

MEETING OF THE STANDARDS COMMITTEE OF BOLTON IMPACT TRUST

MEETING HELD VIRTUALLY VIA ZOOM ON

FRIDAY 11 JUNE 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 (RL) - Vice-Principal, E Stoddard (ES) –Clerk to Trust and A Woosey (AW)

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 5 March 2021 had been circulated with the agenda papers.

Matters Arising from the Minutes of the last meeting (Minute Number 4)

DMc referred to the minutes and stated that ‘affluent leader’ should read ‘associate leader’.

Action: ES (amend minutes)

Trust Standards Report (Minute Number 5)

MS asked if the review of English had been planned. RL reported that she had met with T Purcell who felt that a review was not needed as the issue related more to how English was measured and how data was presented so there would be an increased focus on this moving forward. DMc stated that the Trust may need to focus on specific areas such as vocabulary and reading as pupils needed to secure basic reading skills before they could access the curriculum. RL stated that the baseline assessment was now far more diagnostic so teachers could see which specific areas of reading pupils were struggling with. PH stated that speech and language was an increased issue for pupils and consideration needed to be given as to what success looked like for each individual child. DMc concurred that intent needed to be a personalised offer. RL added that individual targets needed to be blended through a rich topic-based curriculum. RL stated that oracy and the measurement of this was another crucial factor and was as

important as reading. Youth Challenge Primary were currently undertaking a huge piece of work in Oracy and other academies were now also starting this piece of work.

RL reported that she would provide data on reading levels for each Academy at the next meeting.

Action: RL (provide data on reading levels for each Academy at next meeting)

5. TRUST STANDARDS REPORT INCLUDING PUPIL OUTCOMES

The spring term 2021 Standards report had been uploaded to the Gateway.

The Chair stated that it was currently difficult to read too much into the data presented due to the impact that the pandemic and school closures had had on education. RL stated that each academy had had different challenges and because of this the Academy Lead reports were very different. A strong remote offer had been in place throughout the pandemic; however, some children had still struggled. Those in school had made more progress than those who had not attended. Individual pupils had been identified and brought into school if needed during the school closure.

MS referred to the Lever Park data and commented that over 50% of pupils in English had not yet met their target. RL stated that this was not an accurate picture, there had been an improvement from the autumn term, but this was not reflected in the data.

Trustees were advised that Lever Park and Youth Challenge were currently presenting issues regarding attendance, but this had improved towards the end of the spring term. The LA Early Intervention Team had conducted an unannounced visit and had commented on the robust attendance systems in place within the academies.

MS commented on the 'raw' data, which was included in the report. PH stated that Lever Park had a significant challenge in getting some pupils through the door. Re-engaging pupils, rigorous follow up processes and the setting of achievable targets had been the focus since reopening. Following a recent review of attendance data, Academy Leads would be encouraged to report attendance data on a weekly basis. PH stated that attendance had been discussed regularly with the SIPs and a review of attendance across the Trust would be undertaken, considering advice from the SIPs and looking at how attendance was reported by each Academy. DMC recommended that the Standards Committee look at the actions put in place and the impact of the recovery plan in the autumn term.

RL advised that exclusions at Youth Challenge and Lever Park had increased so this had impacted on attendance. MS asked why exclusions had increased, was this due to Covid or where other factors involved. RL explained that over the past few weeks there had been a significant number of new referrals; every new arrival caused a lot of disruption and this in turn impacted on behaviour and attendance. The pandemic had also created more exclusions as some pupils struggled to settle back into school. Youth Challenge Secondary had been focusing on targeting specific areas of behaviour i.e., smoking / uniform. This tended to increase the number of exclusions in the immediate aftermath, but it was expected that compliance would increase in the long term. RL stated that the provision provided by the Trust was predominately KS4 provision and this reflected in the attendance figures as younger children in KS3

tended to have better attendance. RL asked MS and DMc if attendance tended to dip in KS4 in mainstream schools also. DMc stated that attendance tended to decline as pupils got older and moved up the school.

MS commented that Year 10 exclusions were high at Youth Challenge and asked if there was a specific reason for this. RL explained that the current Year 10 cohort had a very diverse range of children, the cohort was very challenging with gang culture currently a concern. The pandemic, alongside the number of pupils arriving so quickly at one time, had further fuelled the issues. It was noted that some exclusions had been due to behaviour outside of school. Trustees were informed that the small numbers of pupils within the settings had a huge impact on the exclusion data; however, Academy Leads and members of the SLT knew the pupils well and were alert to the issues, with strategies quickly being put in place.

MS asked what the response had been to the Ofsted report and if the Trust was secure in this area. RL reported that PSHE was embedded in the curriculum and these issues were dealt with on a regular basis. The report would be scrutinised in more detail as part of the work of the Safeguarding Hub.

6. QUALITY OF ASSESSMENT, CURRICULUM, TEACHING & LEARNING

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

RL reported that the pandemic had meant that it had been difficult to quality assure. There was a focus on English at Lever Park and Youth Challenge. The main issue was the numbers of children and mobility as the make-up of cohort at Youth Challenge was constantly changing. There would be a focus on nurture, especially in KS3 and AW would be working with Academy Leads in her new position as Director of Standards from September.

DMc queried whether intent needed to be reviewed in light of Covid and asked if the Trust was ready to shift intent quickly. RL replied that she felt intent across the Trust was just right as a recovery curriculum had always been provided. DMc asked regarding the impact of the recent restructure on implementation. PH advised that the Trust now had a strong pool of casual staff who were of high calibre and had the skills and expertise that were currently needed, particularly in KS3, so the impact on implementation was minimal. Lever Park had a successful Nurture Team and were now working with other academies across the Trust to build on this further.

Trustees agreed that good progress was being made in teaching and learning but recommended that there be a focus on intent in KS3 at Youth Challenge due to the complex cohort.

7. DIRECTOR OF STANDARDS APPOINTMENT

PH reported that a Director of Standards Appointment had been advertised and A Woosey had been successful. RL's role was changing, and it was felt that the post was needed at this time to ensure there were non-negotiable standards across the whole Trust. Trustees congratulated AW on her appointment.

8. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Any Other Urgent Business.

9. DATES OF NEXT STANDARDS COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PH reported that he would email the dates for 2021/22 to Trustees and these would also be included on the Trust meeting agenda.

Action: PH (email Trust meeting calendar)

10. CONFIDENTIALITY

Agreed: That no 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
4	ES	Amend minutes
4	RL	Provide data on reading levels for each Academy at next meeting
9	PH	Email Trust and committee meeting dates

Signed as a correct record: _____

Date: _____

(Chair of Standards Committee)