

Report; SSSfN Link Director to Engage Trust Board: November 2016

1. Governance

- Succession planning to replace present Chair & Vice Chair wasn't as successful as had been hoped. Due to new work commitments it was not possible for the elected Chair to take his position. At the moment that position remains vacant. However the newly elected Vice Chair has successfully taken over that particular role.
- Recruitment continues to be difficult but several new governors have joined and a number of prospective candidates are being interviewed this month.
- Governor Improvement Plan continues to be reviewed at Away Days and is overseen by the Trust Administrator.

2. Governor Monitoring

- The Standards and Performance Meeting established Jenny Bird as Chair for the Autumn Term, Jan Casey will chair during the Spring Term and Laura Sutton will undertake the role during the Summer Term.
- A handbook has been prepared to aid the Chair in the workings of the committee.
- A governor monitoring calendar which ties in with the School Improvement Plan is being used to provide a structured approach to monitoring. All bases are visited and required to provide evidence at some point during the academic year. Senior Leadership throughout the SSSfN are aware of the calendar. The calendar includes monitoring through governor visits, local governor meetings and standards and performance committee meetings.
- 10 monitoring governor visits had been made since September 16. The Trust Administrator oversees the monitoring calendar and ensures that the work is carried out.
- Monitoring reports are a standard item on both the Standards and Performance Committee and LGB meetings. Many of the reports have highlighted the commitment and professionalism of staff alongside the caring environment of the school bases, either through written word or verbally.
- As Link Director I attend the new Strategic Leadership Meeting at least monthly. The weekly meeting brings together key personnel to discuss SSSfN matters. Those attending have key responsibilities: Vicki Setters Exec Head, Katrina Warren Head of Specialist, Jane Maclennan Deputy Head, Lesley Moore Responsible for data & behaviour and attendance, Annette Walker Head of engagement, Nicky Button, Head of admin. (See attached report)
- There have been 2 Standards and Performance Meetings since September which have been responsible for scrutinising
 - i. Science,
 - ii. GCSE Point Scores
 - iii. Pupil Premium Spending Plans
 - iv. Special Needs
 - v. LAC
 - vi. SEN & LAC at Compass (evidence supplied from Belton)The SEN policy was reviewed and ratified following additions.
The SEN Governors Report was presented.
- One LGB meeting has taken place which covered a mixture of reports including committee reports, governor with responsibility reports e.g. Safeguarding and the Exec Heads Report presented by the CEO.

- The Exec Heads Report covered updates on: Teaching and Learning, Curriculum and SEN support, Bases, Staffing, Premises, Finance and Behaviour and attendance.
- The following Policies were approved:

Staffing

- A decision was taken by the Chair & Vice Chair of Engage Trust in consultation with the CEO to appoint Vicki Setters as Executive Headteacher of the SSSfN for 12 months to bring some stability to Leadership following 2 unsuccessful attempts to recruit to that position. Vicki had been Deputy Headteacher of the SSSfN and was therefore well placed to step into that role.
- The new Leader of Engagement across the SSSfN started in September and is presently concentrating efforts on improving the delivery of education by Engagement Teams whilst trying to ensure Alternative Providers comply with the Service Level Agreements.
- A new primary lead has been appointed at Locksley; the previous lead has moved to lead re-integrations.
- A well being survey was undertaken at the start of term which will now be discussed with the Executive Headteacher in order to produce an action plan before being presented to the Local Governing Body and Staff Forum.

3. Capacity

- Over capacity remained a serious problem in the Summer Term, with double the number of students within the SSSfN system than commissioned for. This has resulted in an invoice being sent to the LA for payment in relation to the SSSfN meeting the needs of the students outside the initial commissioned numbers. To date this invoice has not been settled.
- Following a difficult year to manage over capacity the CEO informed the LA that the SSSfN would during 2016/17 only be prepared to accept the number of students that it had been commissioned for.
- The new stance adopted by the SSSfN has meant numbers have been kept this term close to the commissioning number. IT has been set up to enable Vicki Setters to keep an accurate picture of PEX'd students. She is assisted in this task by Nicky Button. One student out one student in is now in operation. At the beginning of November there were 40 children on the waiting list to join the school as a result of being excluded from mainstream. This number varies week to week and has been as high as 47. Since the start of operating in this way there have been 76 students (including CME) on the list which demonstrates just how hard the school are working at moving students on to appropriate placements.
- Making spaces for new students remains a difficulty with little availability of specialist provision and reluctance of mainstream schools to accept students for re-integration.

4. Standards and Performance

Academic Progress (2015/16)

- 87% of students made expected progress or more in a core subject through 2015/16 (10% increase since 2013/14)
- 83% of students made accelerated progress or more in a core subject through 2015/16 (8% increase since 2013/14)
- 86% of Pupil Premium students made expected progress or more in a core subject 2015/16 (5% increase since 2013/14)
- 84% of LAC students make expected progress (11% increase since 2013/ 2014)
- 91% of students with Statement or EHCP make expected progress (23 % increase since 2013/ 2014)
- 84% of students who receive SEN support make expected progress (no prior data to compare to)
- 92% of BME students make expected progress in a core subject (25% increase since 2013/ 2014)
- 100% of EAL students make expected progress (100% increase since 2013/14)
- 78% of Low prior attainers made expected progress in English compared to Norfolk average of 48.6% (2015/16 data compared with 2014/15 Norfolk data)
- 71% of Low prior attainers made expected progress in Maths compared to Norfolk average of 25.5% (2015/16 data compared with 2014/15 Norfolk data)
- Low attaining Pupil Premium students outperform the average Norfolk low attainers by 22% in English and 47% in Maths. (2015/16 data compared with 2014/15 Norfolk data)
- 90% of boys make expected progress (13% increase as compared to 2013 /2014)
- 75% of girls make expected progress

Academic Attainment

- Average Point Score for SSSFN Year 11 (2016) was 65.3, an increase of 23.9 points compared with 2013
- APS for GCSE groups was 128.1 (2016) with an average of 3.8 GCSEs per pupil up by 1 GCSE per pupil from 2013
- 58.8% of Year 11 (2016) achieved one or more GCSE's (compared to 39% in 2013) and compared to 57.7% of AP students who attained a pass in any qualification (GCSE or equivalent, 2015 data)
- The average number of GCSEs per pupil was 1.6 (2016) compared to 1.33 for AP settings nationally (2015)
- APS increased by 58% (2013 – 2016)
- 89% of Year 11 (2016) achieved at least one nationally recognized qualification
- 81% of Year 11 gained a qualification in English and 79% in Maths (2016) compared to 71% and 63% respectfully (2014)
- 49% of pupils attained GCSE English (2016) compared to 18% in AP settings nationally (2015)
- 38% of pupils attained GCSE Maths (2016) compared to 40% in AP settings nationally (2015)

Onward Achievement

- 88% of 2014-15 Year 11 were EET in June 2016 – compared with a National Average for AP/PRU of 54% (2013/14 data)
- Percentage of Year 11 EET risen by 19.4% from 2013 – 2015
- There has been an 83% increase in the number of pupils reintegrating to mainstream (2014-2016), which equates to a 55% increase in the percentage of pupils leaving via this route

5. Teaching and Learning

- A new way of Assessment has been rolled out to Secondary across the school following a successful pilot in Primary last year.
- Curriculum Planning is well under way with Senior Leaders to create a new way of working with Key stage 3 children.
- Plans to bring 'in house' some students who presently attend Alternative Providers starting September 2017 is well under way.

Sue Cooke
Link SSSfN Director