

NORTH YORKSHIRE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

Date of meeting:	
Title of report:	Minutes of the Education Partnership – 25 May 2017
Type of report:	For information only
Executive summary: Including reason for submission	The minutes of the previous meeting of the North Yorkshire Education Partnership are presented for approval.
Budget / Risk implications:	N/A
Recommendations:	The minutes are approved as an accurate record.
Voting requirements:	N/A
Appendices: To be attached	N/A
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Presenting officer: If not the originator	N/A

PRESENT:

Chair:	Ian Yapp
Primary Headteachers:	Ian Clennan, Michelle Hall (sub for Jillian Baker),
Secondary Headteachers:	Rob Pritchard
Nursery Headteacher:	Jane Pepper
Special Headteacher:	
Pupil Referral Service:	
Academies:	Helen Wiseman (for Catherine Brooker)
Governors:	Ken Blackwood, Jim Martin, Gerry Price
Early Years Providers:	
16-19 Providers:	
Diocesan Representatives:	
Trade Unions:	Chris Head
Observers:	Cllr Janet Sanderson
In Attendance:	Peter Dwyer, Anton Hodge, Sally Dunn, Paul Brennan, Andrea Sedgewick, Andrew Dixon, Peter Addison-Child, Marion Sadler (Clerk)
Apologies:	David Barber, Jillian Baker (Michelle Hall subbing), John Barker, Les Bell, Marianne Best, Catherine Brooker (Helen Wiseman subbing), Rob Campbell, Tammy Cooper, Catherine Farrell, Debra Forsythe-Conroy, Wendy Jemison, Mark McCandless, Sara Moon, Cllr Patrick Mulligan, Stephen Payne, Jo Robinson, Stella Smethurst, Rick Weights, Rachel Wells

725: WELCOME

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that, as the Forum was one representative short of being quorate, the meeting would continue on the basis of discussion only.

726: MEMBERSHIP OF THE EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

It was noted that David Barber had resigned from the Partnership with immediate effect and the Chair thanked David for his contribution to the Partnership's work.

Vacancies now existed for Primary Headteachers (2), Secondary Headteachers (3), Primary Governors (3), Secondary Governors (2) and Diocesan representatives (2). Members were asked to publicise the vacancies amongst their networks and encourage nominations as it was almost certain that a Schools Forum would

continue to play an important role in decision making. A further advertisement had been circulated.

727: MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the previous meeting be agreed.

728: MATTERS ARISING

There were no matters arising from the minutes.

729: NOTIFICATION OF ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of urgent business to discuss.

730: DEVELOPING A LEARNING TRUST FOR NORTH YORKSHIRE

Peter Dwyer introduced Peter Addison-Child who, along with Jane Creasey, had facilitated the two workshop sessions commissioned by the North Yorkshire Education Partnership to consider and develop proposals for a North Yorkshire Learning Trust which could create an opportunity for a holistic forum in which to discuss the wider education (from early years to HE), skills and the economic development agenda in North Yorkshire.

Peter Addison-Child gave a presentation reporting on the key points and feedback from the workshops which reflected the views of those who participated in these sessions as follows:

- Key challenges identified as transitions between phases of education, home/school and into work, curriculum gaps, breadth and balance, equity of opportunity, workforce recruitment and retention, collaboration and strategic planning of the right provision in the right places
- What could a Learning Trust bring in terms of additional value: a catalyst which enables the system to develop strategic responses to strategic change; a vehicle to access funding through other bodies; meaningful collaboration between stakeholders connecting key influences from education, business and the wider community
- The body would be independent of vested interest and outward looking to influence national and regional policy, highlighting the most critical challenges for North Yorkshire. An influential body but not executive decision making which celebrates and shares success across North Yorkshire and has high aspirations for North Yorkshire children and young people.
- The group would be small: between 9-11 individuals invited to join the Trust, all non-executive, who are knowledgeable, operating at system level and influential in their sector: supporting secretariat provided by the Local Authority: at arms length from any body providing it with funding or resources.
- The group would have working relationships with schools/colleges, business and employers, the LA, and other national, regional and local stakeholders
- Next steps would be to undertake wider dialogue with schools and other stakeholders with recruitment to the Trust during the autumn 2017 to enable formation of the Trust from early 2018.

The Chair opened up the meeting for discussion and views were expressed as follows:

Gerry Price welcomed the stimulating and thought provoking discussion at the workshop sessions and expressed appreciation for the excellent summary produced by Peter Addison-Child

Paul Brennan outlined the work currently being undertaken by ISOS looking at similar models nationally using a sample of about eight other local authorities. Findings

reflected this direction of travel across the country and there was potential for a large County like North Yorkshire to also have a sub structure at district and local level. A Trust model would put North Yorkshire in a strong position and ahead of others in enabling ethical leadership and evidence based decision making across the whole education and skills spectrum.

Ian Clennan felt the way in which the Trust identified its core business and focus on key strategic challenges was critical, particularly those areas on which it chose to concentrate on as highest and first priorities.

Ken Blackwood asked how this differed from what currently existed and asked where was there an identified strategic gap in current LA and Partnership arrangements? Peter Addison-Child said that in developing proposals the key objective was about having a single influential body which could operate across all sectors in recognition that, within the Education system, the LA was no longer the sole influential voice. Pete Dwyer said it was important to be mindful that the landscape had changed, albeit not as significantly as originally predicted, but there was opportunity to create a single body, independent of vested interests, which could hold strategic conversations across sectors and stakeholders who did not necessarily have regular dialogue (eg education, skills, employers and Regional Schools Commissioners) at a strategic level. There would still be need for a statutory Schools Forum and this model would enable greater join up between sectors than the current Education Partnership arrangements.

Paul Brennan reflected that over recent years there had been a shift of some strategic decision making responsibilities away from Local Authorities which had meant that the LA no longer had the same level of influence across the whole sector. The LA did however have a critical enabling role to ensure there was the best possible education and skills provision and life opportunities for its children and young people. In his view the Learning Trust model would present this. The LA should still however have a strong role to play on the Trust as a key enabling stakeholder.

Ken Blackwood enquired how the vast majority of small and medium businesses within North Yorkshire could be represented. Pete Dwyer indicated that the Trust would enable evidenced based analysis and engagement with SMEs on such issues as apprenticeships. There would also be engagement via the LEP.

It was suggested that early progress with establishment of the Trust would be beneficial rather than the suggested timeline.

Cllr Sanderson said that she felt there was a gap currently around closer working with employers and welcomed the suggestion of an Independent Chair but questioned how, if the body did not hold funding or have decision making powers, the Trust would go about attracting influential members to it. Pete Dwyer reflected on ongoing work in relation to the Scarborough Opportunities Area where the new independent chair of the Opportunities Area Board was already using his influence in highlighting challenges at a national level.

Pete Dwyer briefed colleagues on next steps in terms of decision making and felt there was further work to be undertaken in terms of detail around membership, implications for the existing Education Partnership and gaining necessary approvals and engagement both within the LA and across schools and the education sector.

Chris Head felt there was a need for a forum where both academy and maintained sectors held dialogue as the mixed economy had resulted in reduced opportunities for dialogue.

Jim Martin said that although the Forum remained a statutory requirement, recruitment to schools and demands on key strategic leader capacity led him to have concerns about their ability to engage in a meaningful way. Pete Dwyer reflected that the discussions around the role of the Partnership and the possibility of developing a Trust may have led to some inertia and lack of engagement or willingness to put forward nominations for involvement. It was important therefore that there were strong recruitment processes in place for the Trust, if agreed, and for reemphasising the important role of the Schools Forum.

Anton Hodge highlighted the potential implications of the National Funding Formula proposals on the level of activity of the Schools Forum although it was very likely that its decision making role would continue to exist. The change to the Education Partnership had provided an opportunity to join up school funding and school organisation and standards.

RESOLVED IN PRINCIPLE: that the Partnership request that Local Authority officers take forward the next stage of detailed work to develop the Trust model with regular updates to the Partnership.

731: SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PARTNERSHIPS

CONSIDERED: reports of the School Improvement Partnerships as follows:

Early Years – Jane Pepper, Chair of the Partnership, provided an update on work to develop greater engagement with other agencies working in the 0-5 year old sector, how services can integrate better to meet the needs of children and make the earliest possible impact on their lives. As funding diminishes, there was a continued challenge around capacity to engage due to financial pressures. Gerry Price questioned the recurring underspend and asked whether this could be used to enable providers to engage in CPD. Jane indicated that she would take the suggestion back to the Improvement Partnership for consideration. The Chair indicated that there was some historic underspend due to the time taken to establish and commission work but they needed to be mindful that this was time limited funding.

Primary – Ian Yapp updated colleagues on recent meetings which had developed their plan focussing on two priorities: school to school support building capacity within Teaching School Alliances and increasing the strength of and support for collaboration between schools including peer review models. Ian Clennan asked (a) whether there was evidence that the work of the Improvement Partnership, and its financial investment, had had a positive impact on Ofsted judgements and (b) what “building capacity” looked like in practice. It would be helpful to know the impact of Local Authority support vs that commissioned through the TSAs. Paul Brennan undertook to explore this piece of work further in conjunction with the Improvement Partnerships. The Chair indicated that there was agreement that reports to the Education Partnership should demonstrate impact of the investment made in the School Improvement Partnerships. **ACTION: IY/PB to take forward the Education Partnership’s request for a report providing greater detail on impact to be brought to a future meeting.**

Paul Brennan outlined ongoing work to define the relationships and roles across the school improvement sector with regard to monitoring, challenge, support, intervention and strategic overview.

Secondary – Rob Pritchard provided an update on work including support provided to four schools who had been very appreciative, engagement with ISOS research, consideration of how to support schools which had not moved on from RI to become good, increased leadership capacity through the recruitment of two additional leaders to be deployed rapidly to schools in need, work to recruit and retain a high quality

workforce with good succession planning arrangements and potential to establish a “supply pool”. Rob reflected on the pressures within schools at present on resources, both financially and capacity to engage.

Special – the written report was noted.

ACTION:

1. **RP to forward ISOS review document for sharing with the Education Partnership.**
2. **PB to convene meeting with the four Partnership Chairs to enable a consistent approach in terms of reporting format to the Education Partnership.**

732: EARLY ROLL OUT OF THE 30 HOUR EXTENDED ENTITLEMENT FOR THREE AND FOUR YEAR OLDS

CONSIDERED: report, presented by Andrea Sedgewick, Head of Early Years, outlining progress in the roll out from April 2017 including briefings and support for providers. Different methodologies had been used to analyse the complex data relating to this initiative including provider participation estimates, headcount data and feedback from a range of providers including maintained, private, voluntary and independent settings. Dialogue was ongoing with the Department for Education around progress towards participation targets and feedback would be collated from providers and through the Bursar conferences. Ian Clennan enquired whether the purdah period was affecting decisions around eligibility entitlements and Andrea confirmed that this issue was currently on hold until after the General Election.

733: SCHOOLS CONDITION CAPITAL PROGRAMME

CONSIDERED: report, presented by Andrew Dixon, providing a briefing to the Partnership on the proposed schools condition capital programme for 2017/18 which would be considered by The Executive on 13 June 2017. The Chair asked whether schools would be expected to make a contribution towards capital programme projects which may have already been earmarked by governors for other priorities. Andrew Dixon confirmed that if it was identified as a County Council priority then it would be likely that, similarly, governors had identified a similar level of priority. This would be the subject of individual conversations with schools.

734: SCHOOL FUNDING UPDATE

NOTED: Anton Hodge provided a verbal update on the current position in relation to implementation of a National Funding Formula which was the subject of significant national lobbying. School funding was included within the election manifestos of all main parties. Anton highlighted factual inaccuracies on the “school cuts” website and indicated that the LA had challenged some of the data held within.

735: CUSTOMER REFERENCE GROUP

NOTED: The Chair gave a verbal update on the last meeting of the Customer Reference Group, attended by Gary Fielding, Corporate Director – Strategic Resources, which had focused on assurances of the importance with which the Council’s trading arm viewed its business with North Yorkshire schools, a customer feedback survey post buy-back to be sent to all schools which would enable views to be gained of individual surveys.

Ken Blackwood welcomed the open dialogue at the last meeting which had been positive.

There was agreement that a financial summary of the Traded Services should be brought to the Education Partnership for information. **ACTION: AH to bring to the next meeting.**

736: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no further business raised.

737: FUTURE MEETINGS

14 September 2017; 19 October 2017