



Nexus Board of Directors
Wednesday 28th July 2021 5 - 7.30pm
via MS Teams

Attendees:		
Andrew Child	Director/Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	Chair
Gill Askew	Director	GA
Steve Booth	Director	SB
Peter Castleton	Director	PC
John Coleman	Director	JC
Naveen Judah	Director	NJ
Rachel Potts	Director/Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	RP
Sue Shelley	Director	SS
Jo Smith	Director	JS
Also Present:		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Catherine Sands	Chief Finance Officer	CFO
Apologies:		
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
<p>1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from RPa.</p> <p>GA has also informed the CEO and Chair that she will be arriving late to the meeting. NJ also arrived 10 minutes late.</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from RPa.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
<p>Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>2.1. NGA Awards – attendees</p> <p>2.2. Becton/RVCP incidents</p>	
3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST	
<p>3.1. Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>None.</p>	
4. TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd June 2021 were reviewed and agreed.</p>	
<p>4.2. Review of Action Tracker</p> <p>The outstanding actions on the tracker were reviewed and updated.</p>	
<p>4.3. Matters arising from the Minutes</p> <p>There were no matters arising.</p>	
5. ANNUAL SAFEGUARDING ASSURANCE STATEMENT	
<p>PC paid testament to the work of the Headteachers over the pandemic in ensuring pupils were kept in regular contact with. PC highlighted that he would like to meet at least twice a year with members of the LGBs to discuss safeguarding. The CEO suggested a first step could be for PC to attend the LGB Chairs Forum in the autumn. PC agreed with this.</p> <p>Discussion took place on how to connect with LGBs better for safeguarding, and all agreed that PC attending the meeting in the autumn term would be a good starter for this dialogue.</p>	

<p>SS asked what LGBs do in terms of safeguarding oversight, and the CEO reminded Directors of this. SS commended the report for including para 16, as this reflects an open and broader-thinking Trust, in terms of safeguarding matters. PC agreed with this.</p> <p><i>NJ joined the meeting at 17:16hrs</i></p> <p>Directors approved the annual safeguarding assurance report. This will now be published on the Trust website.</p>	<p>CEO 20/10/21</p>
<p>6. A&R COMMITTEE ANNUAL CONCLUSIONS REPORT</p>	
<p>SS overviewed the work of the committee and explained the evolution of the reports, systems and controls that the committee has put in place. This has been an iterative process.</p> <p>SB supported the statement made by SS and explained that the improvement over the past 3 years was noticeable in the reports submitted. SB praised CS and her team for their hard work on this.</p> <p>NJ echoed the comments made so far, and singled out CS for her work in responding to the system issues created by HCSS.</p> <p>RPa talked through the improvement in the health and safety work over the past few years and how this is in a strong position now.</p> <p>AC asked SS about the workload of the committee and asked if she wanted a restructure. SS explained that it would be a requirement to split the committee when it reaches turnover of £50m.</p> <p>CS thanked Directors for their comments.</p> <p>JC stated that the report was really helpful and clear. JC suggested that this kind of report should be done annually for school improvement, also. JC proposed for this to be drafted with JT and submitted to the October board. All agreed safeguarding should be subject to its own discrete report.</p> <p>Directors approved the annual A&R report.</p>	<p>JC/JT 20/10/21</p>
<p>7. DfE COVID-19 GUIDANCE CHANGES</p>	
<p>The CEO gave an overview of changes in guidance from the DfE, and the questions this raises for the autumn term.</p> <p>SS commented on the different approaches across different sectors. PC asked what the legal basis would be to insist staff be vaccinated, and the CEO confirmed this would not be something the Trust could insist on. However, the CEO outlined steps the Trust could take where someone has to be absent from work due to isolation, because they haven't had a vaccine. The CEO will keep this under constant review in the autumn term.</p>	

<p>8. COMMITTEE CHAIR APPOINTMENTS</p>	
<p>SS was confirmed as chair of Audit & Risk for 2021/22.</p> <p>JC was confirmed as chair of Standards for 2021/22.</p>	
<p>9. SPECIAL SCHOOL FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS – Presentation</p>	
<p>CEO walked through the slides and clarified points as they arose.</p> <p>JC pointed out the amount on slide 3 should be £1,030,000, not £1,300,000. CEO apologised for this error.</p> <p>JC referred to the current SEND review and the suggested proposals to change the legislation, specifically because the current High Needs funding pressures are unsustainable for the nation. JC recommended that the CEO review the ESFA "Safety Valve" intervention terms of reference with other LAs. JC suggested that the "Sustainable high needs systems: case studies" DfE, July 2021" should be reviewed.</p> <p><i>GA joined the meeting at approx 18:15 hrs.</i></p> <p>SB asked if – given the complex nature of the arrangements - are Heads comfortable and confident in challenging local authorities on this. CEO stated that this worked well with the Trust's support.</p> <p>NJ questioned about the impact of funding changes on budget setting, and CEO confirmed that budget setting accounted for what schools were and were not legally entitled to expect. NJ asked if these issues were clearly in the Trust risk register and CEO confirmed they were.</p>	
<p>10. LOCAL GOVERNING BODY STRUCTURE CHANGES</p>	
<p>JC welcomed the report, however he wanted to ensure that the CEO reporting to Board on the effectiveness of LGBs wasn't diluted. JC also wanted to ensure all local governors had a say in the structure of meetings. JC also suggested the change should be reviewed in autumn 2022, and not 2021. CEO agreed to this.</p> <p>JC also reminded others that any changes to the Scheme of Delegation would need to be approved by Directors.</p> <p>All Directors agreed to the change.</p>	
<p>11. DRAFT 2022-2023 STAFFING STRUCTURE</p>	
<p>The item was briefly discussed with no questions. The Chair reminded Directors this was an indicative structure that would be subject to regular review.</p>	
<p>12. PAY POLICY UPDATE</p>	

Directors reviewed the report and unanimously approved the changes to the Pay Policy.		
13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS		
13.1. As note above in 2.1 and 2.2.		
<p>NGA Awards – The Chair outlined the detail of the Trust becoming finalists and asked Directors for a view on who should take up the four places. The Chair cannot attend, and suggested RPo attend. RPo agreed to attend. PC, JC and SB will also attend.</p> <p>SS, JS, GA, and NJ couldn't attend.</p> <p>Becton serious incidents – CEO outlined the recent issues at Rother Valley Country Park and explained that a lessons learned review would be submitted to the October Board.</p> <p>JC felt the Trust needed to account for the lessons it had learned about this, as well as the school.</p>		
14. REVIEW OF RISK		
To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Trust Committees.		
There were no items deemed as a risk beyond those discussed in the covering reports.		
15. CONFIDENTIALITY		
To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.		
Nothing to record separately.		
16. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS		
Directors Strategic Development Session Wednesday 29th September 2021	10:00 – 15:00	Bader Academy
Wednesday 20 th October 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Leadership Summit Wednesday 17th November 2021	16:00 – 19:00	Crags Community School, Maltby
Wednesday 24 th November 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Trust Board Extra Ordinary Meeting – Pre-accounts Wednesday 8 th December 2021	17:00 – 19:00	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 15 th December 2021	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Members AGM Monday 17th January 2022	17:30 – 19:00	Nexus HQ/Bader Academy
Wednesday 26 th January 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 2 nd March 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters

Wednesday 30th March 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 27th April 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 25th May 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Leadership Summit Tuesday 28 th June 2022	16:00 – 19:00	Craggs Community School, Maltby
Wednesday 29 th June 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 20 th July 2022	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE