

Croydon Education Partnership Strategic Board Meeting

Date: Thursday 13th July 2023
Time: 12:00-14:00
Venue: Training Room 1, 4th Floor Clocktower Offices, CR9 1ET

Attendees/Membership:

SD	Shelley Davies (Acting Chair)	Director of Education	Local Authority	✓
CL	Christine Lonsdale	Education Partnership Manager	Local Authority	✓
DJ	Debbie Jones	Corporate Director of Children Young People & Education	Local Authority	✓
JRa	Julie Ralphs	Head of Education Services	Local Authority	✓
RM	Roisin Madden	Director of Children's Social Care	Local Authority	✓
CllrMG	Cllr Maria Gatland	Cllr	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People	✓
NE	Natasha Evans	Teaching School Hub	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	✓
NW	Nicole Williams	CHTA	Coombe Wood High School	✓
JRo	Jolyon Roberts	Schools Forum	Pegasus Trust	✓
JA	Jenny Adamson	Pupil Referral Unit	Saffron Valley Collegiate	✓
Jl	Jenette Indarsingh	Maintained Nursery	Thornton Heath Nursery School	✓
AC	Andy Crofts	Secondary	The Quest Academy	✓
MH	Markieu Hayden	Secondary	Norbury High School for Girls	✓
SW	Stuart Worden	14-19	The BRIT School	✓
AP	Ann Pratt	Primary	Park Hill Junior School	-
GF	Guy Fairbairn	Primary	Monks Orchard Primary School	✓
DB	Dan Bowden	Primary	Greenvale Primary School	✓
GL	Glenn Lillo	Primary	Oasis Academy Ryelands	✓
DS	Diarmuid Skehan	Primary	St Thomas Becket Primary School	✓
JC	Josephine Copeland	Primary	All Saints CofE Primary School	✓
KG	Katie Goodwin	Special	St Nicholas' School	✓
EE	Emma Edwards	Independent	Cumnor Houser for Boys	X
AG-M	Aimee Gaddes- Mitchell	PVI/Childminder	Little Apples Day Nursery	X
AG	Aleksandra Garaloska	PVi/Childminder	Modern Montessori International Ltd	✓
NG	Natalie Garner	Further Education	Croydon College	✓
RB	Richard Brooks	Further Education	John Ruskin College	✓
TD	Professor Tara Dean	Higher Education	London South Bank University	X
TM	Tamsin Mills	Education Business Service Manager	Local Authority	✓
MB	Mori Bates	Clerk	Local Authority	✓

Agenda Items

1	Apologies and welcome	SD
	<p>Apologies received from TD, EE and AG-M</p> <p>AP attending via Microsoft Teams</p> <p>SD was acting chair for this meeting as no independent chair has been appointed yet.</p> <p>Croydon Education Partnership (CEP) was introduced as being co-led between local education settings and the LA.</p>	
2	Vision & Mission	SD
	<p>JRa provided the Board with a brief history of a small working group that was set up in December 2022. The group established draft terms of reference, the vision and mission for the board to ratify.</p> <p>The mission was identified as broad, focusing on all the involved parties working collaboratively to create an improved system for Croydon's children and young people (see appendix #1 within the draft terms of reference).</p> <p>MH queried the lack of third sector engagement within the Partnership and other educational settings not included within the membership. JRa explained that the working group's remit was to set the purpose and vision to enable the Board to establish key priorities and actions arising from these priorities. Though there may be educational settings or key players not listed within the membership, it was noted that the Board had to be mindful of having too big a group and thus, a potentially unfunctional team.</p> <p>SD added that it will take time to determine how the Partnership operates and who will be a member on the Board. If, later, it is discovered that there are gaps within the membership, then it can be addressed.</p> <p>The purpose of the Croydon Education Partnership was raised, as the members were interested to know on whose behalf they were speaking on. It was agreed that the Board's purpose is to oversee the work of the Partnership, providing the overall strategic direction necessary to achieve the defined priorities outlined in the vision and mission statement.</p> <p>As the Partnership progresses and develops, there will be potential for sub-groups to target specific focuses and priorities. It is hoped that this will allow everyone involved to have an equal and collective voice, and also involve wider stakeholders.</p>	
3	Website & Branding	TM
	<p>TM provided the Board with a general overview of the Croydon Education Partnership website and the branding, demonstrating a distinct identity separate from Octavo.</p> <p>The new site, croydoneducationpartnership.org will be a seamless transition from the Octavo website.</p> <p>TM explained that there are brand guidelines in place to manage how the site will look to ensure it is kept up to date and looking fresh. In addition to the guidelines, the website has incorporated other useful information, although there is flexibility for changes.</p>	



C)	<p>Meeting schedules agreed as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Meetings will be in person – avoid attendance being split over Microsoft Teams and in person which can be difficult. - A minimum of at least once a term, with a bonus follow-up meeting in December as it would be great to kick off with a meeting in late September and also have one just before Christmas to review the initial meeting. The December meeting could be cancelled if need be. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To summarise: September and December for the Autumn term, then a meeting in Spring and Summer. - To be held within a school, relying on a volunteer host. <p>In relation to the Terms of Reference, it was put to the membership if there were any amendments to be made.</p> <p>JRo voiced concern for the use of ‘underperformance’ under the local context section (2A) and asked for clarification as to what sort of underperforming is being referred to. Was it just in relation to Ofsted? It is not ideal to be focusing on output without comparing it with the input. For Croydon, the amount of money going in versus what is going out would not result in an underperforming status.</p> <p>SD responded, focusing on the Ofsted comment, saying that Croydon is comparable with other boroughs in relation to Ofsted outcomes, but there are outcomes where we have gaps, in particular at KS4 and KS5 – but this Partnership is about focusing on children across all years/phases.</p> <p>DJ added that we are not going to be able to sort out the financial differentials with this Partnership. That is going to be an ongoing priority for whichever administration comes in. Ofsted will look at achievements and where educational settings are at overall, even though there are many contextual factors at play. There will always be things to work on, improve and drive up – it is crucial that we have ambition.</p> <p>It was suggested by the group to focus on ambitions and improvement rather than underperforming which has a pejorative undertone. The aim could be to have ambition for Croydon schools and improving outcomes. Key words emphasised as Ambition & Driving Improvements. SD to rewrite the wording and circulate for review - ACTION</p> <p>AC mentioned that the Board must remember that positive outcomes equal positive challenges. To start with the positive whilst simultaneously acknowledging room for improvement or betterment.</p>	SD
5	Break	SD
6	Appointing an Independent Chair – Discussion/Suggestions	SD
	<p>There was a general discussion centring around how an independent Chair should be selected and appointed.</p> <p>Criteria to be considered when deciding on who is eligible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To know and understand Croydon - To have an education background - Not currently associated with a Croydon education setting/s - Chairing experience desirable, especially for large meetings - Someone willing to adopt the helicopter approach and will take control <p>When asked about suggestions about <i>who</i> could be approached, the following was listed: Stephen Beck, Alison Featherby, Gordon Smith, David Butler, Mark Rosewell, Mark Southworth, Amanda Compton and Andrew Brown.</p> <p>It was noted that the Chair should not have conflicts in relation to working in Croydon Schools.</p>	LA



	<p>It was decided that an interview panel/process would be preferable with 5 individuals from the Board to sit on the panel. The Board/LA to identify interest from potential candidates, address conflicts and then go through an informal application process.</p> <p>The group agreed that they were happy for the LA to host the application in preparation for a start date being the end of September. ACTION:</p> <p>KG, MH, NG and DB (and an LA representative) to sit on the interview panel. Consensus of those in attendance agreeing that they are happy for the interview panel to make the decision on who should be the independent chair.</p>	
7	<p>Information Required to Enable Board to Draft & Agree (3 Year Strategy - Discussion)</p>	SD
A)	<p>A) Funding Allocated B) LA Data C) School Information</p> <p>JRa explained the breakdown of the funding included funding for an independent chair, a clerk for Croydon Education Partnership and CL supporting the Partnership. On top of funding, there is an amount that has been allocated for activities connected to the agreed upon strategy/priorities of the Partnership for the first two years.</p> <p>As the Partnership's funding will be available for the first 2 years, the Board are responsible to utilise the funding in the most cost-effective way, ensuring sustainability of the Partnership in the future.</p> <p>DJ added that this money comes from LA traded income and therefore partly dependant on traded services. Following on from JRa's comments, to develop a sustainable model, focusing on looking at the impacts and successes of the Partnership. By demonstrating success within the Partnership, it may lead to additional funding from other external sources including successful application for grants.</p> <p>Currently, the LA has a comprehensive dashboard that collates data from the borough, including that of SEN data. This data can be shared easily in order to create action plans for the Partnership with the leverage that the Croydon Education Partnership has to share this information.</p>	
B)	<p>There should be a focus on outcomes data and what sits under that top level data because the more you drill down into the layers, the better (more focused) the targets and plans can be.</p> <p>It was put to the membership if there was any information or data sets that educational settings would like to see or have access to, and the comments were as followed:</p>	
C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Safeguarding and audits on this - Health data - Social care - Standards reports - Children in education residing in or out of the borough - English as an additional language - How many people are taking up the two-year old funding allocation and how this affects those accessing the funds - Teacher training stats. Specifically, where the new teacher comes from, where they trained etc. to see the recruitment of Croydon residents that may be teaching outside of Croydon - Homeschooled data, and those not in school or other educational settings <p>Following on from this discussion, it was decided that the dashboards will be shared amongst the membership as there were multiple requests to see this data. As the dashboards are already in the public domain, there appeared to be no reason not to send them out. The aim will be to give a broad overview of the available data. Access to dashboards will be sent out along with the minutes with notes and points to consider/review - ACTION</p>	LA



	With regards to the partnership's strategy, it was mentioned that perhaps three-five priorities would be manageable and would not lead to stretching the pot beyond its capacities. ACTION: Agreed education strategy in place by 31 December 2023	BOARD
8	Any Other Business	SD
	<p>CllrMG was pleased and positive about how the Partnership appears to be starting up. The Board needs to be able to maintain that schools' views are understood.</p> <p>-</p> <p>RB: If we are looking at how to improve, shouldn't we look at good news stories and how best to celebrate victories.</p> <p>SD: It is your meeting, and you can decide the content.</p> <p>-</p> <p>SW is happy to host the next meeting at the BRIT School. Date TBC.</p> <p>-</p> <p>JRa queried whether there were any times or dates to avoid for the next meeting. The overall dates to avoid were Mondays and Fridays. Thursdays were generally acceptable, but not in the morning, so it was decided that the Croydon Education Partnership would meet on a Thursday in the afternoon.</p>	
9	Date of Next Meeting	SD
	<p>Date TBD, but preliminarily will be late in September on a Thursday afternoon - potentially 28 September. ACTION:</p> <p>Meeting to be held at the BRIT School.</p>	LA/SW

Agreed Actions

1.	Every Board member to inform clerk of a named deputy	Board
2.	Rewrite 2a) within terms of reference	SD
3.	Advertise for Chair and co-ordinate recruitment process	LA
4.	Provide data dashboard to members	LA
5.	Agreed education strategy in place by 31 December 2023	Board
6.	Set agenda for next meeting (potentially 28 September 2023 (PM) at the BRIT school)	LA