

## CEO Briefing Note for Schools and Governors: January 2017

Happy New Year. I hope you have had a restful and happy Christmas break.

Welcome back to the first BDAT newsletter for 2017.

### National News Highlights

#### **Northern Powerhouse report published setting out education recommendations for 2017**

Led by Sir Nick Weller, the highly anticipated Northern Powerhouse (NPH) Schools Strategy was published in November 2016. The independent review was commissioned because of the recognition that schools in the north of England, consistently underperform compared to their southern counterparts.

The NPH strategy sets out a number of recommendations, summarised in a helpful executive summary (pages 4-11) aimed to help address the performance balance. It makes a very interesting read.

The recommendations focus on the following five key areas:

- Building teaching and leadership capacity
- School improvement capacity
- Raising standards by closing the disadvantage gap
- Curriculum
- System Conditions (ie. cold spots across the region)



<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/northern-powerhouse-schools-strategy-an-independent-review>

The work of the Northern Powerhouse is underpinned in our region by the work of the West Yorkshire Strategic Partnership (WYSP), a group instigated by DFE but led by stakeholders from across the region including all five LAs, both Diocese, MAT representatives (including BDAT), system leaders and the Teaching School Council. The WYSP are looking at how the recommendations of the NPH strategy can be put in to practice. Initial focus includes the roll out of the coasting school agenda and shaping the NPH recommendations on Teacher Recruitment and Retention. **More to follow....**



#### **New school improvement funding announced by Secretary of State**

In December 2016, the Secretary of State announced two new sources of funding for school improvement for a **transitional period**, to support progression towards a fully functioning school-led system.

The two elements are as follow:

- A **£50m** per year grant (which will be allocated to LAs from September 2017 with £30m available to cover the initial 7-month

period). The **£50m grant** will go to LAs, allocated on the basis of the number of maintained schools in each LA area with an adjustment for local area costs and a top up to ensure that each LA receives a minimum allocation of £50,000. It will enable LAs to continue to monitor and broker school improvement support for weaker maintained schools in their area, and intervene in certain cases, following the end of ESG funding.

- A **£140m** (2017-18) Strategic School Improvement Fund which will support school improvement and help to build school-led capacity in parts of the country where it is needed. The **£140m fund** will be available to maintained schools and academies in need of support. They will be able to apply to the fund either alone, or as a group of schools, with the support of a teaching school/NLE, LA or RSC, to receive additional funding to support school improvement provision. LAs, RSCs and Teaching Schools will be involved in encouraging bids from schools they identify as being on a downwards trajectory on educational performance or financial health; they will identify teaching schools/NLEs/other providers to support those schools. LAs, RSCs and the Teaching Schools Council will be involved in making recommendations at to the prioritisation of bids. **More detail is expected soon.**

### New guidance on growing MATs effectively

In December 2016, DfE also published good practice guidance for new and growing MATs based on lessons learned to date. Key sections include growing with care, governance, the importance of the right people and leadership development. For more information:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/576240/Multi-academy\\_trusts\\_good\\_practice\\_guidance\\_and\\_expectations\\_for\\_growth.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/576240/Multi-academy_trusts_good_practice_guidance_and_expectations_for_growth.pdf)

### Good news on the inspection front!

Last term was a good term for school inspection as all three BDAT schools on the receiving end of either an OFSTED or SIAMs inspection moving up a grade to GOOD or reconfirmed their existing GOOD judgements:

- **Christ Church Academy** moved from OFSTED requires improvement to a good judgement in every category.
- **Belle Vue Girls'** retained a good judgement following a one-day OFSTED inspection.
- **St Philips Academy** moved from satisfactory to an all good SIAMS judgement.

**Well done to everyone involved!**



### Movers and shakers

#### The Academy at St James joins BDAT

We are pleased to welcome our tenth academy in to BDAT from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017. "The Academy at St James" successfully converted this month and school also opens its doors with a new Head of School this term as Chris Tolson joins the Trust.



#### Further steady primary growth expected.

And further steady growth is expected this year following the Diocesan Board of Education giving approval for East Morton Primary and Trinity All Saints in Bingley to join BDAT. Both schools are aiming to join the Trust in summer 2017 and have already started to join some of our primary and business meetings.

Representatives of the BDAT team (Carol, Helen and Craig) met the RSC in the weeks prior to Christmas for our Department for Education annual health check. At the meeting we talked through our growth plan, our Trust school improvement plan, operational structure and capacity. The conversation included a detailed chat about every academy within the Trust. Following the meeting DfE confirmed that they are satisfied the trust has managed our recent growth effectively and improved internal capacity and capability. While they will need the usual level of detailed due diligence when they come to approving new primaries joining the MAT, this review puts us in a strong position.

#### Be a School Governor



#### Do you know someone who would be a great school governor?

BDAT currently have a number of governor vacancies across the Trusts and are looking for experienced governors who may be interested in stepping up to take on a Chair role or new governors to support our schools.

The expectations of a governor are to attend all Local Governing Body meetings (approximately 6 per year) along with any committees you wish to serve on. Governors should read all documentation received in advance of these meetings

in order to provide strong support and challenge to the Academy Principal and the senior leadership team. Governors are also expected to undertake training to ensure they have a strong grasp of how educational and financial factors shape and affect their school. The role of a Chair is to act as a key link and communicator between the local governing body and the BDAT Board of Trustees. Chairs are also required to attend the BDAT primary/secondary education committees as requested.

If you are interested in becoming a school governor, or know someone who would be interested, please contact [Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org](mailto:Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org) for information and an application form.

## And finally some training dates for your diary....

### **Risk Management Training** **BDAT Head Office, 11<sup>th</sup> January 2017.**

As you know all academies must have risk registers and it is the Trust Board and Governing Bodies who are accountable for managing risk. Effective risk management underpins effective planning across your school in all areas such as strategic finance. Simon Dennis, a specialist in risk management will be running a free training session for BDAT staff and governors on the principals and best practice of risk management covering topics such as how to effectively identify, analyse and mitigate risk.

**Recommended for:** Business Managers, Principals, Heads and Governors.

To book your place email

[sam.rushworth@bdat-academies.org](mailto:sam.rushworth@bdat-academies.org)



### **Safeguarding Training for Chairs**

#### **BDAT Head Office, 15<sup>th</sup> February 2017.**

BDAT has commissioned bespoke training for Chairs and Safeguarding Leads on Governor responsibilities for safeguarding policies, documents and processes. This training covers key principles of the safer recruitment process and what to look out for and an overview of the Ofsted/Keeping Children Safe In Education 2016 requirements for Vetting Checks and Single Central Record.

**Recommended for:** Chairs, Safeguarding Link Governors and Trustees.

To book your place email [Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org](mailto:Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org)

### **Managing exclusions and exclusion appeals** **Location TBC, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2017**

Claire Whitley from Bradford LA will be running training for staff and governors on managing exclusions and exclusion appeals. The two part training will focus on supporting governors to run exclusions and supporting potential appeal panel members on managing hearings.

**Recommended for:** Principals, Heads and Governors.

Please book your place ASAP by emailing [Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org](mailto:Victoria.Bray@bdat-academies.org)

### **Missed out on training.....**

Finally we ran some training last year on RAISE Online and Finance Management in Academies which got positive feedback. If you would like us to run this training again in the spring term please email [Victoria.bray@bdat-academies.org](mailto:Victoria.bray@bdat-academies.org) and subject to interest we will look to re-run these sessions.

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