



**Nexus Board of Directors**  
**Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021 5 - 7.30pm**  
**via MS Teams**

<b>Attendees:</b>		
Andrew Child	Director/Member & Chair of Trust Board of Directors	Chair
Gill Askew	Director	GA
Steve Booth	Director	SB
John Coleman	Director	JC
Naveen Judah	Director	NJ
Ray Palmer	Director	RPa
Rachel Potts	Director/Vice Chair of Trust Board of Directors	RP
Jo Smith	Director	JS
<b>Also Present:</b>		
Warren Carratt	Chief Executive Officer	CEO
Joel Hardwick	Assistant CEO – Strategy & Partnerships	JH
Catherine Sands	Chief Finance Officer	CFO
Emma Sheedy	Governance Clerk	Clerk
Jacky Tattershall	Assistant CEO – School Improvement	JT
<b>Apologies:</b>		
Peter Castleton	Director	PC
Sue Shelley	Director	SS

1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE	ACTIONS
<p>1.1 Welcome &amp; receive apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were received from PC and SS.</p>	
<p>1.2 To accept apologies for absence</p> <p>Apologies were accepted from PC and SS.</p>	
2. ITEMS OF AOB	
<p>Chair to determine any items of urgent business to be considered.</p> <p>The CEO shared with Directors an additional agenda item 12. Forrester-Boyd Contract.</p> <p>Directors were advised that JT would be departing the meeting after agenda item 7.</p> <p>2.1. NGA Award Pre-meeting</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 19<sup>th</sup> May 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. 2020-21 STRATEGIC BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE REPORT	
<p>The CEO provided key highlights of the 2020-21 Strategic Business Plan Report and discussion/challenge was as follows:</p> <p>Under the leadership of the Assistant Chief Exec-School Improvement (ACE-SI), the CSIF is on course to meet all objectives for 2020-21, with mandate and network group leads now pulling together core principles for curriculum areas. There is an SLT strategy day scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> June, which will be led by the executive team, with a focus on planning the CSIF delivery plan for 2021-22. One key proposal will be the development of Trust wide curriculum policies, which Heads will be consulted on.</p> <p>The deep dive review of English at Pennine View, in late May, recognised the strengths and improvements made since the last inspection, and also outlined recommendations for the school to securely move forward. The Headteacher was disappointed with some of the feedback but has exceptionally high standards and the feedback will prove invaluable in the school securing 'Good' at the next inspection. This will be subject to detailed reporting at the July Standards Committee.</p>	

The two day Ofsted type review of Crags by B11 - an independent school improvement service – took place on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> June. The CEO explained the review was more 'mocksted' than asked for or expecting but this has enabled the leadership team to understand the pressures of an inspection environment. Verbal feedback was in line with the school dashboard self-evaluation, with strength seen in phonics, reading and writing and clear recommendations for further improvements across the curriculum. There were no concerns at all about any aspect of behaviour in school. This will be subject to detailed reporting at the July Standards Committee.

A DfE External Expert undertook a one-day post-opening visit to Bader Academy on 15<sup>th</sup> June and the outcome was successful. The CEO extended thanks to JT for her intervention and support to the Bader leadership team. This will be subject to a more detailed report going to the July Standards Committee.

The CEO shared his funding concerns with a local LA with Directors, to be further discussed under Finance.

The CEO spoke positively about working in partnership with BMBC.

**RP asked when recommendations would be forthcoming from the interim Head of Information Governance and ICT** and JH advised of a six-week review period so conclusions are anticipated over Summer, with planned changes taking place in September.

**SB asked about the new Strategic Asset & Facilities Lead** and the CEO provided an update and advised of a few complications.

**The Chair asked JT about cross-school initiatives and what staff are most interested in;** JT advised early reading/phonics and the development of the same rationale and the progression of skills leading into knowledge for primary age groups - all subjects.

**The Chair queried how many pupils are at The Bridge and is it heading towards being a separate unit** and the CEO advised around 32 pupils from September but not all will be full time. The Bridge is an age appropriate shared site, utilised as satellite provision from the main school sites, which provides a more progressive learning environment with a grown up vibe and feel. The Bridge will not be a separate institution and will operate with a pooled budget. Parents are exceptionally supportive about pupils moving on in such a positive way.

**The Chair enquired about Abbey taking on more space at Horizon College, which will create around 25 more additional spaces, and the impact on planned places** and the CEO advised in time it would generate around 25 more additional spaces. Planned places at Abbey is currently 140 and the number on roll this year is 189. Via consultation with the LA, the intention is for the High Needs Notification Return to be amended and reflect numbers on roll for September 2022.

**The Chair asked for further context regarding the Trust supporting Highfields Special School** and the CEO explained how we are working in partnership with Highfields.

<p><b>6. SCHOOLS DASHBOARD</b></p>	
<p>The CEO provided an overview of the School Dashboard and advised of minimal change with the exception of North Ridge School..</p> <p>Kelford has been downgraded but this relates to what data is incorrectly telling us about the quality of education. Lisa Suter has been commissioned to work alongside Kari Anson to review this.</p> <p><b>JC queried Pupil Voice for Abbey, shown as Good with outstanding features and asked if the new technologies could be shared/adopted elsewhere</b> and the CEO advised of the robot and Seesaw app. JT also added that Abbey maintained their Student Council throughout COVID, where others suspended theirs. It was agreed for the CEO to provide more detail at the July Standards Committee.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1:</b> CEO to provide more detail regarding Abbeys' Pupil Voice at the July Standards Committee.</p> <p><b>RP asked if the CEO could share any further context regarding Coppice's downgraded indicators</b> and the CEO explained the downgrades are a consequence of a new Head of School in post, with a slightly different perspective regarding where she wants standards to be. Capacity has decreased with the retirement of the Headteacher, which has been further impacted by sickness absence issues. The new Head of School is bringing rigour and formality to addressing this in a proactive way.</p> <p><b>SB stated he was surprised to see Abbey as Good secure under financial sustainability</b> and it was agreed for the CEO to address this, as there was enough evidence to suggest this was outstanding.</p> <p><b>ACTION 2:</b> CEO to address Abbeys RAG rating of financial sustainability.</p> <p><b>RPa queried the downgrading of site safety at Bader</b> and the CEO explained about the required site security enhancements and perimeter fencing. <b>The Chair further asked if this is a design fault</b> and the CEO explained it was, but reminded Directors that Bader was an LA commissioned build.</p> <p><b>The Chair queried staff sickness absence at Coppice and Kelford</b> and the CEO advised a lot of this relates to COVID but is nothing to be unduly concerning. The CEO advised of a forthcoming Staff Survey at Kelford, and explained that HR are working with Heads to proactively manage sickness.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CEO</b> <b>12/07/21</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>CEO</b> <b>28/07/21</b></p>
<p><b>7. MAT DASHBOARD</b></p>	
<p>The CEO advised this agenda item had been included incorrectly.</p> <p>[JT left the meeting at 17:43].</p>	
<p><b>8. BUDGET MONITORING</b></p>	
<p>The CFO provided an overview of Budget Monitoring and discussion/challenge was as follows:</p> <p><b>SB queried item 1.2.2.</b> and the CFO apologised for the word 'decreased', which should read 'increased'.</p> <p><b>ACTION 1:</b> CFO to update the P8 Board Report.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>CFO</b> <b>ASAP</b></p>

The CFO drew attention to Becton as LA Income (INLAI) has decreased by £39,863 and provided context.

Directors valued the addition of the graph at 2.4. for individual outturn positions over 2020/21 and **it was agreed for this to be included going forward.**

Hilltop are predicting a cashflow shortfall in June and July. This is due to the 'Out of Authority' LAs who the school has places with, stipulating that the school must invoice them in arrears, at the end of each term for the pupils they place at the school. This leaves the school having to incur the costs of placement in advance and recoup the costs later, creating a cashflow pressure for the school.

There was a discussion, which due to confidentiality was agreed to be recorded in a Confidential Appendix.

**SB queried item 1.3.1. regarding Abbeys items not recognised by the Finance & Compliance Officer** and the CFO explained about the processes now in place and the new Finance & Compliance Officer in post.

**SB asked about the monies outlined at Table 4 item 3.4.** and the CFO provided an overview of the banking position.

**SB queried the school funds** and the CFO advised schools have spent more than they had in, but this will be dissolved by prior year surpluses'.

**NJ asked if the outstanding monies from the LA were included in debtors** and the CFO advised no because this is equity funding. If at year-end the situation has not been resolved then a debtor accrual will be manually inputted.

**The Chair asked of any key financial risks for the remainder of this financial year** and the CFO advised of none in addition to the LA funding issue.

## 9. 2021-2022 TRUST BUDGET SETTING

Following an overview by the CFO.

**NJ asked for clarification if some of the cost of the interim Head of Information Governance and ICT is offset against capital money** and the CEO advised no. This is the Strategic Asset & Facilities Lead but will not feature in the 2020/21 accounting year, as they are not due to start until the beginning of 2021/22.

**SB asked if we have received the SCA funding** and the CFO advised we have received  $\frac{3}{4}$  of it, which is shown on the Nexus capital income line.

**SB queried if three different reserves will be shown on the high level-reporting sheet** and the CFO advised yes.

**SB stated an observation that Abbey are predicting another very high surplus** and the CFO explained about the Executive Headteachers exemplary budget management.

<p><b>The Directors unanimously:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Approved the movement of £181,667 of School Condition Allowance (SCA) funding from the capital budget to the Trust capital reserve before 31.08.21;</b></li> <li><b>2. Approved the Nexus MAT Budget for 2021/22, as per appendix A;</b></li> <li><b>3. Commissioned the Chief Finance Officer to upload the Trust budget on the ESFA portal before the deadline of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2021.</b></li> </ol>		
<p><b>10. POLICY UPDATE REPORT</b></p>		
<p>Directors reviewed the Policy Update Report <b>and unanimously approved the:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Governance Handbook</b></li> <li>• <b>Newly Qualified Teacher Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Pay Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Risk Management Policy</b></li> <li>• <b>Sickness Absence &amp; Wellbeing Management Policy</b></li> </ul>		
<p><b>11. PROSPECTIVE MEMBER – RECOMMENDATION RESOLUTION</b></p>		
<p>The Chair explained that Zanib Rasool is resigning from the Trust as a Member at the July meeting. The Chair, PC and NJ interviewed a prospective Member, Angham Ahmed and provided context. Following discussion, <b>Directors unanimously supported the recommendation to appoint Angham Ahmed as a Member of the Trust, to the Members at the July meeting</b></p>		
<p><b>12. FORRESTER-BOYD CONTRACT</b></p>		
<p>The CEO provided context and following discussion, <b>Directors unanimously approved to appoint Forrester-Boyd as the Trust’s external auditor and agreed for AC to sign this on behalf of the Board</b></p>		
<p><b>13. ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS</b></p>		
<p>13.1. JH provided Directors with an update regarding the NGA Award and pre-meetings scheduled to take place.</p>		
<p><b>14. 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 beyond those discussed in the covering reports.</p>		
<p><b>15. CONFIDENTIALITY</b></p>		
<p>To consider the confidentiality of any items discussed during the meeting.</p> <p>There was a discussion at agenda 8, which due to confidentiality was agreed to be recorded in a Confidential Appendix.</p>		
<p><b>16. DATES OF NEXT MEETINGS</b></p>		
<p>Wednesday 28th July 2021</p>	<p>17:00 – 19:30</p>	<p>via MS Teams</p>

**Minutes approved**

<b>CHAIR</b>	<b>SIGNATURE</b>	<b>DATE</b>