

16 July 2019 at 8.00am

Trustees Present

Claire Lawton (CL Chair), Jon Culpin (JC CEO), David Lamkin (DL), Sue Speller (SS), Ken Murphy (KM) and John Morgan (JM)

Others Present

Prue Rayner (PR Executive Primary HT), Duncan Cooper (DC DCEO), Charity Main (CM Finance Director) and Kerrie Jones (KJ Clerk)

	ITEM	ACTION
1.	Acceptance of Apologies for Absence and Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items	
	Apologies were accepted from Richard Cowling (RC)	
2.	Agree minutes of last meeting and matters arising not on this agenda	
	The minutes of the following Trust Board meetings were agreed as accurate records: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2 April 2019 - 2 April 2019 (confidential) - 7 June 2019 (extraordinary meeting, confidential) There were no matters arising.	
3	Building Trusts: discussion	
	<p>The Ambition School Leadership report 'Building Trusts: MAT Leadership and Coherence of vision, strategy and operations' had been circulated.</p> <p>The research examined how a MAT's vision translates into its school improvement strategy and operating model, how these are affected by growth and what differentiates high and low performers.</p> <p>The key findings included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Explicitly citing standards and outcomes is associated with higher trust performance - Improvement strategies can completely preserve school autonomy or can align schools by 'central direction' or 'collaborative convergence' - Operating models will face 'break points' (related to scaling, geography and performance) <p>The study concluded that the highest performing MATs are differentiated by having a coherent approach which aligns their vision and mission, their school improvement strategy and their operating model. These MATs have focused on aligning their schools around a common model of school improvement. They are also likely to have developed a common approach around curriculum, assessment, and teacher training and development.</p>	

	<p>TLT were able to report to the Board that Anglian learning is on track with a collaborative convergent approach and a sound school improvement strategy which is aligned with AL's vision and aims. The Trust is growing capacity appropriately and considering the potential 'break points' and what additional provision will be needed. The Trust must be able to respond to changes whilst retaining its core values and strands of accountability.</p> <p>It is important to understand our schools well in order to provide the necessary support and challenge and also to consider how AL's investment in the schools harmonises with their autonomy.</p> <p>Trustees discussed the points raised and how Anglian Learning is developing in these areas. It will be helpful for AL to set out clearly what value it will add to those schools looking to join a MAT.</p>	
4.	Growth Development (JC)	
	This item is the subject of a confidential minute.	
5.	Management Accounts P9 (CM)	
	<p>The Period 9 accounts had been circulated and provided an update on the Period 8 accounts presented to the F&A Committee. Key points:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Netherhall shows a significantly reduced deficit compared with that budgeted • The forecast central trust deficit has been reduced from P8 • The forecast use of reserves is £10k for the year compared with a budgeted figure of £183k. • Whilst Stapleford has managed to set a balanced budget for next year, pressures on SEND provision continue. • Tools for 2019/20 will be introduced to help schools monitor their budgets. 	
6.	Approve Academy Budgets (CM)	
	<p>CM had circulated a detailed budget report pulling together all the local budgets and Trust central operations, and including projections for the following 4 years. This had been presented to the F&A Committee at their meeting on 2 July. The minutes of that meeting record the key points.</p> <p>The projections do not include potential growth schools.</p> <p>The Trust Board approved the school and central budgets and the financial plans which are to be submitted to the ESFA</p> <p>The Board thanked CM for all her work on this.</p>	
7.	CEO Report	
	<p>The report provides an overview of the main activities undertaken by the Trust's Executive Leadership Team in the summer term and developments during the year.</p> <p>Key points include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved operating procedures and communication • Great improvements in financial systems thanks to CM. • Development of a successful school improvement model led by DC and PR. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership and strategy development opportunities – DC circulated a summary sheet explaining the new cross-trust groups for SEND and Safeguarding, and the training available for leaders via Anglian Gateway <p>School Improvement</p> <p>The updated QASI evaluations were circulated at the meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Primary (PR) Outcomes overall are positive. Bottisham Primary has seen significant improvements in most areas with writing being an area for focus. Attendance is also being addressed. Leadership capacity is being increased across all the Primary schools. Outcomes at Fen Ditton have exceeded expectation: this is a school with a high level of deprivation which challenges the capacity of the school. There are also some pupils with particularly challenging behaviour which significantly impacts staff and pupils. AL has offered additional support and expertise. Secondary (DC) DC highlighted areas where the Trust is offering support to schools. For example at Bassingbourn VC in English and development of middle leadership. Bottisham VC's behaviour review has had a huge impact resulting in a significant reduction in exclusions. <p>The Whistleblowing and Complaints Report had also been circulated.</p>	
8.	Committee Reports:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Education The minutes had been circulated; there were no questions. F&A Items discussed included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> H&S policy which will be returned to the autumn meeting Internal audit – agreed 2 visits/year, focus of next audit is payroll Agreed revised procurement process for SCA Agreed Reserves policy. Risk Register which has been simplified – thanks to JC/JM Separate audit committee needed from September R&G - review of skills audit All Trustees and those who regularly attend Board meetings completed the skills audit. It demonstrates the good range of skills the Board currently has but highlights gaps in estates & procurement and Primary & Post 16 education. In general the Board is functioning very well and CL thanked everyone for their contributions this year. 	
9.	Appointment of:	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Trustee Following a recent recruitment process two candidates were interviewed and one, June Cannie, was recommended by the selection panel for appointment. The Board resolved to circulate a written resolution to Members to appoint June Cannie as a Trustee. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trust Appointed governor Bottisham Primary The appointment of Liz King as a Trust Appointed governor at Bottisham Primary was approved. 	
10.	Election of Chair and Vice Chair of Trustees	
	<p>Two nominations had been received for the current office holders to remain in post for a further year: Claire Lawton - Chair; Sue Speller - Vice Chair</p> <p>Both appointments were approved by secret ballot.</p>	
11.	Approval of Governance Planner: meeting dates for 2019/20	
	The planner and meeting dates were agreed.	
12.	AOB	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CM requested that Anglian Learning be registered for Gift Aid. Trustees approved an application to be made. A fit and proper persons process is required by HMRC: CM will oversee this with 2 Trustees (JC and KM) • CL brought to the Board's attention an email from a Netherhall governor regarding their recent SENCO appointment and whether this meets the SEND Code of Practice. Having discussed this with TLT the Chair of Trustees has agreed that the arrangements are satisfactory 	