

Strategic Board - Portsmouth Education Partnership

Terms of Reference

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Strategic Board is to oversee the work of the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP). It will provide overall strategic direction, and approve an annual work programme.

2. Local context

The establishment of the Portsmouth Education Partnership is in response to a number of drivers:

- continuing underperformance in our education system, compared with national standards
- the changing role of the local authority
- national emphasis on school led improvement and development of system leadership within schools
- the drive by the Government towards full academisation
- new relationships with the Regional Schools Commissioner
- a critical report from Ofsted about existing arrangements for school improvement.

Consultation with schools, academies and Multi Academy Trust providers has shown that there is now a strong appetite locally to develop new collective arrangements, led by schools, which provide a vehicle through which schools, academies, Multi Academy Trusts (MATs), colleges, the university, teaching schools and wider stakeholders can take forward well founded joint projects and programmes and ensure that system resources, including NLEs, SLEs, LLEs and NLGs, can be effectively deployed across the city. There is an anxiety that without some form of collective arrangement, academisation, whatever advantages it may bring, could lead to a fragmentation of the education system in Portsmouth. There is also a desire to maintain and build on historic strong relationships between schools and between schools and the local authority.

Furthermore, there is a developing consensus around a number of key priority areas where collective action could add value, over and above the efforts of individual schools, academies and MATs.

3. Terms of reference

The Strategic Board will:

1. Approve a two year strategy for education in Portsmouth 2016 - 2018 including ambitious targets for improvement
2. Identify priorities for improvement and agree an annual programme of work, package of support and allocation of resources to achieve agreed outcomes

3. Receive and approve reports from the PEP Operational Group
4. Use data and other evidence to monitor impact, evaluate progress and highlight areas for discussion where targeted support might be required

The Strategic Board will hold no legal power over schools / academies who sign up to the Portsmouth Education Partnership. Schools and academies that join the PEP as partners are not giving up any Governing Body rights or responsibilities and equally the Local Authority is not giving up any of its statutory obligations. However, all partners agree that the PEP should challenge, support and take action in order to achieve improved educational outcomes for Portsmouth children and young people.

4. Chair

The Strategic Board will be led by an independent chair of sufficient experience and standing to command respect.

The role of the Chair will be to:

1. To chair and steer the Portsmouth Education Partnership (PEP) Strategic Board
2. To help establish the Partnership and the development of its role, remit and function
3. To help develop and monitor the role and work of the Operational Group and receive regular reports from the Operational Group
4. To oversee the preparation of a detailed Strategic Plan for the Partnership
5. To work with key partners in Portsmouth and external partners and agencies to secure future support and contributions in order to sustain the future of the Partnership and help achieve its objectives and outcomes

5. Membership

The membership of the Strategic Board is as follows (proposed names in brackets):

- Independent chair (*Hilary Loder*)
- 2 x secondary headteachers (*Simon Graham, Sara Spivey*)
- 1x special headteacher (*Alison Beane*)
- 3 x primary headteachers (*Lucy Wilby, Polly Honeychurch, Clare Stevens*)
- 3 x academy trusts (*Sue Samson UCAT, Joy Waeland ARK, Steve Labedz Salterns*)
- 2 x post-16 Principals (*Steve Frampton, Stella Mbubaegbu*)
- 1 x Higher Education representative (*Paul Hayes*)
- Director of Children's Services, PCC (*Alison Jeffery*)
- Deputy Director of Children's Services - Education, PCC (*Mike Stoneman*)
- Director, Teaching School(s) (*Jo Peach*)
- Solent EBP (*Cath Longhurst*)
- Dioceses - Catholic and CofE (*Urszula Topp and Jeff Williams*)
- Deputy Director of the Regional Schools Commissioner (*Maria Dawes*)

The membership of the Strategic Board will be agreed annually at the first meeting of the Board of the academic year. The Strategic Board may co-opt other 'non-voting' persons/organisations as it deems appropriate.

6. Ways of working, frequency of meetings and secretariat

The Board will meet termly.

The quorum shall be 50% of the members of the Strategic Board present.

Minutes of the meetings of the Strategic Board will be circulated to all members as soon as available and formally agreed at the next meeting of the Strategic Board. The agenda and supporting papers will be sent out at least one week in advance of each meeting.

In the first two years of the Partnership, the local authority will co-ordinate and administer the meetings, unless alternative arrangements are agreed by the Board.

The Partnership will oversee the operation of the contract between PCC and the Portsmouth Teaching School Alliance to deliver school improvement on behalf of the local authority. This work will be embedded as part of the Partnership.

The local authority will also provide dedicated support in terms of data analysis, administrative support and senior officer time to facilitate and contribute to the work of the Partnership.