![OL Oldham Learning logo]

Minutes

Friday 11th February 2022
Via Microsoft Teams at 1:30pm

Present:

James Kempton (JK)	Director and Chair	Richard Lynch (RL)	Director
Jane Acklam	Director and Vice Chair	Thomas Jacob (TJ)	DfE
Helen Ayra (HA)	Director	Anne Redmond (AR)	Director
Mary Garvey (MG)	Director	Helen Rowland (HR)	Director
Rob Higgins (RH)	Director	Nicola Underdown (NU)	Director DfE
Gerard Jones (GJ)	Director	Ian Walsh (IW)	Director
Tony Shepherd (TS)	Oldham Council	Jackie Deffley (JD)	DfE
Martyn King (MK)	DfE	Katie Pritchard (KT)	DfE
Sally Robson (SR)	Programme Director Oldham Council	Gillian Kay (GK)	Director
Jo Kelly	DfE	John Sibbald	Guest Speaker

Absent:

Vicky Beer (VB)	Regional Schools Commissioner	Sara Zagorski (SZ)	DfE
Cllr Shaid Mushtaq (SM)			

1. Welcome and apologies

JK welcomed Board members to the meeting. JK reflected three months have passed since the previous Chief Executive resigned. He noted that the Opportunity Area Board proposed a joint Board meeting to discuss how Oldham Learning might develop.

Action: NU to schedule this meeting

2. Declaration of interests, minutes & matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed.

RH declared a conflict of interest in the interest in the item on strategic partnerships. It was agreed he would stay within the meeting.

Action OL015: Peer Review Update HR noted that EDT has been contacted regarding cost reductions. The proposal is for the Primaries to merge their groups so there will be a saving of £7875. Confirmation of secondary participation is not finalised.
Action: HR and SR to pick up whether there would be any further savings

Action OL019: Strategic partnership proposal from Cranmer Education Trust. HA updated that following a meeting with the Chief Executive and Finance Director at Cranmer, Cranmer withdrew their proposal to become a strategic partner in the current academic year. They would welcome a conversation about their engagement with the Board and wish to contribute to the future of Oldham Learning.
Action: HA and RH to bring proposals to the Board for engagement with the Teaching School Hub, Research School et al, following the publication of the Schools White Paper.

3. Finance/contractual update

The Board discussed allocated funds and noted that the questions about primary networks are yet to be resolved.

The Board discussed the issue of a subscription model from September 2022 onwards. The Board agreed not to pursue a subscription model for schools for the academic year 2022-23. IW noted that the agreed slot at the Leaders Conference would be a good opportunity to share messages with the education sector.
Action: JK to work with Board members to agree messages for all attendees at the Leaders Conference.

RH requested additional reporting on OL programmes to date.
Action: SR to develop Board report.

Board members discussed the proposals to set up sub-committees of the Board. Board members agreed that JA should represent Oldham Learning, and TS should represent the Local Authority.
Action: JA and TS to agree Quality of Education remit and membership.

4. Education recovery strategy: update

TS shared that the key concerns are Key Stage 4 and A Level outcomes. Other outcomes for the borough are in line with expectations and national averages. The education recovery plan focuses on attendance/inclusion, early years, mental health and quality of education. A number of these areas have been developed, including an attendance strategy, and priorities in mental health and early years. Paper 4 demonstrates work underway to further articulate the priorities, and targets for years 1-3.

TS commented that the Quality of Education sub-committee will be pivotal in addressing that recovery priority. Other priorities are being addressed at LA level and with the CCG or other partners.

5. Vulnerable schools, recent Ofsted visits

TS introduced the report, noting that primary performance has declined in the last five years, while secondary performance remains below average. The decline in primary performance does not reflect the situation pre-pandemic, where schools which had received OA support were demonstrating improvement. Twelve primary schools are receiving support through the vulnerable school support fund (£30-40k) in Oldham Learning. Secondary outcomes remain concerning, and two secondaries have recently received RI judgements.

6. Digital Community of Practice: presentation by John Sibbald.

John presented on the digital community of practice which has developed, and which is moving towards being self-sustaining. Board members welcomed the overview and identified possibilities which may support the future development of existing subject networks. JA requested a list of schools participating in the community of practice
Action: John agreed to share via SR the schools who have engaged.
Action: John to open the invitation to Board members interested in attending the session on March 1st

7. Quality of education: report on consultation with secondaries

JA provided a verbal update on the consultation with secondaries. There has been strong engagement across the schools. There is variation in the approach to self-evaluation, with particularly robust approaches in bigger trusts; smaller trusts may be doing less but most are still engaging with an external SIP.
There has been slower progress in the two amalgamated schools, Oasis Oldham and Waterhead. JA reported that most schools do not need further CPD, as most are receiving support from the Teaching School Hub etc. Curriculum support and subject networks remain valued. JA recommended that secondary heads be supported to take ownership of the subject networks, to ensure future sustainability.

8. Operational business: Specification for 2022-23 programme, operating model, communications proposal

NU provided the papers for Board consideration. JK noted that action is underway to publish minutes of previous meetings on the website.

IW confirmed OL has a slot at the conference which will be 45 – 60 mins, content yet to be agreed. HA has volunteered to attend.

NU requested that Board members provide dates of forthcoming meetings at which content or briefing on Oldham Learning would be helpful.
Action: All Board members to share forthcoming dates with NU.

The Board discussed paper 7. Board members agreed to consider the proposal over half term and share any comments prior to commissioning.
Action: Board to share any comments by March 1st.

9. AOB and Close

JK thanked Board members for their time. Dates of forthcoming meetings will be canvassed shortly.