



**Nexus MAT Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 25 June 2025
5.00 pm – 7.30 pm – at Nexus HQ**

Present:	Role:	Initials:
Sue Shelley	Director & Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	SS
Gillian Askew (via Teams)	Director	GA
Phil Bradley	Director	PB
Naomi Cooper	Director	NC
Mark Greenwood (via Teams)	Director	MG
Tina Havenhand	Director	TH
Victoria Morris (via Teams)	Director	VM
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Also Present:		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Corporate Affairs	JH
Renata Robins	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Karen Smith	Chief Finance Officer	CFO
Lana Stoyles	Executive Director - Business Transformation (For Item 9)	LS
Apologies:		
Colin Bradley	Director	CB
Rachel Potts	Director/Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	RP
Jacky Tattershall	Assistant CEO – Quality Assurance & Improvement	JT

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence Apologies were received for CB, RP and JT.	
1.2 To accept apologies for absence Apologies were accepted for CB, RP and JT.	
2. ITEMS FOR AOB	
Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered 2.1 CEO to provide an update on Director appointments.	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS	
3.1 Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda CEO declared that LS was only present for Item 9.	
3.2 Register of Interests Annual Review Action: Directors were requested to update their declarations of interest and other required confirmations via Governor Hub by the end of term.	Action: Directors 24/07/25
4. NEXUS MAT BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES	
4.1 To approve the minutes of the following meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trust Board Meeting held on Wednesday 21 May 2025. The minutes were approved as a true and accurate record.	
4.2 Review of Action Tracker Action Tracker was reviewed and updated as appropriate.	
4.3 Matters arising from the Minutes No matters were raised.	
5. STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE REPORT	
The CEO referred to the circulated report and provided Directors with a verbal update on several key developments that had occurred since its release:	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The CEO had been approached by another CEO of a trust in Suffolk with a view to explore a merger with a timescale of September 2027. CEO and LS had been to visit the day before and updated the meeting accordingly. • Nexus MAT has been accredited as a Professional Partner by the National Institute of Teaching. • Nexus MAT was in the final stages of formalising a contract to deliver procurement consultancy and advisory services to Minerva Trust. This partnership represents a strategically significant development, enabling the Trust to extend its procurement expertise to a neighbouring trust. • A pre-opening inspection has taken place at Hallamshire where the school did not meet the expected standards. The decision was taken to withdraw the original application and resubmit. There was a risk to the delay of the school opening and officers were working with Sheffield City Council to mitigate the situation. The CEO was hopeful that the school would be opened by autumn half-term at the latest. <p>SS drew Directors' attention to page 8 of the report, namely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff Parliament meeting, 2 July 2025 at 10am via MS Teams; • Trust Pupil Cabinet, 1 July 2025 at 10am via MS Teams. <p>There was no obligation but all Directors were welcome to dial in to either meeting. Action: Directors to contact the CEO if they wish to attend either meeting.</p> <p>Directors received and scrutinised the report.</p>	<p>Action: Directors 04/07/2025</p>
<p>6. SCHOOLS PERFORMANCE DASHBOARD</p>	
<p>Report circulated in advance together with:</p> <p>6.1 Academies Dashboard Summary Report 6.2 Academies Intervention Report</p> <p>The CEO provided an overview and reminded Directors that this item had previously been submitted to the Standards Committee, where Directors were given the opportunity to scrutinise the dashboard and accompanying reports in detail.</p> <p>TH asked if Directors were able to arrange to visit some of the schools? The CEO responded that he would be happy to facilitate this, and encouraged Directors to contact him as and when they want to visits schools.</p> <p>The reports were received by Directors.</p>	
<p>7. MAT Dashboard</p>	
<p>CEO reported that a revised review of EDI indicators highlighted a decline in leadership diversity, particularly in reflecting the communities Nexus MAT serves. While recruitment remains merit-based and free from bias, there was recognition—raised by headteachers—that more could be done to support pathways into leadership for</p>	

<p>under-represented groups. This presents an opportunity to strengthen Nexus MAT's approach and promote greater inclusivity.</p> <p>SS sought confirmation that the crossed-out sections did not apply to special schools? CEO confirmed that the strike-through was for the sections which apply to mainstream secondary only.</p> <p>GA asked if officers were tracking those demographics in Nexus MAT's local supply chains as well. Specifically, did we know of our suppliers to the schools that we've got, how many businesses would classify themselves as under-represented groups, as this would be good for Nexus MAT to understand their supply bases? LS replied that she did not and it was an area that could be worked on as part of the work Nexus MAT were doing with Go for Growth.</p> <p>Action: LS to incorporate wording that reflects the above approach in the next update of the Procurement Policy, which then would drive reporting to the Board.</p> <p>Dashboard was received.</p>	<p>Action: LS 22/09/2025</p>
<p>8. TBoD P9 BUDGET MONITORING REPORT</p>	
<p>CFO referred Directors to the previously circulated P9 monitoring reports to the end of March and confirmed Nexus MAT continued to be in a strong financial position.</p> <p>CFO invited questions.</p> <p>SS asked about the Kenwood variance in the PA Management Account Reports? CFO explained the rationale and confirmed that the Kenwood budget had improved by £2k.</p> <p>TH asked if the CFO had heard back from HMRC yet? CFO confirmed that the Trust had, and with additional questions and once all this was rectified, HMRC would be conducting a full review of Nexus MAT's first post-VAT registration claim.</p>	
<p>9. PROPOSAL FOR MASTER VENDOR APPROACH ON TRUST-WIDE CONTRACTS</p>	
<p>CEO referred Directors to the proposal and explained the context to the Master Vendor approach.</p> <p>A detailed discussion took place by Directors around this proposal.</p> <p>The Board approved, in principle, the adoption of a Master Vendor model as the formal approach to the procurement and contract management of strategic trust-wide services, and would be added to the procurement policy.</p> <p>LS and CFO left the meeting at 6.25pm.</p>	

10. LOCAL GOVERNANCE SELF-ASSESSMENT REPORT	
Received for information.	
11. POLICY REVIEW REPORT	
<p>CEO referred Directors to the previously circulated report and confirmed that the policies had been scheduled for review or had been reviewed due to a change in context.</p> <p>Directors voted unanimously to accept the changes made to the Trust policies as outlined in Section 3 of the report.</p> <p>Action: JH to issue a policy briefing to inform the workforce on the policy updates.</p>	<p>Action: JH 26/06/25</p>
<p>11.1 Academies Policy Review Board Action Log</p> <p>Received for information.</p> <p>JH left the meeting at 6.30pm.</p>	
12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>12.1 The CEO informed Directors that he had been approached by the Chair of the Nottingham Hospital Home Education Learning Centre, who has expressed interest in joining the Nexus MAT Board of Directors upon stepping down from his current role later this year. He is a serving headteacher with relevant experience and insight.</p> <p>In addition, a second potential candidate has been identified—who could bring a different professional background and perspective. He is well respected in his field, and the CEO will approach him directly.</p> <p>There were currently two vacancies on the Board, which could potentially be filled by these individuals for an initial 12-month term. The CEO could arrange meetings with both candidates to explore their interest and suitability further.</p> <p>Directors were in agreement that this was a sensible plan to pursue and endorsed the CEO's actions.</p>	
13. REVIEW OF RISK	
<p>To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Trust Committees</p> <p>None.</p>	
14. CONFIDENTIALITY	
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>None.</p>	

15. DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS	
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Wednesday 23 July 2025	17:00-19:30	Nexus HQ
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Minutes approved.

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE