

BRISTOL

LEARNING CITY

ACTION NOTES FROM LEARNING CITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING

5 JULY 2017

VENUE – CITY OF BRISTOL COLLEGE

Actions Summary

Agenda Item	Actions from meeting	Who	Deadline
1. Reflecting on our Achievements	Launch a media campaign to promote Learning City achievements to coincide with Bristol receiving the UNESCO Learning City Award in September	Learning City Team	18 September 17
Work is underway to develop a Partnership press release to include the UNESCO award, Alan Milburn's visit, the relaunch of Learning Ambassadors and the School Governor campaign			
1. Reflecting on our Achievements	Refresh and relaunch the Learning Ambassador role with a clear ask and offer	Phil Winfield/Helen Davies	30 August 17
The Learning City Team is currently engaging with Learning Ambassador to reshape the role. An event is being planned for late September to relaunch the 'ask' of Ambassadors			
3. Looking Ahead – A Future Learning City	Challenge Groups to review their objectives and report back at the next meeting	Challenge Group Chairs	30 August 17
Challenge Group Chairs will take the outcome from the Partnership Board discussions back to their respective Groups for further consideration			
3. Looking Ahead – A Future Learning City	Invite the Youth Council/Mayors to a future Learning City Partnership Board to present their Manifesto	Learning City Team	30 August 17
Presentation of the Youth Council's Manifesto has been added to the Partnership Board forward plan			
3. Looking Ahead – A Future Learning City	Progress the recruitment of a Learning City Lead to work alongside existing Learning City team	Paul Jacobs	27 July 17
Dr. Helen Holman has been recruited and will take up the role from October 2017			
3. Looking Ahead – A Future Learning City	Approach PWC with the intention of inviting them to join the Partnership Board	Claire Hiscott	30 August 17
Business representation has been placed on hold until priorities have been agreed			

Attendees, Board members:

Sarah Baker, Bristol Association Secondary Head Teachers and Principals
Karl Brown, Clarke Willmott
Chris Curling, Society of Merchant Venturers
Cllr Claire Hiscott, Bristol City Council (in the Chair)
Lee Probert, City of Bristol College
Phil Winfield, At Bristol

Other attendees:

Lucy Fleming, Bristol City Council
Paul Jacobs, Bristol City Council
Tommy Jarvis, Learning City
Adam Powell, West of England LEP
Sophie Shirt, Bristol City Council
Hannah Woodhouse, Office of the Regional School Commissioner

Apologies

Rebecca Clark, Regional Schools Commissioner for South-West England
Helen Davies, Arnolfini
John Hirst, Destination Bristol
Laurence Pitt, Primary Heads Association Bristol
John Readman, Bristol City Council
Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol
Professor Judith Squires, University of Bristol
Tim Stringer, Integral Build
Professor Steve West, University of the West of England

Welcome

The Chair welcomed those present. In view of the large number of apologies (listed above) the Chair queried whether meetings should take place in July in future years.

Notes and Actions from the Previous Meeting

The notes from the previous meeting were approved as a correct record. The Board received an update regarding outstanding actions. Details as follows;

- Bristol Works – an update on progress regarding the Pledge would be provided at the next meeting
- FutureQuest Initiatives – schools were being supported in relation to taking up the offer of working with universities. Cllr Hiscott had joined the FutureQuest advisory Board
- SEND - Places and Spaces Business Case – Two Free Schools (Learn@Specialist Academy and North Star) had recently been approved, both of which would offer specialist provision
- Governance Business Sector Representation – would be addressed elsewhere on the agenda
- Learning at Work Week – The Board were thanked for their support

1. Reflecting on Our Achievements

1.1 Looking Back Two Years On

Operating as a Board

The item was introduced via a presentation which set out the achievements to date. Members considered and commented on the information provided. The discussion was as follows;

- A brief overview of achievements was presented to the Board, although much more was happening, for example some teachers were being drawn to the area.
- Links between universities, schools and colleges were becoming embedded as part of the Bristol education scene, although there were still more opportunities for joined up working and reduction in duplication.
- Businesses need to be engage and understand that Learning City was not a one year programme and continued support was required.
- Whilst there was a risk that Learning City was seen as being Council led the majority of partners felt that the balance was right and agreed it had been very helpful for the sub-groups to have the support of a Bristol City Council officer.
- It was important to work cross boundary if the opportunity arose, however, Learning City's prime focus would remain Bristol.
- Learning City needs to keep abreast of national policy decisions such as the drive towards vocational qualifications. The City of Bristol College has invited Sue Clarke, DFE policy lead, to come to Bristol to advise about changes to apprenticeships and how the new scheme could best be utilised. There was some concern that too many apprenticeships were available, which was partly because employers had been unable to agree the core skills within each industry.
- It was agreed that that some media activity should be undertaken in September (i.e. after the school holidays) to promote the achievements of the Learning City and should tie in with Bristol receiving the UNESCO Learning City award.

Excellence in Schools Group - Update

- The Sub Group includes representation from key stakeholders in education who share the same moral purpose and desire to make a difference.
- The Group will aim to coordinate funding bids including National Assessment Framework and the School Improvement Fund.
- One of the objectives of the Group was to share outstanding practitioners among schools to ensure they were utilised in the most challenging areas. This should be viewed as an attractive development opportunity.

Learning in Communities Challenge Group

- Consideration was being given to the best activity for the January 'Moment.'
- There are currently 159 Learning Ambassadors providing varying levels of support to the Learning City. A review is being undertaken to understand their skill sets and availability before relaunching the scheme and refreshing the 'ask' in September 17. The Board agreed that it would be appropriate to refresh the scheme, but only if there is a clear idea about how Ambassadors could add value.
- Steps should be taken to ensure there is diversity within the Learning Ambassador pool. Disadvantaged areas and the BME community were particularly under represented. Employers could be asked to support this initiative by encouraging employees to take part.

2. Meeting our Current Challenges

2.1 A Partnership Approach to our Challenges

Learning in Communities

Question - *How can Learning Ambassadors help raise aspirations in every community and contribute to a reduction in inequality of access and opportunity?*

- The Board discussed ways to promote Learning Stories in the context of continued financial restraints. The Challenge Group were encouraged to utilise free door to door publications, such as Bishopston Matters, or contact lists held by various organisations
- Better use of social media should be used to engage and connect ambassadors
- Ambassadors could be responsible for a geographical or specific area, e.g. boys' achievement
- The Board spoke about the importance of local leaders and how best to engage them. This could be an initial focus
- The Board felt employers should be engaged to recruit Learning Ambassadors within business
- The Challenge Group could look at Health Champions, used by Public Health as a model for sharing and receiving information
- A discussion was had whether the word Learning should be used as it can often present barriers to community engagement
- Chris Curling asked the question whether our limited funds should be used to support the Learning Ambassador relaunch – the Board felt this should be something we support

Learning for Work

Question - *In relation to Experience of Work, in your opinion what is working well in Bristol, where are the gaps and overlaps and how do we ensure that all young people in Bristol access high quality experiences of work?*

- More was needed to be done to fulfil the Mayor's pledge to support young people with quality work experience opportunities. Youth Mayors would like to attend a future Board meeting to present their manifesto to the Board, members felt this was a good idea
- Social media is key to communicating the benefits of WORKS effectively with young people
- The work experience landscape in Bristol is complex with over 100 providers in Bristol offering schools and business connectivity. If the Learning for Work Challenge Group could provide clarity and a cohesive offer this would be viewed as a success
- In order to increase the value of work experience placements to young people and employers, additional support was needed, particularly for small businesses. Providers should also provide wrap around support for young people to help them identify their strengths and weaknesses. One suggestion is to develop a standard set of guidance for employers and educators
- Learning City planned to concentrate efforts on improving work experience opportunities for disadvantaged young people and will be targeting particular schools

Learning in Education

Question - *How can the Learning City Partnership Board, as employers, encourage their staff to become school governors/academy trustees, particularly in schools serving areas of deprivation and support them in their role?*

- Gaining the support of employers is key – it needs to be made easier and more attractive to employers and employees
- Could governor meetings take place in the day – there needs to be a commitment from employers to release staff. More should be made of the self-development aspect of the Governor role. This is a benefit to businesses and staff
- The offer of Governors needs to be clearer – there needs to be a greater sharing of skills across the city
- The Board were supportive of a media campaign in the autumn; Learning Ambassadors could provide support

3. Looking Ahead – A Future Learning City

3.1 Towards a Future Learning City - City Plan

The Board were presented with a letter from the Mayor, setting out how the Learning City Partnership could shape a long term picture for education, learning and skills in Bristol.

The Board then discussed the objectives of Learning City, agreeing they must be ambitious but achievable, for example the overarching goal could be to offer every learner a job in the city or to ensure all citizens could read and write. It was agreed that each Challenge Group should review their objectives and report back at the next meeting.

Members noted that the Combined Authority had recently been established and would be launching its strategy for Adult Education in July 17. The Learning City Partnership should ensure Bristol was well represented in any discussions about the allocation of funding.

3.2 Steering Group Feedback Strategic Leads

The Board went on to consider the proposal that contributions from partners be used to appoint a new person to work alongside Bristol City Council's lead officers. This approach was unanimously supported and it was noted that Helen Holman, Headteacher of Orchard School, had expressed an interest in conducting the role on a trial basis from September 17 to March 18.

Business Representation

Members concurred that it was important to secure representation on the Board from the private sector. Consultancy services represented numerous employers and would be a good way to access a matrix of organisations. It was agreed that PWC should be approached in the first instance as they have previously expressed an interest in the work of Learning City, although KPMG would also be a good option.

Finally, Members noted that Sarah Baker, Bristol Association Secondary Headteachers and Principals, would be stepping down from the Board. The Board thanked Sarah for her contribution to the development of the Partnership. Members suggested female representation should be considered when identifying future Board members

**** Meeting close: 5.30 pm ****