

Minutes

Friday 18th March 2022

Via Microsoft Teams at 9.30am

Present:			
James Kempton (JK)	Director and Chair	Richard Lynch (RL)	Director
Jane Acklam (JA)	Director and Vice Chair	Helen Rowland (HR)	Director
Helen Arya (HA)	Director	Nicola Underdown (NU)	Director DfE
Mary Garvey (MG)	Director	Sara Zagorski (SZ, deputising for Vicky Beer)	DfE
Rob Higgins (RH)	Director		
Gerard Jones (GJ)	Director		
Gillian Kay (GK)	Director		
Cllr Shaid Mushtaq (SM)	Director		
In attendance:			
Helen Hampson (HH)	Oldham Learning	Sally Robson (SR)	OA Programme Director
Jackie Deffley (JD)	DfE	Shajja Begum (SB)	OL Admin support

1. Welcome and apologies

JK welcomed Board members to the meeting. Apologies were received from Vicky Beer, Anne Redmond and Ian Walsh. Sara Zagorski deputised for Vicky Beer. Sara Zagorski and Jane Acklam had notified the Chair that they would be joining the meeting late.

2. Declaration of interests, minutes & matters arising

MG highlighted the previous minutes showed that she had attended the meeting, when in fact she was absent. Minutes to be amended.

Action: NU to amend minutes.

RH declared a conflict of interest where any item discussed the Teaching School Hub.

3. Local schools update

RL gave an overview of absence rates across schools. Whilst integrity of data is impacted by completion rates for the tracker, it is clear that Oldham is faring worse in relation to its statistical neighbours in terms of attendance for children with a social worker. GJ highlighted work undertaken to understand the root cause, with high levels of mental health issues and anxiety affecting attendance levels. All families with a child with a social worker will be receiving a call promoting attendance.

The BeeWell survey results are imminent which will give both the LA and individual schools interesting data, and GJ encouraged all schools to understand their results. HA asked if attendance is affected by mobility issues where a child has moved out of the area and does not have a place in a local school. RL said he will take this away and look into it.

Action: RL to explore the potential for attendance rates to be affected as described by HA.

4. Constitutional Group: update

HA presented slides - enclosed here for reference



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g%20constitution%21

RL noted that the constitution needs to make explicit reference to the LA and its roles/responsibilities to all schools. JK noted that the slides addressed the sector members only at this stage but it was intended that the LA would be represented, though there is more thinking to be done on the sector/LA interface, with the forthcoming Schools White Paper potentially giving more clarity on this. JK added the working group believed that OL plays a role in ensuring the voice of the education sector in Oldham is heard by the LA and DfE, and that therefore it is important that OL is sector-led, but that membership beyond schools (eg the independent chair) brings benefits.

HA stated that OL should not be another layer of schools' accountability, and OL should offer challenge and support. RH noted that we need to focus on ensuring schools have a voice.

MG suggested that there is a disconnect between District groups and OL, and suggested that this could be changed by inviting a representative from each District to join the Board. All agreed this was an excellent suggestion and would improve connectivity between schools and OL. Board members also agreed that the Teaching School Hub should be invited to join the Board.

NU highlighted the support that the OA team has given to OL and that this is coming to an end. Moving forward, DfE will link into OL differently via RSC and new Regions group. Consideration must be given to how OL looks after itself once this resource has gone.

Action: Board members to consider how to resource e.g. meeting secretariat.

HA commented that next steps for the constitutional group are to decide on the strategy going forward and email members on the progress.

Action: HA/RH/JK/SR to meet as the constitutional group to coordinate invitations from September 2022 and provide an email update to Board members.

5. School Improvement Tracker

Discussion was had regarding purpose of the tool, how the information was used and cost effectiveness.

HH clarified that it was a self-evaluation tool, not a data collection tool. RH highlighted problems with self-evaluation tools, issues with accuracy and danger of using this to incorrectly identify wrong areas to work on.

Board members agreed that it is for the Quality of Education sub-committee to decide whether the tool should be recommissioned. The Board agreed that schools who have completed the tool this year should be made aware that there is no guarantee it will be recommissioned from the Autumn, and so be encouraged to get use from the tool before that date.

Action: a decision on the future of the School Improvement Tracker to be made by the Quality of Education sub-committee (chaired by JA).

The Board agreed that a proposal on the future of the SIP process should be considered by the Board at the next meeting.

Action: RL to propose a model for SIP process in 2022-23 at the next meeting.

6. Quality of Education sub-committee: Update

JA provided a verbal update covering discussions on the remit and operation of the group. The group will consist of 5 members – JA (Chair), the chairs of the secondary and Primary Heads groups, HA, and Tony Shepherd. Should the group need to consider a special school, an appropriate representative will be brought in.

The group will focus on those schools identified as vulnerable by the LA. They will hold termly meetings where they will consider intelligence from a variety of sources to consider what package of support is needed

for each school to move out of its position of vulnerability. The first meeting will be held after Easter and will run for 12 months.

NU recommended that after its first meeting the group consider what data is needed to inform decisions, and the likely support capacity required to support the sub-committee.

Action: Quality of Education sub-committee to consider data/information needs, and support/secretariat requirements.

7. Project reporting Update

SR gave members an overview of the papers shared with the agenda. All members agreed the value of the school engagement tracker as it demonstrated what programmes the schools value. MG and NU proposed cross-checking this tracker against the vulnerable schools list.

MG asked if anyone was analysing the impact, such as those schools accessing the Ruth Miskin training: has this translated into improved outcomes? Board members noted that further analysis of impact would be welcomed; however, at present no capacity is available to undertake that analysis.

NU noted that she has commissioned the Research School to review the secondary networks and consider how these can continue and be self-sustaining, post-OA funding.

Action: SR will now take forward the proposed reporting recommendations

8. Oldham Pledge

Discussion centered around the fact that the central team supporting the delivery of the pledge cannot be funded going forward either the OA or LA, and that no evidence of impact has been generated to date, though there was a positive DfE-commissioned evaluation of the impact OA funded ELS project delivered through the Oldham Pledge.

HA spoke supportively of the Pledge's work in providing equality of opportunity for disadvantaged pupils. SR asked if consideration had been given to a different way of delivering and funding the Pledge. HH asked if someone could find out if schools would be willing to fund the Pledge themselves and if OL could then facilitate this.

Action: Board members representing schools to consult colleagues on their appetite to fund Oldham Pledge directly.

9. Oldham Leaders Conference

There will be a slot at the conference which will introduce the OL Board, with some of the members presenting a session about OL. RH suggested this covers the journey that OL has been on, and also table work by the attendees to capture what they would like from OL. JK agreed to lead the session, with input from MG.

Action: JK and MG to present.

It was agreed that all Board members attending the conference would be provided with minutes of this Board meeting, and some supportive briefing lines.

RL noted that there needs to be distinction between the LA session and the OL one. SR confirmed that this has been agreed with conference organisers.

9. AOB and Close

JK thanked Board members for their time and that he looked forward to meeting people in person at the Oldham Leaders conference. Future meeting dates for the Board are being canvassed.