



**Nexus Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020 5 - 7.30pm**  
**Held via GoTo Meet Video-Link**

<b>Attendees:</b>		
Andrew Child	Director / Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	Chair
Helen Bellinger	Director	HB
Steve Booth	Director	SB
Peter Castleton	Director	PC
John Coleman	Director / Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	JC
Nick Hodge	Director	NH
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Rachel Potts	Director	RP
Sue Shelley	Director	SS
<b>Also Present:</b>		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Emma Sheedy	Clerk	Clerk
<b>Apologies:</b>		

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence  No apologies were received.  CEO advised Directors that SS would be joining the meeting late.	
1.2 To accept apologies for absence  No apologies were received.	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.  2.1.1. COVID-19 Trust Update  CEO provided Directors with a further update: three academies/associate schools have closed sites, due to no parents sending their children in: Heatherwood, North Ridge & Pennine View.  There has been a downward trend with pupil numbers at Abbey and Kelford.  CEO explained about the issues from Social Workers regarding LAC and their interpretation of the guidance, which CEO is challenging. <b>AC asked how many LAC children this involves</b> and CEO advised of two pupils from different LA's at Kelford only.  <b>PC was surprised with the low numbers and queried if the Trust are confident that the non-attending pupils are safe</b> and CEO explained that any pupil of concern for safeguarding/child protection reasons is followed up with calls to home. CEO was confident that no pupil meets the threshold described.  <b>SB asked about the logistics of home-school transport</b> and CEO explained that home school transport is a statutory LA requirement, which so far continues to be provided. CEO further advised of the recent issues regarding Transport Escort's, which have been referred to Corporate Transport.  Becton is open with two pupils at the Kenwood site. The Headteacher is currently self-isolating but is co-ordinating via the Deputy Headteacher.  Coppice is open with four pupils in.  Craggs is open with 12 pupils in. Staff are working on a rota basis to provide respite.  <b>AC asked what the morale is like in schools</b> and CEO advised it is steady. Everybody is OK for the most part, with underlying anxiety. There was a discussion regarding childcare provision during the Easter Holidays and CEO stated he would offer assistance to ensure staff receive much needed respite.  <b>SB asked about supply TA's and payment of wages</b> and CEO explained that Headteachers have been provided with guidance and fair decisions are being made on	

a school by school/case by case basis. CEO provided context to some issues regarding working at distance.

Heatherwood is currently closed. CEO advised that a member of staff had been diagnosed with Corona-Virus and all Parents/Carers were duly contacted and advised of the confirmed case in School. One parent has contacted CEO by Twitter about this, which Lisa Suter is trying to resolve locally. Doncaster Free Press has also requested a statement regarding the confirmed case. **HB asked how the member of staff is** and CEO explained that the member of staff is recovering well.

**PC asked what the current plan is was regarding LGB's** and CEO explained that some meetings had not taken place but he is keeping the governing bodies up-to date. Headteachers are focused on responding to emergency situations that are changing daily. CEO provided further context and explained about the Extra-Ordinary Governors Meeting held at Craggs Community School.

Hilltop is open with 34 pupils in and staff continue to re-iterate the DfE guidance regarding 'essential' need for 'Key Workers' and vulnerable children who "are not safe to be at home". CEO anticipates Parents/Carers will continue to use the provision until the Easter Holidays. **RP expressed concern regarding staff having respite** and this was noted. CEO explained this is a very difficult balancing act and Headteachers are deploying their staffing resource as responsibly as they can. **HB queried the provision of emergency care during Easter Holidays and the rotation of staff to facilitate respite** and CEO provided his hypothesis and how this could be managed. **AC asked if staff could assist from other schools** and CEO expressed concern due to the complexities of the school and pupils, but this wasn't ruled out. A change in staff could have a negative impact, though, defeating the point of the service.

Kelford is open with four pupils in so Upper School has been closed. Jacky Tattershall has stood down all TA's so only Teachers are being utilised on a rota basis. Due to the Site Manager's current situation, pupils may go to Hilltop.

North Ridge is currently closed.

Pennine View is currently closed.

**AC asked about the potential of numbers increasing across schools** and CEO explained that staff are very clear on the Trust's expectations. This will require further review after Easter, as things begin to "normalise".

Directors commented positively about the leadership of the Trust and applauded CEO's communication/offer to assist with childcare provision during the Easter Holidays. There was a discussion about how the Trust could note, celebrate and reflect on this.

**RPa asked for an update regarding Central Trust Staff** and CEO provided an overview; Staff are working remotely from home and the Trust are responding in a personalised way.

[Sue Shelley joined the meeting at 17:49].

<b>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</b>	
<p>3.1. Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>CEO declared that himself and SB had joined the meeting from the same address – SB's home.</p>	
<b>4. TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES</b>	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the Board Meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020 were reviewed and the following amendment agreed:</p> <p>Page 44 Change the wording to read, "<b>NH wondered about missing children and asked if the academies do everything to check on the child</b>". <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk to amend the minutes of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2020.</p>	<b>CLERK COMPLETED</b>
<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>	
<b>5. ETHICAL LEADERSHIP AUDIT</b>	
<p>Not discussed.</p>	
<b>6. PROPOSAL OF NEW DIRECTORS</b>	
<p>Directors had received the paperwork in advance of the meeting and AC provided further context. There were initially four candidates but one opted out.</p> <p>Three candidates were interviewed by a small panel of the TBoD and the recommendation is for Gillian Askew &amp; Naveen Judah to be appointed as Directors. Despite the current circumstances, AC stated he would like to pursue the appointments and commence with the induction process/meetings via virtual link. There was a unanimous vote by Directors and it was agreed for this recommendation to be considered by the Members.</p> <p><b>SB queried if Naveen Judah would step down as an advisor to the Audit &amp; Finance Committee</b> and CEO advised he would and it would then be for the TBoD to formally re-appoint him, if deemed appropriate, as a member of that Committee.</p> <p>CEO provided an update regarding Andy Deutsch and explained that he has been invited to consider joining the new North Ridge LGB.</p>	
<b>7. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</b>	
<p>7.1. COV-ID 19 Policy</p> <p>CEO explained he had received various model COV-ID 19 policies, which he had found unhelpful. Following discussion, it was agreed for the Trust to not publish a COV-ID 19 policy, as existing policies are still fit for purpose.</p>	

<p>7.2. Bader - Construction <b>SB queried if current circumstances are affecting construction work at Bader</b> and CEO advised he hoped the work would be deemed "essential" but that social distancing will likely slow things down. A virtual meeting is taking place on 30<sup>th</sup> March and CEO will update all accordingly.</p> <p>7.3. Legislation CEO advised of the emergency legislation, which is likely to be passed and would give the Secretary of State power to remove the word 'must' and replace with 'make reasonable endeavour' in regards to assessing children for and issuing an EHCP.</p> <p>7.4. Bader – Other <b>SB asked for an update regarding recruitment and governance for Bader</b> and CEO explained about the recent leadership appointments. In the first year, there will be three Assistant Headteachers and the Trust will then look at appointing a Head of School for year 2, which can be assessed against a 'live' school and culture. Teacher interviews were arranged for this week but have been postponed and this will be reviewed after Easter.</p> <p>7.5. TBoD Chair &amp; Vice Chair Elections AC provided an overview and outlined the need for Chair and Vice Chair elections for TBoD. <b>PC asked if Director's can re-appoint</b> and AC advised yes. CEO provided context and summarised the election process, which will be co-ordinated by the Clerk. <b>ACTION:</b> Clerk to: co-ordinate the election process of Chair and Vice-Chair of TBoD, update the Scheme of Delegation and add to the next TBoD agenda. Members will need to review and approve any change to the Chair.</p>	<p><b>CLERK 29/04/20</b></p>	
<p><b>8. REVIEW OF RISK</b></p>		
<p>To consider any new risks identified during the meeting for referral to Trust Committees.</p> <p>There were no items deemed as a risk.</p>		
<p><b>12. CONFIDENTIALITY</b></p>		
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>There were no items deemed confidential.</p>		
<p><b>12. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</b></p>		
<p>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2020</p>	<p>17:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Kimberworth CC - TBC</p>
<p>Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2020</p>	<p>17:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Kimberworth CC</p>
<p style="color: blue;">Leadership Summit Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2020</p>	<p>16:00 – 19:00</p>	<p>Crags School</p>
<p>Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2020</p>	<p>17:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Kimberworth CC</p>
<p>Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> July 2020</p>	<p>17:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>Nexus Headquarters</p>

**Minutes approved**

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE
ANDREW CHILD		29/04/20