

## National Church of England Academy Trust (NCEAT) Meeting

**Minutes of Meeting**  
Tuesday 9 July 2019

**REVIEWED**  
6.00 PM - The Whiting Room

<b>Membership</b>			<b>'A'</b> <b>denotes</b> <b>absence</b>
Mrs L Allen	LA	Parent Governor	
Mrs C Ball	CB	Foundation Governor	
Mrs K Cowley (Vice-Chair)	KC	Foundation Governor	
Mr C Dean	CD	Community Governor	Apologies
Vacancy		Appointed Parent Governor	
Mrs J Eastwood	JE	Foundation Governor	
Mrs A Harmston-Hall	AHH	Parent Governor	
Mrs E Hopkin	EHO	Staff Governor: Teaching	Apologies
Mrs H James	HJ	Foundation Governor	
Mrs G Johnson	GJ	DALP Governor	Apologies
Mr S Jones	SJO	Staff: Senior Executive Leader	Apologies
Mr A McKibbin	AM	Foundation Governor	Apologies
Mr B Marshall	BM	Foundation Governor	
Mrs K Mitford (Chair)	KM	Foundation Governor	
Mr J Oldfield	JO	Foundation Governor	
Rev J Stephens	JS	Foundation Governor (ex-officio)	Apologies
Mr M Paine	MP	Foundation Governor	
Mr S Yardley	SY	Foundation Governor	
<i>In attendance</i>			
Ms J Heath	JHE	Interim Principal	Apologies
Mr C Pickering	CP	Chief Executive Officer	
Mr G Corban	GC	Chief Operating Officer	
Mr S Bray	SBy	Clerk	

The Chair invited Mrs Cowley to begin the meeting with a prayer.

NCE/61/1819	<p><b>Apologies &amp; Welcome</b></p> <p>The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting and advised that the following apologies for absence had been received: -</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Mrs C Dean – Work commitment Mrs E Hopkin: Maternity Leave Mrs G Johnson Mr S Jones Mr A McKibbin: Illness Rev J Stephens: Work sabbatical</p> <p>Trustees were asked to consider and agree the apologies submitted. The apologies were <b>approved</b>.</p> <p>Mr Pickering requested that the order of business at the meeting was to be changed, to allow for the item “Future NCEAT Governance and Partnership Arrangements” to be considered earlier on the agenda, with Budget “2019/20” to follow. The Chair agreed to this request.</p>	
NCE/62/1819	<p><b>Declarations of interest and any changes since last declaration made</b></p> <p>Mr Yardley declared that he had formed a new company “Education Performance Assessment”, the business of which related to testing for apprenticeships, since the last meeting. He advised that the company was currently dormant.</p> <p>There were no further declarations of interest, either direct or indirect, for any items of business on the agenda.</p>	
NCE/63/1819	<p><b>Minutes of the meetings dated 18 June 2019</b></p> <p>Minutes of the NCEAT meeting held on 18 June 2019, having been previously circulated, were both agreed and signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p> <p>The Clerk advised trustees on which aspects of the minutes were deemed to be confidential.</p>	
NCE/64/1819	<p><b>Matters arising from meeting 18 June 2019</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>NCE/28/1819 – NCEAT Budget 2019/20</b> This matter was considered at agenda item 66 below.</li> <li>- <b>NCE/052/1819 – Review of Membership</b> This matter was considered at agenda item 67 below.</li> <li>- <b>NCE/055/1819 – GDPR</b> Trustees were reminded of the need to complete the GDPR Refresher Training module where they had not already done so.</li> <li>- <b>NCE/059/1819 – Dates and times of future meetings</b> This matter was considered at agenda item 68 below.</li> </ul> <p><i>Mrs Harmston-Hall arrived during consideration of this item an 6.04pm.</i></p>	

NCE/65/1819	<p><b>Future NCEAT Governance and Partnership Arrangements</b></p> <p>The Chair invited Mrs Cowley, as Vice-Chair, to outline trustees' concerns at the way that current partnership arrangements were working.</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE</p> <p>Mr Pickering responded to the issues raised, stressing that he did so in the context of his role as Chief Executive Officer of both NCEAT and DAT. He saw his role as one of an "honest broker" between the two trusts on this matter.</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE</p> <p>Trustees raised a number of questions and issues relating to Mr Pickering's response, each of which were responded to and discussed further.</p> <p>CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE</p> <p>There was further detailed discussion of budgetary issues and how these had been addressed by DAT leaders after trustees had raised questions and concerns at the 18 June 2019 NCEAT meeting. Mr Pickering advised trustees that budgetary matters had been interrogated at DALP Board but trustees expressed their continued concern on a range of issues and reminded Mr Pickering of their continued accountability for these matters. Mr Corban agreed to send relevant documents, including commentary on questions trustees had previously raised, to trustees on 10 July 2019 for trustees' decision. Arrangements for the recording of trustees' decision by email were outlined and confirmed.</p> <p>Trustees recognised the contribution that Diverse Academies had made to NCEA's improvement and stressed that nothing that was happening now or may happen in the future would take that away. They stressed the key importance they attached to working in the best interests of students in any decisions made. Mr Pickering urged trustees to reflect on those benefits and to work within the new Scheme of Delegation to take matters forward. He agreed that the right of a partner to leave the partnership if they wished to would override any uncertainty about the "qualifying party" issue in the Partnership Agreement.</p> <p><i>Mr Pickering and Mr Corban left the meeting at 7.55 pm.</i></p> <p>Trustees reflected on matters raised in the discussion with Mr Pickering and Mr Corban and further considered issues arising from this. Trustees thanked Mrs Cowley, Mr Marshall and Mr Yardley for the work that they had carried out on the matter in their capacity as Sub-Committee members as agreed at the 18 June 2019 meeting.</p> <p><i>Mrs Harmston-Hall left the meeting at 8.10 pm.</i></p> <p><i>Mrs Cowley left the meeting at 8.20 pm and returned to the meeting at 8.23 pm.</i></p> <p>Following this further discussion it was <b>proposed</b> by Mrs Cowley and seconded by Mrs Eastwood: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To continue with plans to terminate the Partnership Agreement with Diverse Academies Trust, as agreed at the meeting held on 18 June</li> </ul>	GC – 10 July 2019
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	<p>2019</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To relay this information to DALP Board at its next meeting</li> <li>• To negotiate with a view to taking up the Chief Executive Officer's offer of Diverse Academies Trust providing services to National Church of England Academy Trust through a Service Level Agreement</li> <li>• To explore options available to National Church of England Academy Trust to join another Multi-Academy Trust in the longer term</li> <li>• To ensure key stakeholders including Diocesan representatives, the newly appointed Principal and NCEA staff are informed and updated on these developments, while respecting the confidentiality of detailed issues under discussion.</li> </ul> <p>The proposal was put to a vote and votes were cast as follows.</p> <p>For the proposal – Mrs Allen, Mrs Ball, Mrs Cowley, Mrs Eastwood, Mrs James, Mr Oldfield and Mr Yardley</p> <p>Abstained – Mr Paine</p> <p>Against – None</p> <p>(Mrs Mitford and Mr Marshall did not vote on the matter, having previously declared interests)</p> <p>The proposal was therefore <b>agreed</b>.</p>	
<b>NCE/66/1819</b>	<p><b>NCEAT Budget 2019/20</b></p> <p>Outstanding issues relating to the NCEA Budget 2019/20 and arrangements for their further consideration and resolution were agreed as part of the discussion on Future NCEAT governance and Partnership arrangements (see minute 65 above).</p> <p>The Clerk to collate replies from trustees and forward these to Mr Corban.</p>	Clerk – July 2019
<b>NCE/67/1819</b>	<p><b>Review of Membership</b></p> <p>It was proposed and seconded that Mr Marshall take up the current vacant role of one of the Trust's representatives on the DALP Partnership Board.</p> <p>The proposal was put to a vote and was agreed unanimously.</p> <p>The Clerk to inform the Company Secretary.</p>	Clerk – July 2019
<b>NCE/68/1819</b>	<p><b>Date and time of future meetings</b></p> <p>The next scheduled NCEAT meeting is the Annual General Meeting to be held on <b>Tuesday 10 December 2019 at 6.00pm</b> in the <b>Whiting Room</b>, to be followed by a General Meeting. However, trustees were advised that it may be necessary for further extraordinary meetings to be convened to consider issues arising from discussion at this meeting, the dates and times of which will be advised as required.</p>	Clerk – July 2019
<b>NCE/69/1819</b>	<p><b>Determination of confidentiality and Equalities Act and Nolan Principle consideration</b></p> <p>Trustees considered whether anything discussed during the meeting should</p>	

	<p>be deemed as confidential and whether during the discussions any equal opportunities had arisen.</p> <p>It was <b>resolved</b> that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Detailed discussions relating to budgets and their approval</li> <li>• Detailed discussion of future NCEAT governance and partnership arrangements</li> </ul> <p>were all confidential.</p> <p>No further items discussed were deemed to be confidential and there had been no Equalities Act implications to consider.</p> <p>The Nolan Principles had been considered throughout all discussions.</p>	
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The meeting closed at 8.47pm.

Signed .....Print.....Date: ...../...../2019