

South West Hub Board (SWH 11)
Meeting Minutes
Monday 24th May 2021
11.00 am-13.00pm, Virtual Meeting

Chair: Dr Molly Warrington

Clerk: Louise Houston

Hub Board Members: Molly Warrington, Nitesh Gor, Stephen Howe, Salina Ventress, Mike Younger

Also in attendance: Bhavini Budhdev (Area Finance Lead), Carolyn Dickinson (SW Hub Director), Mike Ion (Education Director),

ACTIONS

REF	Action	Lead
SHB11 – 01	The Finance Manager will share the historical documentation relating to finance notices issued with the SW Hub Board	BB
SHB11 – 02	Executive officers to re-engage pre-pandemic conversations with Frome College around a potential partnership.	MI/CD/BB
SHB11 – 03	Finance Manager to provide 3–5-year pupil projection	BB
SHB11 - 04	Approach to SEND funding at Avanti Hall to be revisited.	All
SHB11 - 05	Revised 21-22 SW Development Plan to be circulated.	CD
SHB11 - 06	Update to be provided to the SW Hub Board on the curriculum review document.	CD

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies

The Chair welcomed the attendees to the meeting. Apologies were received in advance of the meeting from Jo Evans and Rachel Howie.

2. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest to report.



3. Minutes & Confidential Minutes of meeting 29th March 2021 to be approved

Item 6 agreed. Item 10 only first two paragraphs with the remainder to be moved to Main minutes.

4. Matters arising

None

5. AST matters: items from Board of Trustees

MW reported on a meeting held between Avanti and ESFA representatives, to consider the Trust's bid for additional support funding. The Trust's understanding, formed during the original negotiations with ESFA / RSA in meetings prior to re-brokering, was that ESFA would be supportive if pupil numbers dropped during the first years of Avanti taking over the SW schools from Steiner. Personnel changes at ESFA meant that the Trust was now dealing with ESFA staff who had not been involved in these negotiations, and who appeared to be unaware of this undertaking for further financial support. Discussions between the Trust and the ESFA were ongoing, with the ESFA currently awaiting the School Resource Management Adviser's (SRMA) report. MW confirmed that the Trust had now adopted a position whereby all policies would be Trust-wide and developed centrally, except where school policies needed a local context ... such as with attendance, disciplinary, homework and safeguarding policies. It was noted that Principals had been informed of this change of position.

6. Finance and Risk

Minuted in the confidential minutes.

7. Update on projected pupil numbers for Sept 21

The original planned pupil numbers for 2021-22 is now projected to increase compared to the budgets. This is mostly being driven by in year increases and ongoing marketing initiatives. Pre- pandemic there were conversations with Frome College around a partnership, which would improve pupil numbers. Executive officers will re-engage with Frome College to progress this further. The most recent projections for new intakes include the following: Avanti Hall (38 Year 7) with the Local Authority capping external admissions at 30, 17 Reception. Avanti Park (38 Reception; 4 Nursery) Avanti Gardens (38 reception).

8. Hub Director's Report

The Hub Director's report was circulated prior to the meeting. It was noted that in the KS4 numbers, Avanti Hall showed a difference from Spring 1 to Spring 2, which can be attributed to the year being out of school due to the pandemic. Questions were raised around the accuracy of these figures and as such a health warning should be applied.



Across all 3 of the SW schools, writing was the biggest challenge. The figures showing low levels of achievement in writing are considered accurate as the pupils have done very little writing from Years 1-5. However, 31% of pupils currently achieving the expected level showed a pleasing improvement at Avanti Gardens. Figures were based on teacher assessments with PUMA and PIRA used, tests which are standardised reading and maths progress tests. Avanti Hall shows KS1 reading figures at 0%. Avanti Hall does not have a natural catchment area so pupils are coming into KS1 from the Steiner based nursery. Data also shows a dip in the Spring 2 term due to the Spring lockdown.

Tests are carried out termly with 3 data gathering points throughout the year. It was suggested that an additional data gathering point be added. The SW schools intend to focus on Quality First teaching and Covid Catch up recovery. Plans are being made to access the National Tutoring Programme and carry out high profile intervention work to mitigate against lost learning.

It was noted that although Avanti Hall has strong in year admissions, it also has a high number of SEND pupils and a challenge is that non-statemented children are not funded and an approach is needed to address this with the Local Authority.

9. SW Development Plan Update

The SW Development Plan update was circulated to the SW Board prior to the meeting. The Education Director and the SW Hub Board Director are currently working on a 21-22 Development Plan, which will be circulated at the next meeting. It was noted that the marketing of the SW schools are overseen centrally and as such lacks a local focus. It was suggested that companies work directly with Principals to ensure that the marketing is more locally relevant. It was also noted that the attendance figures on the SW Development Plan are considered realistic with good progress on attendance made across all 3 schools. The revised plan for 2021-22 will focus on curriculum and the teaching of the curriculum.

10. School Improvement Strategy

The School Improvement Plan was circulated to the SW Hub Board prior to the meeting, which includes an overarching strategy for all 3 SW schools. The Education Director has presented this strategy to the schools highlighting the Avanti Way, outcomes, main priorities and strands for delivery. It is intended that the correct pace is set for generating initiatives. The Transforming Teaching Programme will start in Sept 21 and will support the School Improvement Strategy. Professional Networks have also been set up within the Trust to share information and assess how we evaluate. This will ensure that staff are given a clear path and an opportunity to share ideas.

11. Urgent Matters

No urgent matters identified.



12. Identification of confidential item(s)

Item 6 + Staffing discussion under Item 8.

13. Overview of actions

The Clerk provided the SW Hub Board with an overview of the actions from the meeting.

14. Date of next meeting:

5th July 2021