



Nexus Board of Directors
Wednesday 23rd October 2019 5 - 7.30pm
Kimberworth Children Centre

Attendees:		
Andrew Child	Director / Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	Chair
John Coleman	Director / Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	JC
Steve Booth	Director	SB
Sue Shelley	Director	SS
Peter Castleton	Director	PC
Rachel Potts	Director	RP
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Helen Bellinger	Director	HB
Also Present:		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Cath Sands	Chief Finance Officer	CS
Diane Hyner	Executive Assistant	DH
Helen Harrison	CEO – Rose Learning Trust - Observer	HH
Joanna Hedge	HR Consultant S4S - Observer	JH
Apologies:		
Nick Hodge	Director	NH

1. Welcome & Apologies For Absence	Actions
<p>1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Introductions were made and Chair welcomed Helen Bellinger as a new Director to Nexus MAT and Helen Harrison, CEO of ROSE Learning trust who has been invited to observe the meeting.</p> <p>HH gave background information regarding ROSE Learning Trust.</p> <p>HB – gave information about current and previous roles, regionally and locally.</p> <p>Joanna Hedge, HR Advisor from S4S joined the meeting at 17:08 as an observer</p> <p>Apologies were received from NH</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from NH</p>	
2. Items of AOB	
<p>2.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>CEO gave a brief update regarding North Ridge Due Diligence and it was agreed to defer this item until the November meeting.</p> <p>Item 11 on the agenda - Executive Pay Review will be deferred until the November meeting as no reports have been received from HR.</p> <p>CEO asked for North Ridge to be discussed under AOB. Chair agreed.</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>SS informed the group that she will have to go through a risk assessment exercise with her employer RMBC following her declaration of interest regarding her role as Director of Nexus MAT. This was just for information.</p>	
4. Trust Board of Directors Minutes	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the Board meeting held on 25th September 2019</p> <p>Page 2, item 4 - end of year accounts. It was noted that "end of year accounts" needed to be amended to "18/19 school budget monitoring outturn".</p> <p>P3, item 5 - re-word statement to read, "SS asked the question should there be fewer strategic priorities in future?"</p> <p>P6, item 10 - safeguarding - remove sentence regarding scrutiny.</p> <p>Minutes agreed with above amendments</p> <p>Action - Clerk to amend minutes</p> <p>Chair gave info regarding expected conversions dates for Heatherwood, Coppice and</p>	<p>Completed</p>

6. Draft Strategic Business Plan 2019 - 2020	
<p>CEO gave information relating to the 5-year strategic plan and talked through the key points.</p> <p>HB pointed out the date needs updating in the header. Action 1 – CEO to update this header for future reports.</p> <p>Chair gave information relating to the LGB Chair meeting held earlier today where discussion took place around communication, support and challenge. The group like the idea of working together and forming a network of support from and for each other. The LGB Chairs would like more meetings and agreement was made for the meetings to be every term.</p> <p>JC asked if he could add an item under AOB relating to collaboration of governance across Rotherham. Chair agreed for the item to be discussed under AOB.</p> <p>CEO gave information around bids submitted. Bids have been submitted for TCaF funding for North Ridge and Heatherwood. TCaF (Trust Capacity Funding) is a fund to support growing Trusts. The Trust fits into categories B&C which makes us eligible for apply for up to £150k of grant funding. The bid was submitted 3 weeks ago and the CEO should hear soon. If agreed the funds have to be spent by the end of March 2020.</p> <p>There have been no requests to sponsor any schools.</p> <p>Developing new partnerships - Extended Services continue to be over-subscribed with a waiting list of over 30 children.</p> <p>The Trust is working with 5 Rivers Academy – based at Tinsley which is a teaching school MAT of 2 schools.</p> <p>CEO recommends that Directors visit the satellite provision that Abbey have set up at Horizon in Barnsley, stating they will be able to see the profound difference this provision is having on the 8 vulnerable children currently attending. The provision will offer an additional 8 places next year.</p> <p>Bader is due to be completed in November 2020 and the Trust is in talks with Doncaster MBC relating to placement funding starting in September 2020 to allow for transition work to take place in autumn term 1 of 2020/21. CEO to keep directors updated.</p> <p>Nexus are now in the design phase of Discovery and when there are pictures the CEO will share with Directors. The CEO informed the group of an issue with the peppercorn lease relating to overgrown areas within the boundary which Nexus would have responsibility for which is approximately 1.5 metre wide.</p> <p>Nexus Trust has applied to open a 2nd Free School in Sheffield and the CEO will keep Directors updated regarding the outcome of the bid.</p> <p>RP queried when will we hear from Sheffield relating to the free school and the CEO</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CEO 27/11/19</p>

<p>confirmed it should be before Christmas.</p> <p>Landmarks – Richard Webster will be meeting with Doncaster to discuss 19+ sufficiency needs and whether Landmarks can work with Doncaster to offer support via satellite provision.</p> <p>Regarding finance, SS asked does the Trust know when all schools will be using one bank account. CS gave an update relating to the process. Potentially central bank function could be in place by the 1st February.</p> <p>RP asked about Crags national funding formula and the CEO confirmed there will be an increase in funding from 1st Sep 2020 but further discussion with RMBC is needed. CEO gave further information relating to funding for maintained schools and academies.</p> <p>A discussion followed relating to school’s surplus budgets with CS giving background information</p> <p>CEO informed the group that Becton School will receive an additional 8% increase in funding as it is a hospital school.</p> <p>All returns completed and submitted on time.</p> <p>CEO informed the group that the Trust had completed the SMRSA (school’s management resource self-assessment toolkit) which is the latest toolkit that is linked in to grant funding.</p> <p>Discussion followed relating to residential with education. Doncaster are looking at hub and spoke model and general needs housing.</p> <p>Chair thanked CEO for report</p>	
<p>7. MAT Level Dashboard</p>	
<p>CEO gave background information relating to the MAT Dashboards.</p> <p>Chair queried there are not more blue coloured grades stating the Trust has some outstanding features and gave examples and the CEO explained his rationale.</p> <p>SS asked for more information about the statement ‘all opportunities for joint procurement are optimised’ stating we have talked before about strategic partnerships and asked it that what this is referring to? CEO confirmed we have left some high cost commissioning with Headteachers and gave examples, such as school catering. Heads are now asking for us to look at joint commissioning of some of these services.</p> <p>RPa – where there are ambers (requires improvement), does that feed into the strategic development plan? CEO confirmed where there is action we can take ourselves, it is in the strategic plan but when we talk nationally there is little we can do to effect national change.</p> <p>PC queried how at MAT level are we adjudicating these scores and are they</p>	

triangulated? The CEO stated the information is presented at Standards Committee and TBoD where lines of enquiry are agreed if there are identified gaps in information. The colours are the CEO’s self-assessment about where the trust is, and it being reported to Directors is chance for them to triangulate this with all other information and reports made available to them.

Chair stated as this is the first report, how do we take this forward, who owns it and who checks it through. Do we need to identify a Director to work with the CEO? CEO felt this was owned by the Board and was a governance information toolkit.

A discussion followed relating to the NPQEL reviewer group who have been commissioned to undertake a MAT review in November 2019. Chair and Vice Chair are helping to shape the scope, and CEO will ensure all Directors are invited to be involved on the day.

It was agreed that the MAT Dashboard report will be shared with Headteachers and LGB’s at the Leadership Summit in November to get their views on the indicators included.

CEO stated the strength of the report is that Directors can use this to commission their own external review.

All agreed this is an excellent document and asked for it to be reported on twice a year. CEO to provide further update at April meeting.

**CEO
29/04/2020**

8. Schools Dashboard

CEO gave background information stating the summary report covers all elements.

A discussion followed relating to Craggs and the support being provided.

JC stated it sounds as though there is a lot of responsibility on the Head but what is happening with school leaders and middle management?

CEO explained what work is taking place relating to support and evaluation.

HB made an observation that at the start of the year you have new staff and schools slip back but they pick up momentum during the year.

SS queried why Pennine View released a deputy Headteacher?

CEO gave background information relating to the release of the Deputy Head to support another school and Directors accepted this rationale as a sound one.

HB stated more information may be needed relating to ICFP funding, curriculum and sustainability. CEO confirmed that information is a subset which is available to Directors either on request or via the Committees.

All agreed this was a good report which was easy to use and gave credit to all who have been involved in creating it.

9. Budget Monitoring	
<p>CS talked through the report giving background information relating to last year's information stating the information has improved following the recruitment of the compliance & finance officers.</p> <p>There is one positive amendment relating to funding for Kelford resulting in a reduction in its deficit.</p> <p>PV reporting a worse outcome that originally predicted and the CEO gave background information.</p> <p>Target set for spend on staffing is 80% and schools are coming in on budget. JC asked would the staffing for mainstream and special schools be different and HH confirmed it would be – between 75 – 80%</p> <p>A discussion followed relating to the outstanding funding from out of authority commissioners.</p> <p>RP stated she had a concern that schools are relying on previous surpluses and schools should be running on in-year budgets. CS talked through the report giving explanations to previous year information and assured RP that this was the approach taken and only by exception and prior agreement were previous year surpluses being used.</p> <p>A discussion followed relating to work the finance team had completed and issues relating previous to audit reports. CEO and CS explained what had happened regarding the audit report.</p> <p>SB asked about Hilltop and why there was no column for year-end actuals CS confirmed the information had not pulled through and this was an error.</p> <p>A discussion followed relating to building up cash reserves from unrestricted funds.</p> <p>SB asked what the rule was relating to surplus funds. CEO confirmed that if the school is carrying forward over 5% surplus a discussion would follow relating to underspend. Liquidity and cash flow have been issues but moving to one Trust bank account we will not be in a position of having to move funds around.</p> <p>SS asked about 9a reserves figure and what is the figures a percentage of? CS explained to all where the figure has been taken from.</p> <p>Directors accepted the report.</p> <p>CEO thanked CS for her hard work.</p>	
10. High Risk Due Diligence – update report Heatherwood & Coppice	
<p>CEO talked through the report explaining that risks are reducing and there is confidence with the plans in place that mitigation will resolve these risks by the end of the calendar year.</p> <p>SS asked about the plan to purchase a new server for Heatherwood and the CEO confirmed it is in the process of being purchased.</p>	

CS stated the purchase is included in a £20k quote including other IT.	
11. Executive Pay Review	
Deferred to November meeting	
13. Policy Review Report	
<p>CEO talked through the report explaining that for the majority of policies listed there are no changes required.</p> <p>CEO explained the amendments to the Apprenticeship Levy Policy in section 6.</p> <p>All approved the no changes and agreed to the amendments in the Apprenticeship Levy Policy.</p>	
14. Any other urgent business	
<p>14.1 Collaboration of Governance JC informed the group that he had been invited by Rotherham MBC – through his membership of Schools Forum as Nexus rep - to discuss the poor outcomes for schools at all stages across academies and maintained schools in Rotherham. Part of the meeting was to look at the collaboration of governance and to be part of debate looking at strategic partnership and the governance agenda going forward. JC is looking forward to taking forward the Nexus collaborative approach relating to governance and asked for Directors to come forward with any ideas they may have.</p> <p>14.2 North Ridge CS and CEO met with the Head and SBM at North Ridge on the 22nd October to look at budgets and funding. CEO stated the school is extremely underfunded but feels the budget can be balanced moving forward. The school needs to secure more funding and CEO will request increase in base funding, initially 2k with a phased increase, from DMBC.</p> <p>A discussion followed relating to funding arrangements and conversion delay. CEO proposes we set up an intervention board for the transition period. Directors agreed with this proposal.</p>	
15. REVIEW OF RISK	
<p>To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Audit & Finance Committee</p> <p>There were no new items identified as a risk</p>	
16. CONFIDENTIALITY	
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>There were no items deemed as confidential</p>	
13. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS	

Leadership Summit Wednesday 20 th November 2019	16:00 – 19:00	The Source, Meadowhall
Wednesday 27 th November 2019	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 18 th December 2019	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Members AGM Monday 20 th January 2020	17:30 – 19:00	Nexus Headquarters
Wednesday 29 th January 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 26 th February 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 25 th March 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 29 th April 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 20 th May 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Leadership Summit Tuesday 9 th June 2020	16:00 – 19:00	The Source, Meadowhall
Wednesday 24 th June 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Kimberworth CC
Wednesday 29 th July 2020	17:00 – 19:30	Nexus Headquarters

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
ANDREW CHILD		