were always reported but added that students were monitored very closely at all times. The high staff pupil ratio meant that students had less opportunity to be involved in such incidents. Staff had built great relationships with students and were very highly trained but recognised that the positive messages needed to be constantly reinforced to be successful. RL reported that there had been two LADO referrals during summer 1 and these would be included in the next report.

PH stated that he would like to flag that there had been no exclusions in the last 3-4 years at the Forwards Centre. The Chair agreed that this was a remarkable achievement. RL stated that there had been a rise in the number of positive handling incidents at the Forwards Centre, so she visited the provision to investigate this further.

RL explained that she had found that these incidents were very low level, and the positive handling was used as a gentle guide but still had to be logged.

Trust Wide Standards Work

AW reported that all academies were busy working on their Curriculum Intent Statements with the Forwards Centre being most prepared in this area with their statement published on their website. Mock deep dives would take place and coaching was available for staff in deep dive conversations. Feedback from staff had been that they had found this very helpful.

The Chair asked AW to provide further details regarding flight paths and progress indicators. AW explained that levels had been applied in a moderation exercise to ascertain if these were being used consistently. AW advised that all marks had been in line, which was pleasing. There had then been a focus on what good progress looked like within the Trust and the flight path had been produced from this. This had been shared with the Chair of the Committee and would be shared with other Trustees.

PN asked if level descriptors would identify gaps and help with providing a personalised curriculum. AW explained that the Trust already did this, but this would now be more consistent.

PN commented that the Tutoring Programme had seemed to have a positive impact and asked if there would be funding available to continue with this next year. RL stated that the DfE had not confirmed whether this would be available again, but Youth Challenge Secondary had recruited a new English teacher who had previously worked for the tutoring programme and this person would be able to provide one to one teaching and help to embed this in the curriculum offer in the long term.

MS referred to the Youth Challenge Primary Data Dashboard and stated that English impact had been coded as green; however, the number of pupils making above expected progress was only 20% compared to 73% in Maths. AW reported that she would be looking at the Maths targets as she felt that these may not be accurate. AW added that English skills were much harder to measure than Maths skills.

MS asked if the quality assurance process (QA) had started. RL stated that a significant amount of QA was happening constantly at academy level, leaders were often in lessons and were visible. This process of QA was then checked by both RL and AW.

MS asked if the SLT had curriculum conversations with middle leaders and teachers. AW stated that there was a big focus on this throughout the Trust and a mock deep dive was recently completed with the English Lead and English practitioners at Lever Park. AW added that this was also a focus during the recent recruitment rather than just focusing on the interview. PH added that there were lots of layers of QA taking place and BIT was working closely with a Jewish school in Pinner. A sharing best practice hub had been set up and the next step would be looking to build a School Improvement Team. PH reminded Trustees that they also were part of the QA as they always challenged the SLT.

7. SAFEGUARDING

A Safeguarding Update for June 2022 had been uploaded to the Gateway, this included:

- Actions from previous meeting
- Safeguarding Data Analysis
- Analysis of each Academy

Trustees were informed that the Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs) now input data on a weekly basis, and this was working well. RL explained that she had been conscious that this may be creating more work for DSLs, but their feedback was that the process helped them to analyse the data more efficiently and effectively and had improved their practice. RL stated that the data also helped her to identify any academies that may need additional support. As she was able to view the data she could act on this straight away.

RL stated that Youth Challenge had completed a superb piece of work on knife crime.

MS stated that the data was outstanding given the challenges that the Trust faced but expressed concern regarding the issues around Encompass referrals at Youth Challenge Secondary. RL stated that this was a huge issue as referrals were still failing to reach the Academy despite the DSL being aware of domestic incidents happening in the homes of some of the pupils. RL reported that she would continue to raise these issues with the police.

8. SECTION 175 SAFEGUARDING AUDITS

A copy of the Section 175 Safeguarding Audit had been uploaded for Trustees' information. RL explained that each Academy also had their own detailed report in addition to the report provided today.

RL advised Trustees that she would be conducting a Safeguarding Learning Walk to ensure that the actions identified in the report were being actioned by the academies.

RL reported on the main areas for action, which included premises management documents and extremist views; RL explained that the Trust had a big focus on this but this was not in a written format so a policy would be produced.

9. SPRING TERM SEF UPDATE

PH provided an update on the SEF process, which included regular meetings with the Academy Leads, which in turn provided lines of enquiry.

MS stated that there had been a big focus on reading during recent Ofsted inspections and he would send through documentation to assist the Trust in this. MS asked for an update on reading at the Forwards Centre. RL stated that there continued to be a big focus on reading. The Trust's External Advisor had recommended that children hear different voices reading to them so RL and PH would be visiting the Forwards Centre next week to read with children.

10. POLICY RATIFICATION

There were no policies requiring approval.

11. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business.

12. DATES OF NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Friday 11 November 2022 at 11.00am

Friday 3 March 2023 at 11.00am

Friday 9 June 2023 at 11.00am

13. 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 11.55 am

SUMMATIVE ACTIONS

Minute Number Responsible Action

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Standards Committee)