

EDUCATION ATTAINMENT IMPROVEMENT BOARD

26 March 2019

Commenced: 3.30pm

Terminated: 5.10pm

Present: Councillor Feeley (Chair)
Councillors: L Boyle and Patrick
Andrea Radcliffe - Secondary Sector
Representative

In Attendance: Tim Bowman Assistant Director, Learning
Catherine Moseley Head of Access and Inclusion
Helen Mellor Head of Pupil Support Service
Tony Shepherd Head of Improvement and
Partnerships
Tom Wilkinson Assistant Director of Finance
Christine Mullins Finance Business Partner

Apologies for Absence: Councillors Ryan and M Smith and Elizabeth Turner (Primary
Sector Representative)

25 CHAIR'S OPENING REMARKS

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, in particular new member, Andrea Radcliffe from Hyde Community College, secondary sector representative.

26 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest submitted by Members of the Board.

27 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Education Attainment Improvement Board held on 15 January 2019 were approved as a correct record with the inclusion of an overview of schools' finance in the forward plan for 2019/20.

28 SEND UPDATE

The Assistant Director, Education, submitted a report providing an update on SEND issues, covering the implementation of the SEND reforms. Current performance and readiness for SEND Local Area Inspection.

It was reported that the self evaluation (Appendix A to the report), highlighted a number of areas of strength, most notably proactive work in the early years. However, there were significant challenges to performance, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, in particular, compliance with statutory timescales or the completion of education health and care plans, the consistency of our identification of needs and the strength of joint commissioning.

The report concluded that Tameside, like many local areas had found implementing SEND reforms challenging. Implementation had not been consistent and capacity challenges and changes in

leadership had negatively impacted upon this. Recent joint work meant that a robust self-evaluation was in place, tested via peer challenge and discussed with Ofsted at recent annual conversation.

A thorough and well considered improvement plan was in place and it was targeted to the areas requiring the swiftest improvement. Oversight to the implementation of this plan would be provided by the SEND Strategic Group, through the Starting Well Board and the Education Attainment and Improvement Board.

Discussion ensued in respect of SEND and the importance of early identification of need

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of the report be noted and the summary of strengths and weaknesses identified in the self-evaluation executive summary, as appended to the report, be endorsed; and**
- (ii) That the improvement plan be submitted to the next meeting of the Education Attainment Improvement Board for consideration.**

29 EDUCATION SELF-ASSESSMENT AND ACTION PLAN UPDATE

Consideration was given to a report of the Assistant Director, Education, which gave details of action plans for priority areas of work, as requested by Board Members at the October 2018 meeting.

The three priority areas identified were as follows:

- SEN support;
- Attendance; and
- Reading.

The report provided details on the actions proposed and underway to address the priorities of Attendance and Reading.

A summary of the Education Self-Assessment discussed with Ofsted on the Annual Conversation and detailed action plans were appended to the report.

Two key areas for all improvement were outlined as follows:

- Improving practice; and
- Improving targeting.

This approach was intended to ensure plans were in place to sustain and accelerate improvement in the medium to long term as well as impacting on results this year.

RESOLVED

- (i) That the content of the report and the self-assessment and the priority identified, be noted; and**
- (ii) That the action plans presented be endorsed.**

30 PRESENTATION OF THE NEW BRIDGE MULTI ACADEMY TRUST

Graham Quinn, Chief Executive Officer, New Bridge Multi Academy Trust, attended before Members and gave a presentation in respect of New Bridge Multi Academy Trust.

He explained that the Trust was based in Oldham and catered for young people with a statement of SEN or EHCP from the age of 4 to 19.

Mr Quinn further explained the Trust's belief that successful partnerships involving good schools working together ensured that they became even better. Strong collaboration with shared accountability led to better progress and attainment for young people and helped schools meet rising expectations.

The Trust were aiming to build a thriving community of converting and sponsored academies and free schools and other trusts. The focus was on getting the basics right with an emphasis on innovation, collaboration and enjoyment. It was the Trust's belief that they had considerable skills and expertise in supporting schools that worked with young people who had additional needs. Mr Quinn emphasised the value in being outward facing and believed that creating sustainable partnerships with like-minded schools encouraged and supported continued improvement.

Discussion ensued in respect of the information presented and Members commented on the positive 'can do' approach of the Trust and the ambition for all learners.

The Chair thanked Mr Quinn for an inspiring presentation.

RESOLVED

That the content of the report be noted.

31 URGENT ITEMS

The Chair reported that there were no urgent items received for consideration at this meeting.