

# BRISTOL

## LEARNING CITY

### **MINUTES / ACTION NOTES**

### **LEARNING CITY PARTNERSHIP BOARD MEETING**

#### **8 NOVEMBER 2017**

**VENUE – SENATE HOUSE, UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL**

#### **Attendees, Board members:**

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol (in the Chair)  
Cllr Claire Hiscott, Bristol City Council Cabinet member for Education & Skills  
Jon Angell, Bristol Secondary Head Teachers and Principals Association  
Chris Curling, Society of Merchant Venturers  
Claire Doherty, Arnolfini  
John Readman, Bristol City Council  
Professor Judith Squires, University of Bristol  
Professor Steve West, University of the West of England  
Phil Winfield, We The Curious

#### **Other attendees:**

Tommy Jarvis, Learning City  
Sue Rogers, Bristol City Council  
Jane Taylor, Bristol City Council  
Ian Hird, Bristol City Council

#### **Apologies:**

Lee Probert, City of Bristol College  
Adam Powell, West of England LEP  
Karl Brown, Clarke Willmott  
John Hirst, Destination Bristol  
Susan Matheson, Office of the Regional Schools Commissioner  
Laurence Pitt, Primary Heads Association Bristol

#### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting and attendees introduced themselves.

Claire Doherty, Director of Arnolfini was welcomed in particular as a new member of the Board.

#### **1. LEARNING CITY UPDATES**

##### **UNESCO Learning Cities Conference – 18 - 20 September 2017**

Cllr Hiscott presented this item.

Main points noted/raised:

- a. Bristol Learning City attended this biannual conference in Cork, the main theme being “Global goals, local actions: towards lifelong learning for all in 2030”. One of the main sub-themes had focused on how lifelong learning supports the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) at local level.
- b. Bristol Learning City was chosen along with 15 other cities to receive the UNESCO Learning City award at this event.
- c. Bristol presented their case at the conference, stressing the emphasis placed on the holistic approach to our Learning City plan, and the key motivation of actively tackling inequality and opening up learning opportunities to everyone. Bristol’s presentation had been well received and had brought Bristol’s approach to the attention of a very diverse international audience. There had also been very useful networking opportunities with other cities, especially those, such as the host city, Cork, who were outward looking, forged effective relationships with businesses and maintained a strong community focus as a learning city.
- d. It was also noted that the University of Bristol and UWE Bristol are the first UK higher education institutions to commit to the SDG Accord launched at the recent World Environmental Education Congress. By signing the SDG Accord the universities have committed to each other and other institutions around the world to do more to deliver the goals. The universities will report annually on their progress towards the SDGs and will share learning both nationally and internationally.

The Board AGREED to note this update.

#### **Excellence in Schools - school improvement bid**

Sue Rogers presented this item.

Main points noted/raised:

- a. The DoE has made available a Strategic School Improvement Fund of £280m over 2 years to support school improvement across the UK.
- b. First round bids submitted by 2 Bristol schools had not been successful. However, taking into account feedback from the round 1 process, 5 Bristol teaching alliances have come together with the local authority to submit a combined round 2 bid on the theme of “leadership for learning”. The bid is supported by all schools concerned and by the secondary and primary heads association. Initial feedback from the Sub-Regional Improvement Board suggests this is regarded as a strong bid, and the outcome of the bid will be known in January.
- c. Discussions are already taking place between the local authority, Teaching Schools, the Excellence in Schools group, the Regional Schools Commissioner and the South West Teaching Alliance on the priorities and approach for a round 3 bid.
- d. If bids are successful, positive impacts will need to be demonstrated by February 2019.

The Board AGREED to note this update.

#### **Learning Ambassador Event – 2 November 2017**

Phil Winfield presented this item.

Main points noted/raised:

- a. A Learning Ambassador celebration event was held on 2 November. This had been a useful opportunity to energise ambassadors. It is now important to take the initiative to the next

stage to ensure an effective network moving forward with a more clarified focus and setting of expectations around the role.

- b. The aim is very much to avoid a “top down” approach in terms of the learning ambassador role. The approach will involve harnessing local leaders in communities; there is likely to be a need for some targeted recruitment to ensure a wide reach / representation among communities.
- c. A networking event will be held in late January, focused on National Storytelling Week, at which learning ambassadors will be asked to share their own learning experiences.
- d. It was suggested that consideration be given to any training that may assist learning ambassadors in their role and to an annual networking / celebration event.

The Board AGREED to note this update.

### **Bristol WORKS – experience of work**

Jane Taylor presented this item.

Main points noted/raised:

- a. Overseen by the Learning for Work Challenge Group, the WORKS project is aiming to deliver over 1000 meaningful experiences of work between June 2017 and July 2018.
- b. The project is being delivered by the Council and the lead delivery partner Boomsatsuma, together with a dynamic collaboration of schools and linked providers.
- c. City Academy and Ashton Park are signed up to WORKS and positive discussions are taking place with Merchants Academy.
- d. 24 employers have now signed pledges to offer meaningful work experiences. These include EDF, GENeco, Watershed, Bristol 247 and GKN Aerospace.

The Board AGREED to note this update and welcomed the progress achieved. In discussion, it was suggested that it will be vital to ensure that the momentum generated through this project is not lost once the project finishes in July 2018. It will be important to look to develop a sustainable forward plan to extend experience of work opportunities beyond July 2018.

## **2. STRATEGIC DIRECTION**

### **Reviewing the Learning City vision in the context of the City Plan**

#### **City Plan context:**

As flagged at the previous meeting, the Mayor reminded the Board about the ambition to develop a long term city plan (to 2050) to help the city build true resilience and a sustainable long term future. As part of this, his request is that this Board should be engaged in developing the draft narrative around a long term education and skills plan for the city. This may involve setting challenges for and asks of other city partnerships such as the Health and Wellbeing Board, and the Homes Board. It will also be important to ensure that the Learning City vision and key targets/outcomes align with the long term city plan.

#### **Learning City vision / outcomes:**

Given the above, it was agreed therefore that this Board now needs to refine its strategic vision moving forwards in the context of the one city plan, and also in terms of ensuring the Board’s energies

are harnessed around facilitating the delivery of a smaller number of key outcomes, i.e. those outcomes that can only be achieved through the added value brought by this partnership.

Working in groups, members reviewed the 3 strands of the current Learning City vision, and the current key outcomes, and discussed a series of questions, including:

- Does the vision need to change?
- Does the vision fit with the 2050 city plan vision?
- Are the current outcomes the right ones?
- What's missing?
- What are the priorities for the coming 18 months?

Key points from feedback following the group discussion around vision and outcomes:

- a. A single vision is needed – this needs to be engaging and inspiring.
- b. The current outcomes need to be refined so that a smaller number of specific core priorities are agreed as the key focuses for this partnership.
- c. Reducing inequality (i.e. by improving opportunities and outcomes for disadvantaged people and communities) is vital.
- d. The partnership needs to collectively ensure there is accountability for delivery of outcomes.
- e. SMART targets need to be identified against outcomes.
- f. It will be essential to ensure best use of data sets.
- g. It was suggested that the 2 key focuses for the next 2 years should be around tackling disadvantage and secondary school attainment outcomes.

#### **Delivery:**

Following further group discussion, it was noted/agreed that the following are the current key / broad areas of delivery / collective working:

- Develop the Learning Ambassador role and network
- Support the Excellence in Schools group
- Continue to support the Bristol WORKS
- Widening participation programmes – including help for students in supporting their transition into further/higher education
- The Bristol Offer – every student should be entitled to support on their chosen pathway

#### **Next steps:**

- a. The 3 Challenge Group chairs to collaborate to develop a first draft of an education and skills narrative to form part of the draft City Plan (Lee Probert to co-ordinate) Target date: 1 December.
- b. Taking account of the draft City Plan narrative and discussions at this meeting, the Steering Group to give further consideration to refining the Learning City vision and related key outcomes.
- c. At its next meeting, the Board to be asked to sign off the education and skills narrative and a refined vision/outcomes.

### **3. PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

#### **Board and challenge group structure**

Following on from the board's work on the vision, outcomes and provisional targets of the Partnership, the Board agreed that the Executive Group should lead a piece of work to review the

Board / challenge group structure and membership, with a view to bringing back proposals to the January Board meeting

**Notes and actions from last meeting – 6 September 2017**

The notes of the 6 September meeting were confirmed as a correct record and noted, together with an update on actions taken arising from that meeting.

**4. OTHER BUSINESS**

**Journalism standards in Bristol:**

In discussion around a point raised by the Mayor, members of the Board noted and generally acknowledged concerns about the variable quality of local journalism / media coverage around education and learning issues, noting in particular that some recent press coverage concerning some individual schools had contained grossly inaccurate information. It was noted that John Readman and Sue Rogers would discuss this matter further and consider an appropriate approach around countering and responding to unduly negative press reporting.

**Global Parliament of Mayors – 2018:**

The Mayor informed the Board that following a Cabinet decision earlier that week, Bristol will be hosting the Global Parliament of Mayors in November 2018. The intention is to seek and welcome the active involvement of partners in the lead-in to and delivery of this event to help maximise positive impacts for the city.

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

**Actions Summary**

<b>Agenda Item</b>	<b>Actions from meeting</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
2. Strategic direction	a. Challenge group chairs to collaborate to produce a draft education and skills narrative for inclusion in the draft City Plan.	Lee Probert to co-ordinate	1 Dec 17
	b. Steering Group to review Learning City vision and related key outcomes.	Steering Group	6 Dec 17
3. Board and challenge group structure	Steering Group to lead a piece of work on reviewing the Board / challenge group structure and membership with a view to bringing back proposals to the next Board meeting	Steering Group	6 Dec 17
4. Journalism standards	John Readman and Sue Rogers to discuss this matter further and consider an appropriate approach around countering and responding to unduly negative press reporting.	John Readman / Sue Rogers	6 Dec 17