

# Anglian Learning Annual General Meeting Minutes



26 January 2023

## Members Present

Martyn Postle (MP Chair), Christopher Walkinshaw (CW), Claire Lawton (CL) and Gareth Davies (GD)

## Trustees Present

Jon Culpin (JC CEO)

## Others Present

Charity Main (CM Finance Director) and Kerrie Jones (KJ Head of Governance Support, Compliance and Risk)

	ITEM
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome and Apologies for Absence</b>
	Apologies were accepted from Albena Madej (AM). Members were in agreement that MP chair the meeting.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest with regard to agenda items</b>
	CW declared an interest with regards the new Marleigh School in relation to his position at Marshalls.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Approve the minutes of the of AGM 27 Jan 2022</b>
	Members confirmed that they had all received and noted the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 27 January 2022. The minutes were agreed as a true record.
<b>4.</b>	<b>Receive Annual Accounts &amp; Auditors Report for period ending 31 August 2022</b>
	The annual accounts and auditors report had been circulated. Members confirmed they had received and read these documents. The accounts had been scrutinised by the Audit and Risk Assurance committee on 6 Dec 2022, approved by the Trust Board on 12 Dec 2022 and submitted to the ESFA. The audit identified only two low priority actions.  Revenue reserves had fallen to £4.3m during the year; a planned reduction of £800k was attributable to use of the Covid grant to support a range of projects. The reserves are comprised of £2.1m restricted and £2.2m unrestricted funds. Points to note were the transfer of Marleigh Primary into the Trust which is reflected in the accounts as a gift, and that there was a significant reduction in the pension liability.  Members were notified that the current three year audit contract is coming to an end. The Trust is happy with the current service but is required by the Academy Trust Handbook to retender. It was confirmed there is no limit on how many years the same auditor can be used but they must rotate audit partners.  Members questioned whether the general demographic blip is affecting Anglian Learning and impacting GAG funding. It was confirmed that whilst there has been a drop in pupil numbers, mostly due to a reduced birth rate, the impact is variable and a mid-term risk. The current financial transformation strategy will allow redistribution of funding which will help to smooth such issues and allow greater flexibility.  The COO confirmed that carbon analysis is mandatory but has been very useful for informing our decarbonisation strategy. For the first year the focus is on behavioural change, such as encouraging staff and pupils to turn lights and devices off, with a very

	<p>challenging 10% reduction target. Eco groups have been set up in schools supported by Energy Sparks, the online energy analysis tool and energy education programme. Additionally the Trust is investing in solar PV across all sites.</p> <p>Members accepted the Annual Report and Accounts as approved by the Trust Board.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Report from Chair of Trust Board</b>
	<p>The Chair of Trustees had circulated her report in which she described development and progress of Anglian Learning during the last year. On behalf of the Trust Board she thanked the Leadership Team for their hard work during another challenging year and acknowledged the efforts of all staff across the Trust. The new Director of People has just joined the Trust and is a positive step forward for our People and Culture strategy. Two new Headteachers have also started recently.</p> <p>The Trust Board is working effectively and has appointed two new Trustees this academic year. The governance structure overall is functioning well, supported by the Head of Governance. There are some issues with recruitment and engagement at a local level which are problems seen nationally. There is still work to do to ensure governors understand their role and see themselves as part of a wider system.</p> <p>Members commented they have seen huge changes and positive progress. A number of points were picked up in discussion and are summarised as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication between schools continues to develop, with cross-trust strategic groups and improvement networks. The new collaboration platform, Connect, reinforces common resources and messages. Some teachers are working closely with other schools to share best practice and peer reviews are undertaken by leaders.</li> <li>• There was discussion of the development of the curriculum and work is going on within and across our schools on this.</li> <li>• Ofsted has recently inspected a number of our primary schools and inspection of some of our secondary schools is expected soon. Positive outcomes at Howard Primary endorses our hard work there.</li> <li>• Prue Rayner, Director of Primary Education, is leaving Anglian Learning. She has huge experience of Ofsted and was greatly valued during the recent inspections. She will be very much missed.</li> <li>• The rise in SEND issues is the biggest challenge the Trust faces. This is partly due to the pandemic, with a lack of socialisation of young children and pupils spending large amounts of time on devices. There is also a rise in mental health issues. SEND services nationally are overstretched and LAs have huge deficits. Anglian Learning is working with other local trusts to consider an approach.</li> <li>• There are around 40 Ukrainian refugees at Trust schools for which some funding has been received. No specific difficulties have been reported.</li> </ul>
<b>7.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	<p>Members asked about progress with the Sawston VC rebuild. The CEO confirmed that the DfE are in control of this and various issues have delayed it. There are also plans for building at Linton VC and some Section 106 funding for work at Howard Primary.</p> <p>Development of the estate is important and future plans need to include rebuilding at Icknield Primary and development at Joyce Frankland which has a difficult site.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Set Date time and venue of next meeting</b>
	<p>The date of the next AGM was set for Thursday 25 January 2024, time and venue tbc</p> <p>The Members general meeting was confirmed for Tuesday 13 June 2023 at 5pm to be held at Marleigh Primary Academy (change from the previous date of 15 Jun)</p> <p>Meeting ended at 8.30pm.</p>