

**Trust Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30
at Kimberworth Children's Centre
Kimberworth Rd, Rotherham S61 1HE**

OUTSTANDING ACTIONS

Agenda Ref:	Actions	By & Target Date
4.1.3 29/11/17	Charges & Remissions Policy. Music Tuition SS to define lines of enquiry & consider issues to discuss with Headteachers and LGBs. – 20/12/17 – ongoing defer to new year	SS 28/02/18
4.1 20/12/17	Approval of Annual Accounts 2016/2017 - Directors agreed to retender for the service of Auditors to the Trust in the new year. CFO to coordinate process.	CFO 28/02/18
4.4 20/12/17	Report from Leading Edge Associates - Item to be placed on February Challenge agenda where the reviews can be discussed in more detail	CEO 28/02/18
7.1.6 20/12/17	Communication Plan Review – Received by CEO this week – needs a broader more detailed review CEO to address and bring back to a challenge meeting for discussion	CEO 28/02/18
4.1 20/12/17	Approval of Annual Accounts 2016/2017 - Apprenticeship levy was challenged; it was felt that the figure should be higher as all schools have been paying this levy since April 2017. PA to investigate whether figure reported is correct 31/01/18 – There has been no further update from PA regarding this action – CFO to investigate	PA/CFO 21/03/18
7.1 31/01/18	CEO Termly Report - Database to be developed to include arrows to show trend	CEO 21/03/18
7.2.3 31/01/18	Reports from Committee Chairs: - Headteachers, LGB Chairs Committee - Should key messages from the Trust Board meetings be taken back to the forum? CEO & Chair to highlight key messages to take to the Forum	CEO/AC 21/03/18
10.1 31/01/18	To review Trust Issue Log - Additional issue be added around risk in other academies and responding to the audit	CFO 21/03/18
4.6 25/10/17	Draft Memorandum of Understanding between Nexus MAT & Rotherham Parent Forum Ltd – CEO to share Rotherham Parent Forum Ltd (RPF) 29/11/17 – very keen but no formal reply at present. Update to follow. 20/12/17 – CEO contacted RPF, Trustees still have further questions & will follow up in new year 31/01/18 – CEO has followed up. Some RPF Trustees uncomfortable with a formal arrangement, the item is still with them, they have not responded formally. CEO to follow up with Jayne Fitzgerald at end of spring term (25/4)	CEO 25/04/18

7.2.1 31/01/18	Reports from Committee Chairs: - Audit & Finance Committee CH requested to be included as part of the Audit of Personal Devices in Schools as she had experience of this in her safeguarding role. CFO to arrange	CFO 23/05/18
8.1.1 29/11/17	The National Schools Commissioner is offering schools the option to join academy trusts as "associate members" so they do not relinquish their legal independence. Sir David Carter said that he would be making the point more widely in future, as a response to hurdles some schools face in joining academies. It was felt that this matter required further discussion and dedicated time so that it can be discussed in more detail at next meeting. 20/12/17 – Item noted but not enough information at present. To be brought back to Trust Board in 6 months or when further information is released	CEO June 18

COMPLETED A C T I O N S

Agenda Ref:	Actions	By & Target Date
6.2 29/11/17	2017/18 Strategic Business Plan. CEO to arrange for middle leaders to visit from other Nexus schools to give their opinions on how Hilltop can improve environment & teaching areas 31/01/18 – Completed & found to be very beneficial	Completed
6.1.1 31/01/18	Policies - Scheme of Delegation Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish	Completed
6.1.2 31/01/18	Policies - Reserves Policy Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish	Completed
6.1.3 31/01/18	Policies - Delegated Financial Powers Manual Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish	Completed
6.1.4 31/01/18	Policies - LGB Appeals Policy agreed with amendments discussed. Clerk to update and publish	Completed
6.1.5 31/01/18	Policies - Confidential Reporting & Whistleblowing Amendments agreed. Clerk to publish	Completed



**Trust Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday 31st January 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30
at Kimberworth Children's Centre
Kimberworth Rd, Rotherham S61 1HE**

Attendees:

Andrew Child	Director / Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	AC
John Coleman	Director / Member & Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	JC
Warren Carratt	CEO Nexus MAT	CEO
Steve Booth	Director	SB
Sue Shelley	Director	SS
Catherine Hall	Director	CH
Peter Castleton	Director	PC

Also Present:

Clare Southwell	Clerk	CS
Tracey Brooke	CFO Nexus MAT	CEO
Davis McNaught	Advisor to Trust	DM
Katherine Lynch	Trust Development Partner, East Midlands and the Humber Academies Regional Delivery Group	KL
Debs Usherwood	Assistant Director, East Midlands and the Humber Academies Regional Delivery Group	DU

Apologies:

Alan Meloy	Director	AM
------------	----------	----

1. WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS	Actions
<p>1.1 Welcome & Introductions Katherine Lynch & Debs Usherwood were attending as visitors and were welcomed to the meeting. Introductions took place</p> <p>DU explained their reason for attendance. They are both members of John Edwards' Team, John is the new Regional School Commissioner. Lord Agnew is the also the new Minister who has a very keen interest in Governance. All Regional School Commissioners nationally have been requested by the Minister to get a greater understanding of how Governance operates at Trust level so the DfE will be able to better support MATs & Directors with appropriate training & events. They will not be forming a formal judgement but will take away three things that the Trust is doing really well & three things where you might need to build your knowledge. They will be able to give some feedback at the end of the meeting</p> <p>AC – Will areas that you are looking at tie into any work that Ofsted is undertaking to develop an inspection framework for MATs? DU explained that the RSC team is independent and separate from the Ofsted Department but regular meetings take place and information is shared</p> <p>AC – Will information you find be developed into an indicator or dashboard approach so that you have awareness in the direction of travel of Trusts so that future situations of failing Trusts can be identified in future prior to collapse? Yes, that will definitely be the way forward.</p> <p>SS – Will there be something published about the learning that can take place from the WCAT situation? Work is ongoing to find out why & what happened & could it have been prevented. It is felt that a document showing best practice and a toolkit will be developed</p>	
2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	
<p>2.1 To receive apologies for absence Apologies had been received from AM</p>	
<p>2.2 To accept apologies for absence The apologies were accepted</p>	
3. ITEMS OF URGENT BUSINESS	
<p>3.1 Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered 3.1.1 RoSiS Governance Guide for Academy Trusts This item will be dealt with at item 9 on this agenda</p>	
4. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS	
<p>4.1 Individual Directors to declare any personal, business or other governance interests on any item on the agenda There were no declarations of personal, business or other governance interest</p> <p>At item 7.3 on this agenda CH declared an interest as part of her employment & role in the CCG. It was agreed that it was not necessary for CH to leave the room</p>	

<p>5. TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTOR MINUTES</p>	
<p>5.1 To approve the minutes of the following board meeting: Trust Board Challenge meeting held on 20th December 2017 Minutes agreed and to be signed</p>	
<p>5.2 Matters arising from the Minutes The update of actions was noted above Question - Why are initials were no longer used to identify who raised a question? Agreed that it was important to capture questions & challenge within the minutes but it was not important to record individuals. It was agreed that minutes needed to be focused & succinct</p>	
<p>6. ITEMS FOR APPROVAL</p>	
<p>6.1 Policies 6.1.1 Scheme of Delegation As agreed the full policy had not been circulated but a covering report had been circulated highlighting the policy updates and amendments. These amendments had been agreed at the previous meeting after they were highlighted during the conversion conversations with Craggs Community School Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish</p>	<p>CLERK</p>
<p>6.1.2 Reserves Policy As agreed the full policy had not been circulated but a covering report had been circulated highlighting the policy updates and amendments. These amendments had been agreed at the previous meeting after they were highlighted during the conversion conversations with Craggs Community School Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish</p>	<p>CLERK</p>
<p>6.1.3 Delegated Financial Powers Manual As agreed the full policy had not been circulated but a covering report had been circulated highlighting the policy updates and amendments. These amendments had been agreed at the previous meeting after they were highlighted during the conversion conversations with Craggs Community School Policy amendments agreed. Clerk to publish</p>	<p>CLERK</p>
<p>6.1.4 LGB Appeals This is a new policy. In Trusts where the General Annual Grant (GAG) is brought in centrally and distributed by the Trust it is an ESFA requirement to have an Appeals Policy. In Nexus we do not operate that model. The grant goes into the school funds and the Partnership Contribution (top slice) is paid to the Trust but it was felt that to have a policy in place would be helpful. It is the LGB Governors that would use this right of appeal as Headteachers would appeal through a Grievance Procedure Question - Item 3.4 – Should the number of Governors present also be included? Agreed Question - Should there be an upper limit to the Partnership Contribution stated?</p>	

<p>Question – Should it not be reported in the Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) and not this Appeal Policy?</p> <p>Agreed that the current percentage information was already in the MTFP, if this is reviewed and reduced the MTFP would be updated. CEO stated that the current Partnership Contribution is 5% but the Trust had always felt that this should be reduced as the Trusts grows. It was highlighted that the Scheme of Delegation ensures that any changes to the Partnership Contribution must be agreed & approved by the Trust Board.</p> <p>Policy agreed with amendment. Clerk to update and publish</p>	CLERK
<p>6.1.5 Confidential Reporting & Whistleblowing</p> <p>As agreed the full policy had not been circulated but a covering report had been circulated highlighting the policy updates and amendments. These amendments had been highlighted after the development of the Anti-Fraud, Bribery & Corruption Policy.</p> <p>The term "Freedom to Speak up" was suggested instead of Whistleblowing. Directors agreed that this sounded better but it was felt that the word Whistleblowing is used on all statutory guidance and if changed searches for the policy might mean that it was not found</p> <p>Amendments agreed. Clerk to publish</p>	CLERK
7. CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S REPORTS	
<p>7.1 CEO Termly Report</p> <p>The report had been circulated with the agenda. Details of structure of the Trust central staff were reviewed. Appointment procedure currently in place to recruit a Governance Administration Assistant. Staff highlighted in purple are funded by grant monies received from Rotherham LA to provided Extended Services. Victoria Morris will be attending the February Challenge meeting to present on her work. Discussions have already taken place that, dependent on the outcome of the DfE decision with regard to Craggs Community School joining Nexus, the structure of the School Improvement roles will increase to include David McNaught who will join the central staff to lead on School Improvement across mainstream schools. Fixed term contracts are being reviewed as part of the Trust's growth and development process. ICT is a focus due to the implementation of the General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR) and expectations of the role.</p> <p>Work on the Communication Plan is still ongoing. It is important to give Directors time to discuss this item fully so the matter will be the focus February Challenge meeting agenda. Details of the draft plan will be circulated as soon as possible.</p> <p>Details of the structure of the schools were discussed. All Rotherham schools are over-subscribed and the LA still continues to request places. Pressure is that if Abbey accepted all requests they would be up to 160 pupils, but clearly that is not possible due to space constrictions. Work is ongoing to try to increase capacity in a planned and strategic manner</p> <p>Question – Why does Pennine View only go to 16 years? That is the decision of Doncaster LA, they believe that they receive high quality for MLD pupils from Doncaster College. This is not the view of all Parents & Carers, so this is an area open for discussion and has also been discussed as part of the Free School application process.</p>	

It was highlighted that the Trust should always be aware of the LA options and look to provide alternatives as the LA options are not adequate

The public Sector Pay Cap has been lifted without any additional money coming into the budgets. The issue is currently being consulted on nationally by unions to see if Local Government Pay & Conditions will also rise by 2%, if so, there will be additional pressure on the school budgets and budgets have already been reviewed and recalculated in response to the issue. Nexus will be contacting LAs to arrange consultation to explain and discuss budgets for pupils with bespoke packages.

Element 3 funding was reduced by Rotherham LA without notice or consultation in April 2017 but it is hoped that the new funding formula that they now have in place will give fairer funding with more certainty for future planning. It is known that Rotherham's High Need Block is vastly overspent. Nexus is continuing to meet and work with the LA and feel that even with a national funding formula for High Needs Blocks, Rotherham will still have an overspend that will need to be addressed for several years. As capacity increases in the area, the LA will need to review their dependence on high costing out of area placements for pupils.

Question – Are different amounts of funding being received from LAs for pupils with the same needs? Yes, this has been a historic situation, Rotherham has always paid less than other authorities. Directors raised the issue of fair funding and equality and felt that there were some equity and fairness issues that needed to be addressed.

Regulations state that the LA can give the funding they deem necessary without considering the impact on the school budgets, hence the changes to Element 3 funding in April 2017 without notice or consultation. This would not happen in a mainstream academy as their funding comes direct from the ESFA.

Nexus has raised the situation issue with Rotherham as part of the work looking at the funding formula up to date actual costs have been used to ensure an accurate base funding model. Consultation is still ongoing to ensure that the base funding is correct and accurate.

Leadership summit took place in November 2017 all levels of Nexus Governance attended along with Senior Leaders from all schools and representatives from Craggs Community School.

Trust Accounts were approved and published within the timescale. Nexus is negotiating with the accountants BHP over an additional invoice received for additional work. This work would not have been required if BHP had not changed the agreed time scale three times before the audit period.

Reports have just been received from Leading Edge on the review of Governance across the Trust. The school reports have been circulated to the Chairs and Headteachers who will meet with Jill Walker & formulate a plan in response to the recommendations. On first view all reports look good especially in light of the number of new LGB Governors. The school plans will be discussed at next Headteachers & Chairs Forum meeting. A review of the Trust Board report will take place at the February Challenge meeting. Leading Edge have not come back with answers to questions asked, but it was felt that the process was positive for the first formal review.

Amanda Benton, Headteacher of Thornhill Primary has resigned as an Associate Director, but following outcome of the DfE decision re Crags Community joining Nexus, David McNaught will take up the post of Advisor to the Trust Board. Rachael Booth, Headteacher of The Willows School has been appointed as an Associate to the Standards Committee.

Following the meeting of the Ill Health Committee at the start of the school year, the Trust is still awaiting the decision from the South Yorkshire Pensions Committee about the request for overturning their decision not to grant ill health retirement to a Nexus employee. The CEO highlighted how beneficial it had been to convene the committee to discuss the situation in detail, it seems that the process to overturn a decision is unknown.

All Local Governing Bodies working to agreed plan. Good Governor development and challenge. LGBs growing as new Governors are appointed.

Condition Fund Improvement received for new roof at Hilltop School and new boiler at Kelford School, work currently ongoing.

Question – Will the new roof remove all the asbestos at Hilltop? No, a full survey was undertaken before the work commenced but asbestos still remains within the walls of the school. An asbestos Plan is in place at the school.

Question – Is a new library going to be built at Hilltop? As part of the grant a roof will be put over the quad which will become the new library. Headteacher is very grateful to Nexus for their help & for securing the funding. Doncaster School's Forum have committed £32,000 to improve the entrance way to Pennine View School. Credit to Doncaster for supporting initiatives in academies.

The reports from the External review of School Improvement have been circulated and will be reviewed and action plans set and approved by the Standards Committee. Jill Walker & JC are working on the review of MAT School Improvement Strategy. There will be an additional meeting of the standards committee to review this strategy along with the dashboard.

Question – What is the time framework for the completion of these two pieces of work? School Improvement Strategy – It is hoped that a draft will go to the Standards Committee for approval in March. Dashboard - This will go the Headteachers & Chairs Forum as a draft, will then go to the Standards meeting and will hopefully be shared with Directors at the March meeting.

Nexus have submitted a bid to the RSC office for the Multi Academy Trust Development & Improvement Fund (MDIF) for £100,000 for the development of the dashboard and systems development

Common themes across the school's SIPs have been noted by Jill Walker who has arranged shared work where possible. The reports received from Graham Pirt show that at present the SEFs & SIPs quality and how they are presented across the schools varies. It is important to develop a better way of describing the actions & their development & impact. Work ongoing within the work of the Standards Committee.

Directors felt that the school reports were very valuable & descriptive but some evaluative information might also be beneficial. Question – Where do we show the impact that the Trust has had in the area of School Improvement? This area is covered

by LGBs & the dashboard will also give informative information for evaluation. Discussions in the development of the dashboard was to create a summary page for each of the schools and a consolidated page giving information as a Trust. The Trust page would rag rated and it would show a snapshot on a page showing the key priorities, where actions have been followed up and the key impact. Work in the forum and Standards Committee will continue to develop the dashboard. This will also enable schools to share expertise & capacity. The Trust page should also show rag rating against compliance. The system is still evolving as the MAT develops. Succinct questions that should be answered are; How are we doing? Are we on track? DU offered to Nexus in contact with MATs that already have a well-established dashboard. Also information from Sir David Carter was made available at last RSC meeting showing school journeys. This has been already looked at by Nexus.

Question – Where the report states that 82% of pupils are making expected or above expected progress, is the trend also able to be reported, is this above or below the previous. This will show on the dashboard but the issue was noted and up or down arrows could be used in all areas.

Ongoing work on School Improvement at Pennine View is continuing. It is felt that it was the previous culture to exclude when behaviours occurred. This is not the view of the new Headteacher so work is ongoing and new placements are being investigated for two pupils whose placement at Pennine View is not appropriate. This work is being supported by Doncaster LA. SB & SS will arrange to visit Pennine View.

Question - The figures of LAC pupils being at 7% across the Trust, in view of the current news of Rotherham Children's Services now being judged as good, is this the time to start talking to them about residential possibilities? The CEO reported that this area is included in the Strategic Plan update.

Reporting figures were discussed in detail and the fact that Abbey Schools reported Restrictive Physical Interventions (RPIs) are greater than incidents is an area that need urgent investigation. It was agreed that consistency of reporting was high on the agenda and Jill Walker is working with the school Behaviour Leads to look at this.

Question – Attendance data, variance across the schools on authorised absence, is this being investigated? LGBs are looking at the data, it was felt that it might be beneficial to divide the authorised figure to show medical appointments separately? If any Director would like to be involved in this area of work the CEO can link them in. SB & SS had recently attended some LGB meetings and this reinforced that Governors are challenging the figures, the new Chairs also appreciated the support from the Directors. It was also suggested that the LGBs have direct feedback for issues that are raised at Trust Board, so key priorities raised by Trust Board are fed to LGBs & they are aware that Directors are also raising challenge.

It was noted that the report stated one fixed term exclusion but it was noted that since writing the report there had also been an incident which had resulted in a second fixed term exclusion within the Trust.

The ongoing discussion and partnerships were briefly reviewed

The CEO was thanked for the detailed & informative report

DM/CFO

The Condition Improvement Funding (CIF) Bids have also been itemised within the report

Question – There is currently a query regarding the outturn figure for Abbey School as the accountants confirmed a higher carry forward figure than had previously been predicted. Once confirmed the budget will be reviewed and presented to Directors. The profile is meeting the needs of the school so any surplus could be used towards improvements to the building.

Question - Within risks why is the LA local authority placement needs and the lack of space a risk for Nexus? If space is not available, additional out of area placements would put more pressure onto the High Needs Block which could impact on the revised element 3 funding model.

Question – Re CEO meet with Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to explore options for enhanced health funding for our schools; what has happened & what are we hoping to achieve?

CH declared at interest at this point due to her employment by the CCG but the area being discussed did not fall within CH's management brief so it was not necessary for CH to leave the room.

CEO has looked into health funding being received from CCG. This is being sent to LA but is not being used in the right areas. Mark Chambers, Joint Assistant Director of Commissioning, Performance and Quality, Children and Young People's Services, is looking into this & into the services provided to support children prior to the need of a Continuing Health Care Plan (CHC). Funding in this area would assist with meeting complex health needs in schools. School Nursing Service has been withdrawn dramatically and pressure & responsibilities have been passed onto schools.

Question – Consolidated accounts, can we see cash flow and current liabilities, i.e. contracts we are liable for, for the next 12-months?

The Trust will be moving to shortly be moving to HSCS, a new financial system which will produce better quality reports and detailed cash flow reports. Conversion to new system will be installed for schools to get to know over the summer term & will be in full use at the start of the next financial year September 2018. To include cash flow & liabilities in the current reports would mean a manual extraction of data, commitments to contracts are included within the reported expenditure.

Question – What risks might be within the move to the new financial system? Work is still ongoing and a full business plan with risk assessment will be presented to Directors prior to purchase & installation

Question – re Hilltop £694,161.70 cash balance? It was noted that £142,170 was CIF funding that had been received for the premises improvements.

Recommendations –

The Trust Board agreed to:

- a) Accept the budget monitoring for the academies as at 31st December 2017
- b) Accept the budget monitoring for the central Trust as at 31st December 2017
- c) Accept the budget monitoring for Extended Services as at 31st December 2017

<p>The CFO was thanked for the detailed report</p>	
<p>7.4 2017/18 Strategic Business Plan The CEO presented a brief summary update of the Strategic Business Plan, the report had been circulated with the agenda.</p> <p>The transfer of the Cherry Tree House premises was still pending & awaiting confirmation that the LA funding will meet the costs, so no further update as the Trust will not take on the liability without assurance from the LA</p> <p>Planning for the conference at Magna in April 2018 continues</p> <p>Extended Services continues to be well received but there have been problems resourcing due to demand and Trust looking at the supply base of TAs across the Nexus & a co-ordinated approach</p> <p>CEO continuing to meet with schools, special & primary, in Sheffield and Doncaster about possible future partnerships but only as informal discussions at present.</p> <p>School Improvement Lead continues to visit other schools local & national settings and to identify best practice and share learning.</p> <p>CEO & Chair have spoken at a national governance conference in London & received good feedback. Both will be speaking again at future events.</p> <p>Interviews have taken place for the two Free School applications & Nexus is awaiting the result from the LAs or DfE. It was felt that the two projects if drawn together would provide a better service. Capacity had been discussed at interview but it was felt that this is the way forward to improve the SEN system across South Yorkshire. CFO in previous employment managed the opening of 26 free schools so she understands the risks involved. The time scale for Sheffield is more likely to be 2020.</p> <p>Pathways for 19-25, positive words from Rotherham LA re partnerships but no action or decisions. Opportunities are available to create an exciting 16 or 19-25 offer that meets everyone's needs with budget saving. This would give added value & innovation in Rotherham but this will not happen until the LA commits to working with Nexus. Rotherham consultation on Learning Disabilities was completed in December 2017 but no results or actions have been agreed.</p> <p>Residential provision continues to be discussed with Rotherham LA, again they had a real will to work with us but this has not developed any further. Funding for this area would not be received via ESFA and Nexus would need to seek permission from DfE to venture into that area, the LA would need to commit and fully fund the project. Issue is not just about funding but about providing an added value & innovative offer.</p> <p>Question – Nexus views would be stronger if it was informed with facts & data. Is it time to obtain information and data on numbers of out of area pupils, numbers in non-regulated placements via Freedom of Information (FOI) requests? There is general acceptance of need but no facts are discussed. CEO trying to get agreement for a LA Officer to work with Nexus to look at the need & review facts & data in detail.</p>	
<p>7.5 ESFA Review of Financial Management and Governance</p>	

<p>The ESFA has undertaken a review of Financial Management and Governance, looking at alternative assurance arrangements at Multi Academy Trusts. Nexus provided files & information for a desk based validation that would show that the Trust is complying with the financial management and governance requirements with in the Academies Financial Handbook (AFH). The following areas were reviewed;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Financial oversight ▪ Financial planning ▪ Internal control ▪ Financial monitoring and management ▪ Proper and regular use of public funds ▪ Audit requirements ▪ General requirements <p>The outcome of the review showed that Nexus is compliant within the testing scope and no major issues or issues were raised.</p> <p>It was felt that the letter received could be important evidence during growth conversations</p> <p>Thanks to CFO for the numerous audits that she has completed</p>	
8. GOVERNANCE MATTERS	
<p>8.1 To address vacancies, confirm appointments & resignations, approve additional responsibilities of Directors</p> <p>There were no changes to the Trust Board to be reported</p>	
<p>8.2 Update of Trust Board of Director contacts</p> <p>There were no changes to any contacts to be reported</p>	
<p>8.3 Trust Board of Directors to report on:</p> <p>a) any functions exercised on behalf of the Trust Board of Directors</p> <p>SS – Met with CFO to undertake work on Gender Gap Reporting. They are preparing a statement for staff to give detail of the currently draft statement that will be published. The diminishing pay gap at the lower end of the pay scales was briefly discussed. This is due to the rise of the minimum Living Wage</p> <p>b) any training and development undertaken</p> <p>SS – has been looking at the BREFI link in previous minutes which offers training for Directors. Will investigate whether pack offered for purchase is suitable</p> <p>SB – been approached to put together a case study about his 3 years as a Governor/Director. DU reported that her office was often asked for case studies so they are trying to build a portfolio to meet the demand</p> <p>c) visits to schools within the MAT</p> <p>SS & SB have attended LGB meetings to look at impact and challenge</p> <p>JC has attended Pennine View to assist with the review of values</p>	

<p>Several Directors had visited CIT Trust in Grantham that started out as a SEN Trust but has branched out into mainstream. Found the visit to be very helpful exercise.</p> <p>The Chair thanked all colleagues for their input into the Free School applications & interviews</p>															
<p>9. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>															
<p>9.1 To consider any other urgent business agreed by the Chair</p> <p>9.1.1 RoSiS Governance Guide for Academy Trusts</p> <p>The Rotherham LA had always previously circulated a Governor guide on a termly basis to address current issues. They now produce a separate guide for academies that the Clerk had circulated to all Directors for information. It was felt that the guide was helpful but it was only the view of one LA Officer.</p>															
<p>10. REVIEW OF RISK</p>															
<p>10.1 To review Trust Issue Log</p> <p>The Issue Log has been circulated with the agenda. The Risk Register is a more static document</p> <p>Question – Should 5.1 be marked as complete as work by the Headteacher is still ongoing? It was felt that the issues stated in the document had been completed but that an additional issue be added around risk in other academies and responding to the audit</p> <p>The Audit & Finance Committee will continue to review the Log & Register on a regular basis</p>	<p>CFO</p>														
<p>10.2 To consider any area of risk discussed during the meeting and agree Risk Owner</p> <p>There were not items of risk discussed during the meeting</p>															
<p>11. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>															
<p>11.1 To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting</p> <p>There were no items of confidentiality discussed during the meeting</p>															
<p>12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</p>															
<p>12.1 Future Trust Board of Directors meeting dates:</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Challenge Meeting</td> <td>Wednesday 28th February 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trust Board</td> <td>Wednesday 21st March 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Challenge Meeting</td> <td>Wednesday 25th April 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trust Board</td> <td>Wednesday 23rd May 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Challenge Meeting</td> <td>Wednesday 27th June 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trust Board</td> <td>Wednesday 25th July 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kelford School</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Challenge Meeting</td> <td>Wednesday 15th August 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30</td> </tr> </table>	Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 28 th February 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre	Trust Board	Wednesday 21 st March 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre	Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 25 th April 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre	Trust Board	Wednesday 23 rd May 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre	Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 27 th June 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre	Trust Board	Wednesday 25 th July 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kelford School	Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 15 th August 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30	
Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 28 th February 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre														
Trust Board	Wednesday 21 st March 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre														
Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 25 th April 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre														
Trust Board	Wednesday 23 rd May 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre														
Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 27 th June 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kimberworth Children's Centre														
Trust Board	Wednesday 25 th July 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30 Kelford School														
Challenge Meeting	Wednesday 15 th August 2018 at 17:00 – 19:30														

Kelford School

DU thanked the Board for allowing the visit and gave brief feedback from their observations of the meeting. They felt that Nexus had a strong Board of Directors. They highlighted the following items:

- focused chairing
- good safeguarding considerations
- individual preparation for the meeting, clearly all read the papers
- identified actions
- good challenge to the CEO & CFO
- good financial challenge & scrutiny
- CEO & CFO wide awareness of DfE policies, procedures & compliances
- agreement on moving from a narrative to the dashboard to give comparative data that is able to be challenged
- good partnership with LAs & school
- good use of Committees & sharing best practice
- good practice of external reviews and health checks for school improvement & governance

DU highlighted the National Conference on 24th April 2018 in Sheffield where Lord Agnew will be a speaker. In the future there will be more focus on finance in Trusts. DU will email CEO with details.

DU & KL were thanked for attending

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
ANDREW CHILD		28/02/2018