



**Nexus Board of Directors
Wednesday 24th June 2020 5 - 7.30pm
Held via Microsoft Teams Video-Link**

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

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
<p>1.1 Welcome & receive apologies for absence</p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>No apologies were received.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
<p>2.1. Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>2.1.1. Ofsted pre-inspection of Bader Academy, which was discussed at 12.1.</p> <p>2.1.2. COVID-19 Trust Update</p> <p>The CEO provided Directors with an update, explaining about the gradual increase in uptake with the majority of schools at around 30-40% capacity;</p> <p>Abbey – 34 pupils are accessing learning across 3 sites. CEO provided an overview of a safeguarding issue, which PC as Safeguarding Director is aware of.</p> <p>Becton – 24 pupils are accessing learning at the Kenwood site on a planned rota. 20 at Moncrieffe, 22 at Becton and 25 at Sheffield Children’s Hospital (SCH).</p> <p>Coppice – Between 60/70 pupils per week.</p> <p>Crags – 111 pupils in the eligible year groups and key worker children. There has been a wider offer for Years 2-5 and 34 pupils will be joining from next week.</p> <p>Heatherwood – 13 pupils.</p> <p>Hilltop – 54 pupils.</p> <p>Kelford – 53 pupils.</p> <p>North Ridge – 23 pupils.</p> <p>Pennine View – up to 31 pupils but home school transport has been an issue.</p> <p>HB queried Crags and how they are managing bubbles and the CEO explained the site is very big, class sizes are no more than 15 with phased start/finish/breaks and lunch times and this is working well. HB asked what the pupil cap might be and the CEO advised the need for a timetable may arise.</p> <p>RP asked if staff anxiety has eased and the CEO explained that the vast majority of staff are fine. The CEO provided an overview of a recently conducted 10% sample HR survey and this will be tabled at the Standards Committee on the 20th July, then shared with Directors. The response rate was low but for the most part is positive.</p>	

<p>PC asked about the majority of children who are not attending school and the CEO explained that staff continue to make phone calls home and also undertake home visits routinely where we have a family of concern.</p> <p>The Chair asked if HTs have started planning for September and the CEO explained yes, but that hands are tied as further guidance for full opening in Sept has not yet been published. The CEO commented that pupils will need to be base lined during the first term back. The Chair asked if baselining would be standardised and the CEO explained that it will be based on each school's own baselining approach. The Chair further asked if this would require additional funding/resource and the CEO advised this was not anticipated. The Chair asked when staff would be made aware of the baselining process and the CEO believed this would not surprise staff and the CEO has already encouraged schools to add an extra INSET day in September to address this.</p> <p>HB advised Directors that she had been in a meeting with the Regional Schools Commissioner and that he expected the government guidance to be imminent and believed schools should plan to open fully but with a contingency to respond quickly to change. HB felt baselining should not be a priority and the focus should be on settling the children back in and their SEMH needs. AC asked if the settling period should be a couple of weeks and JC advised however long is needed, otherwise a false base-line may be established.</p> <p>SB asked if the Trust had suffered any loss of income and the CEO advised all contracts had been paid in full. The CFO made reference to the effect on lettings income, which is offset by some reduction in expenditure and is nominal.</p>	
<p>3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</p>	
<p>3.1. Individual Directors to declare any personal, business/governance interests on any item on the agenda</p> <p>There were no declarations made.</p>	
<p>4. TRUST BOARD OF DIRECTORS MINUTES</p>	
<p>4.1. To approve the minutes of the following meeting:</p> <p>The minutes of the virtual Board Meeting held on 20th May 2020 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>	
<p>5. STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN 2019-20 – UPDATED REPORT</p>	
<p>Directors had received the Business Plan in advance of the meeting and questions/challenge were as follows:</p> <p>SB queried Page 1 - £65k for a new classroom at Hilltop and asked what it looks like and the CEO and RP explained it is not a new modular classroom but an extremely pleasing and surprising re-model of the internal layout.</p>	

<p>SB queried page 5 – A&F mtg and the CFO outlined the audit retendering schedule.</p> <p>SS asked for more information regarding the Rother Valley College site, RMBC’s approach to residential and anticipated numbers for the Landmarks provision and the CEO provided a detailed overview.</p> <p>RP queried Discovery and options for interim possibilities and the CEO provided an update.</p>	
<p>6. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT</p>	
<p>The CFO provided an overview of the financial headlines, explaining her rationale for not providing a line by line analysis for Heatherwood.</p> <p>The CFO provided context regarding the 2 items for Pennine View, which breached the 1% threshold.</p> <p>SB thanked the CFO for the revised layout and queried Abbey’s income decrease of £50k and the CFO explained this is an import/export error on the part of Sheffield City Council, which Nexus processes had identified early.</p> <p>SB queried item 6.2. and £294k under Other for August 20 and the CFO explained this is CIF funding for the Abbey Road.</p> <p>SB queried the 0s on the second line from the bottom on 6.2. and the CFO apologised for this error.</p> <p>SS requested an update regarding the HCSS situation and the CFO provided this.</p> <p>NJ further commented regarding the HCSS situation and the importance of getting the opening balance correct and the CFO proposed they meet on a 1-1 basis to discuss this further.</p> <p>AC asked about reserves, which appear to be increasing and CFO advised this is agenda item 9.2.</p>	
<p>7. UPDATED ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION</p>	
<p>The CEO provided clarification regarding the DfE need for updated AofA, due to the incorporation of Bader Academy. The CEO verbalised the content and advised the wording of the resolution had been provided via the Trust’s Solicitors. The updated AofA were duly approved by all Directors present at the meeting, which will go forward to the Members.</p>	
<p>8. PENNINE VIEW SCHOOL OFSTED REPORT</p>	
<p>Directors had received the Ofsted Report in advance of the meeting and will be referred to the Standards Committee for further detailed discussion. JC commented that he felt the report was positive but further discussion was required with regards to the findings in English.</p> <p>NH commented on the positivity regarding pupils feeling safe and valued and for more information regarding English and the CEO provided this.</p>	

<p>9. NEW POLICIES FOR APPROVAL</p>	
<p>9.1. Newly Qualified Teachers</p> <p>The CEO advised that this policy is a requirement due to the incorporation of Bader Academy and discussion/challenge was as follows:</p> <p>HB queried the use of non-traditional terminology and the CEO explained the policy had been put together based on a model policy. HB commented the policy was very off-the-shelf and does not encapsulate Trust vision and aims. After discussion, it was agreed for HB to put her comments/feedback in writing for the CEO to feedback/comment on and the revised policy should then go to the Standards Committee on 20th July for approval.</p> <p>ACTION: HB to liaise with the CEO regarding the Newly Qualified Teachers Policy.</p> <p>9.2. Reserves Policy</p> <p>The CFO provided an overview, explaining the previous policy was not fit for purpose and all Directors in attendance, agreed to adopt the Reserves Policy.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">HB 20/07/20</p>
<p>10. POLICIES FOR REVIEW – REPORT</p>	
<p>The Directors reviewed the Policy Update Report and granted approval for the tabled amendments/renewal of the following policies; Careers, Competitive Tendering & Procurement, Dress Code, Financial Reserves, Governance Handbook, Risk Management, Sickness Absence and Wellbeing Management.</p>	
<p>11. USE OF NEXUS LOGO ON ROTHERHAM TOWN YOUTH FOOTBALL KIT</p>	
<p>The CEO provided context, explaining he had been approached by Viki Drew, Deputy Head of Kelford School, and there was in depth discussion. Directors agreed to the Nexus logo being used on the Rotherham Town Youth Football kit.</p> <p>ACTION: CEO to further explore the need for copyright/trademark of the logo and the need for a formal Sponsorship Policy, with input from HB.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CEO 23/09/20</p>
<p>12. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</p>	
<p>12.1. The CEO advised Directors of Bader Academy’s pre-opening Ofsted inspection, which is taking place on 2nd July and the feedback will be shared with Directors.</p> <p>12.2. PC queried when face to face meetings will resume and the Chair advised possibly from September.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk to include resuming face to face meetings on the 29th July agenda.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CLERK 29/07/20</p>
<p>13. REVIEW OF RISK</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>14. CONFIDENTIALITY</p>	
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>There were no items deemed confidential.</p>	

15. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS		
Wednesday 29 th July 2020	17:00 – 19:30	MS Teams

Minutes approved

CHAIR	SIGNATURE	DATE