

Meeting Minutes
Education Committee
Wednesday 27 January 2021, 4.30pm
Virtual Meeting via Microsoft Teams

Meeting Summary Sheet

Item Ref	Meeting Summary Information
	List of Actions from the Meeting
6.	JL to send MF a revised version of the presentation on the Trust’s Remote Learning Provision for circulation.
8.	MF to correspond with BJ and LEM regarding the Disadvantaged Strategy.
9.	JL to send a list of the external Reviews scheduled for the remainder of the Academic Year to MF JL to report the findings of the Trust-wide Survey at the next meeting. MF to add to Agenda.
10.	MF to add Future Plan for the Bridge to the Agenda for the next meeting.
11.	CT to provide an update on Safeguarding data and MASH SOP at the next meeting. MF to add to the Agenda.
13.	Charlotte Davies to attend the next meeting to give an update on the Complaints Process.
	List of Decisions taken under Scheme of Delegation
14.	The proposed changes to the School Admissions Policies for 2022-23 were agreed.

Meeting Minutes Education Committee

Wednesday 27 January 2021, 4.30pm, Virtual Meeting

In attendance:

David Hall – Chair (DH)	Moira Marder (MM)
Andy Mulcock (AM)	Jon Lunn (JL)
Sarah O’Meara (SOM)	Tim Rutherford (TR)
Saxon Spence (SS)	Crispin Taylor (CT)
Melody Floyde – Clerk (MF)	

Bill Jerman for Item 8 Only.

Meeting Minutes

Item Ref	Business	Action
1.	<p>Welcome and Attendance</p> <p>This meeting was held virtually using Microsoft Teams. No apologies were received.</p> <p>DH welcomed everyone to the meeting and extended thanks to all colleagues and Trustees for keeping things going in the current difficult times. The tremendous hard work was formally recognised.</p>	
2.	<p>Declarations of Interest – No new declarations of interest were made.</p>	
3.	<p>Minutes of Previous Meeting</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 16.09.20 were approved as a full and accurate record.</p> <p>The actions from the previous meeting were reviewed, all had been completed or were in progress.</p>	
4.	<p>Matters Arising</p> <p>There were no additional Matters Arising.</p>	
For Monitoring		
5.	<p>Minutes from LGB Meetings</p> <p>The Minutes of the recent LGB meetings were noted. The following points were queried:</p> <p>Referring to an action in the Exwick Heights minutes from 26.11.20, DH queried if it was appropriate to upload part of the School Development Plan to the school website and requested Executive guidance. TR confirmed that this should be an internal working document and was not within the statutory guidelines of information to be published on school websites.</p> <p>SS noted the action in the Isca minutes from 18.11.20 relating to dealing with racist incidents. It was felt that this was anticipatory rather than having been triggered by any specific incident.</p>	

<p>6.</p>	<p>Remote Learning Update</p> <p>JL presented an update on the Trust’s Remote Learning provision. He confirmed that data had been submitted to the DfE regarding the number of children on site in schools. The national average overall was 5% of children on site, however Trust schools were generally above average. The national average for primary schools was 21% and Trust schools were above this with 28% average. The national average for secondary schools was 5% and for the Trust the average was 8%.</p> <p>It was agreed that the data would be shared once audited.</p> <p>Action: JL to send MF a revised version for circulation</p> <p>A full record of the discussion is in Part B of the Minutes.</p>	<p>JL/MF</p>
<p>7.</p>	<p>Pupil Engagement</p> <p>See above</p>	
<p>8.</p>	<p>Trust Disadvantaged Strategy (First Draft)</p> <p>Bill Jerman (BJ) joined the meeting for this item.</p> <p>SS noted the importance of the Disadvantaged Strategy and that she was impressed by the content. She noted concern that there was not an explicit awareness of the need to interact with other agencies around concerns for children, although this would come under safeguarding, it would be beneficial to include this. MM agreed that this could potentially be highlighted further within the document. MM also noted that the Trust’s relationships with outside agencies had considerably improved during the covid-19 pandemic. There was now a great opportunity to ensure that the relationships remained strong and that the child was always at the centre of what was being done. JL also highlighted that Page 2 related to external and internal barriers for children.</p> <p>BJ updated on his work with the Trust over the past few months. Developing the DS strategy had been a great opportunity to share with others and raise the profile of things that were not getting talked about in the national agenda. For example, from working with various groups across the South West, quality of teaching was noted but the underpinning aspect of the importance of the ethos and vision and commitment to the school across the board by all staff and Governors was not. Understanding the barriers for students should be fully integrated. BJ also noted the importance of challenging stereotyping, nationally 27% of students have special educational needs but 70%+ do not. It was important to identify barriers to children reaching their full potential and understanding these. The importance of looking at the detail of what could be done ahead of developing a strategic overview was noted.</p> <p>DH noted that the document was very helpful and the idea of cultural change was evident. He queried if Lee Elliot-Major had been shown the document for comments. BJ confirmed that he would share the document with Lee.</p> <p>Action: BJ / MF to correspond with LEM re DS strategy.</p> <p>SS noted that most Trust students moved to Exeter College at 16 but queried what BJ felt about links with employers and other agencies. BJ noted that he felt this was critical as many</p>	<p>BF / JL</p>

	<p>disadvantaged students did not necessarily have these links or contacts. In terms of schools giving that help to make the links this would help to overcome the barriers. There was a lot of anecdotal evidence that disadvantaged students find it difficult to push beyond their comfort zones. Support for this throughout would be very beneficial.</p> <p>AM also noted the importance of engaging with the whole family. BJ agreed that engagement with families from the beginning was key.</p> <p><u>DfE Catch Up Funding for Disadvantaged Students</u></p> <p>MM updated that TR had completed a good piece of work on remodelling Period 6 within schools and that the progress made by Year 11s since September was very positive. This had shown the positive impact of the catch up funding.</p> <p>JL noted that all of the catch-up funding had been collated, although it was unclear how this would pan out over the remainder of the academic year.</p>	
9.	<p>External Evaluations including Parent Questionnaires</p> <p>JL updated that five external reviews had been undertaken to date within the Trust. JL and the lead inspectors had piloted a virtual review, using Ofsted style meetings with the schools. They had been very beneficial and allowed schools to have Ofsted style conversations to gain a good benchmark and clarity of messaging. In addition the MAP Primary review involved speaking to parents and children which worked well. There would also be on-site reviews undertaken later in the year. JL noted that the schools had welcomed the opportunity to refocus on core business.</p> <p>Action: JL to send MF a list of scheduled Reviews for the rest of the academic year.</p> <p>JL confirmed that he had developed a Trust-wide survey that was due to go out shortly before half-term. This was the first Trust-wide survey and would be a very basic style questionnaire, as Heads had noted a tendency for there to be survey fatigue. This would be a top level survey around remote learning and provision for this within the Trust.</p> <p>Action: JL to report findings of the survey at the next meeting.</p>	<p>JL</p> <p>JL/MF</p>
10.	<p>Inclusion Project – The Bridge</p> <p>MM noted the increase in the number of exclusions across the Trust in the autumn term. This was likely to be due to the reset after the long period of lockdown and disruption. The period of September to October 2020 had been very challenging and the number of PEX across Devon had increased due to children struggling with the return to normal schooling.</p> <p>TR noted that Phase 1 of the Bridge was coming to an end and Phase 2 would be evolving. Aimee Mitchell had done a wonderful job and there would be some work with the Cabot Trust looking ahead to the future.</p> <p>MM noted that there would be a further discussion about the evolution of the Bridge and future funding at the May meeting. There was currently a £50m high needs deficit in Devon so any future spends would need to be very carefully managed. A wider strategy for the whole of Devon was needed.</p>	

	<p>MM noted that the Bridge was a model of great practice and that there were now four hubs in Plymouth based on the Bridge model. SS agreed that the Bridge was at the heart of the Trust and noted the need to be proactive.</p> <p>SS queried if schools had to contribute a cost per head, which could be a disinterest for them. TR confirmed that there was a £20k contribution from each school which was match funded by DCC. The charge was not per child attending the Bridge.</p> <p>DH queried the KPIs and if the high number of referrals was a sign of success. MM noted that it was difficult, at the current time, to make a clear summary about the data however schools were confident about making referrals and there was confidence in the systems in place.</p> <p>TR noted the importance of early intervention. The key metric was that PEX significantly reduces life chances for children. MM noted the need to look at how the Wave (PRU) and The Bridge worked together to support vulnerable young people. The programme of integration needed to be improved. The Trust were contributing to both the Bridge and the wider system, and this has radically improved.</p> <p>Action: MF to add Future Plan for the Bridge to the Agenda for the next meeting.</p>	MF
11.	<p>Safeguarding (STANDING ITEM)</p> <p>TR confirmed that an audit of the SCR had been undertaken by HR. Aimee Mitchell, TR and CT had been meeting regularly throughout the year to look at Safeguarding.</p> <p>CT noted that initial feedback had been received from schools who had been audited around safeguarding. A consistent level of activity was shown across the schools.</p> <p>There would be a deep dive into the schools' referral to MASH processes. There was no evidence to suggest that schools were not escalating MASH rejections, however there needed to be a benchmarked single operating procedure in place. CT highlighted the need for consistency and that the bar should be raised. SOM queried if LGBs would be informed of the audit and whether schools would be informed of where they come within this.</p> <p>TR noted that there were difficulties with the Local Authority due to them being rated inadequate and having staff changes etc. TR also noted that out of 55 referrals made by the Trust 37 had been rejected.</p> <p>CT will provide a further update on the data and SOP at the next meeting. TR will also provide a work in progress review on safeguarding and the further SCR audit.</p> <p>Action: MF to add Update on Safeguarding Data and MASH SOP as an item for CT to the Agenda for the next meeting.</p>	MF
12.	<p>Update on Pupil Assessment Developments</p> <p>JL confirmed that all Primary statutory assessments, including EYFS, had been cancelled for 2021. Secondary and Post 16 assessments remained under consultation.</p> <p>MM noted that there were likely to be difficult conversations ahead, and that there was a keenness to avoid the inflation of grades. Grades were likely to be a combination of</p>	

	<p>school tests, and teacher grading. It was likely that there would be external challenge to any significantly inflated grades and the need for external moderation was evident. There was concern that results could become devalued with employers and Post 16 providers. However, what this would look like was unclear and the consultation was ongoing.</p>	
<p>13.</p>	<p>Complaints Monitoring</p> <p>MM confirmed that the function of the Education Committee was to pick up on trends and to identify where help was needed to support schools. MM noted that the majority of complaints had been resolved at Stage 1 in the period until December 2020.</p> <p>MM noted the recent Stage 2 complaint that had identified problems with the process. The process was now being reviewed to make it clearer and more accessible. It was important to ensure that the process was not discriminatory. Governors and Trustees would also be receiving training on the complaints process. SOM noted that the complaints process needed further discussion by the full Board.</p> <p>The intention was for there to be a dashboard to show complaints alongside other data. MM will report back to the meeting with an update. Action: Charlotte Davies to be invited to the next meeting to give an update on the Trust Complaints Process.</p>	<p>MF</p>
<p>14.</p>	<p>Admissions Policy 2022-23 – Review of Consultation</p> <p>TR updated that the School Admissions policies had been drafted by DCC and had been consulted on. Some recommendations for changes had been made.</p> <p>There was a minor amendment relating to children who had been in care outside of England – this was in line with national guidelines. Another minor amendment was to support children and families with extra support. The proposal was that the penultimate criteria should be that if there was a family with exceptional needs then these could be highlighted in the application process.</p> <p>It was suggested that the criteria for children attending a Trust primary school should be moved to Criteria 8 of the secondary admissions policy, as it was currently disadvantaging other children within the catchment areas. TR noted that places usually filled up from earlier criteria so this would have little impact. Vulnerable students could also be supported via the special consideration policy.</p> <p>SS noted concern as to how the proposals would work practically for Whipton Barton children. TR confirmed the wish to support children all the way through and noted that St Peters had increased their catchment area. TR confirmed the need to work closely with families and to support with appeals where needed.</p> <p>TR confirmed that the PAN of 60 at CEC was additional to those children who would be moving up from the Primary School so the potential PAN was actually 60 + 60.</p> <p>The admissions policies would now go to schools to be discussed by LGBs ahead of publication on the school websites.</p> <p>The proposed changes were agreed.</p>	

<p>15.</p>	<p>Trust Mental Health Strategy</p> <p>CT gave an update on the current situation locally and nationally. He noted the difficult situation and levels of acuity of young people coming to the attention of CAMHS. There had been a large increase across the country of children presenting with, for example, eating disorders. NHS England were predicting a 110% increase in the uptake of mental health support for children in the next five years. This was based on similar events around the world that had had impacts on children’s education and which could have a long term impact. The impacts may not be seen in expected ways and the need to be open in the way that mental health was thought about was evident. CT noted that children who had been identified as potentially at risk had done very well, particularly children on the autism spectrum. It was a very mixed picture. The Trust needs to consider how to respond to this and to focus on making the mental health agenda commonplace within schools.</p> <p>CT noted that mental health support teams were now in the second phase and working across Devon. There had also been money put into the wellbeing education return scheme and staff had been recruited to offer lower level support to children.</p> <p>DH thanked CT for his input, and noted the need to monitor the situation. DH queried if there was anything to be requested in the period prior to the next meeting that could be focussed on. CT noted that the notion of engagement was very important, and opportunities for engaging children in real time contact and extra-curricular activities was sensible.</p> <p>SS queried if the Executive should be looking at whether additional capacity was needed within the Trust. She also queried the adverse effects of social media on children. MM noted that there was a lot of work being done on how to use the inclusion budget and looking at creative ways to get more out of the money. It was important that there was a long term sustainable plan in place. Time needed to be taken to build sustainability for the future, and MM confirmed that there was ongoing work at a Trust level around this.</p> <p>SOM noted concern with her own children’s mental health and how this was likely to be replicated across children more widely. Schools needed to be prepared for the underlying decrease in good mental health. CT noted that research showed that the presence of hope was a key component in maintaining good mental health and that currently the road was uncertain and challenging. This remains an incredibly challenging time.</p> <p>AM noted his awareness of the collapse of youth services and provisions, however there was hope in the future for these activities to return to run alongside schools.</p>	
<p>16.</p>	<p>Strategic Risk Register</p> <p>The Risk Register was reviewed and all were in agreement with the proposed changes.</p>	
<p>Any Other Business and Next Meeting Date</p>		
	<p>None was raised.</p>	

	DH extended thanks to all and welcomed the positive news and current initiatives within the Trust.	
	The Meeting Closed at 18:30	
	Date of next meeting: Wednesday 5 May 2021, 4.30pm – Venue TBC	

Signed by the Chair of the Committee:



Date: 05.05.21