



# The Challenge Academy Trust

## Quality and Standards Committee AGENDA

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> October 2024 at 5pm

**Venue:** TCAT Development Centre, Bridgewater High School

**Chair:** Sheila Yates

**Clerk:** Melissa Alexander

Committee Members			End of Term
MG	Matthew Grant	Trustee	20/06/2028
AM	Andrew Moorcroft	<b>CEO, Trustee</b>	N/A
JW	John Warren	Trustee	11.01.2028
PW	Peter Winter	Trustee	11.01.2028
SY	Sheila Yates	<b>Chair of Committee, Trustee</b>	01.04.2027
Also In Attendance			
KB	Karen Burns	Committee Associate	
VB	Vicky Briggs	Director of Education, TCAT	
JL	Jo Langstaff	Committee Associate	
TL	Tim Long	School Improvement Lead, TCAT	
CR	Claire Roper	Committee Associate	
CW	Carolyn Williams	Committee Associate	

## Documents shared prior to the Quality and Standards Committee Meeting:

Item 6a (i) Final Minutes Quality and Standards 13.06.2024  
 Item 6a (ii) Final Minutes Quality and Standards 13.06.2024 Confidential  
 Item 7a) Scorecard and Academy Updates  
 Item 7b) Appleton Thorn TCAT Peer Review Final 17.09.2024  
 Item 7c) TCAT SLT Seminar Reflections  
 Item 7d) Lead Practitioners  
 Item 7e) ITT, ECT and NPQ Update  
 Item 7f) TCAT Case Study Education Connect  
 Item 7g) Trust External School Improvement Work Report  
 Item 8a) Trust Attendance Report  
 Item 8b) Trust Suspension and Permanent Exclusion Report  
 Item 9a (i) TCAT Primary Outcomes Provisional 2024 Trust Report  
 Item 9b (ii) TCAT Secondary Outcomes Provisional 2024 Trust Report  
 Item 9c (iii) TCAT College Outcomes Provisional 2024 Trust Report  
 Item 9b) TCAT Assessment Policy 2024  
 Item 10a) Educational Excellence  
 Item 11a) TCAT Safeguarding Statement September 2024  
 Item 11b) TCAT Safeguarding Policy for September 2024  
 Item 11c) TCAT Primary Draft E-Safety Policy September 2024  
 Item 11d) TCAT Online Safety Policy Secondary 2024  
 Item 11e) TCAT Prevent Risk Assessment  
 Item 11f) TCAT Prevent Statement 2024  
 Item 12a) Sutton Trust Social Selection on the Map Brief  
 Item 12b) TCAT HT Coaching and ALS Programme July 2024 Final  
 Item 12c) TCAT Leadership Conference Navigating Educational Challenges Conference

The meeting started at 17:03

Agenda Item	
<b>1.</b>	<b>Welcome</b>  MA welcomed governors to the first Quality and Standards Committee meeting of the academic year. MA formally introduced MG, who was appointed as a TCAT Trustee. All attendees provided a brief introduction.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Absence / Apologies / Non-Attendance</b>  <b>Non-attendance with no apologies:</b> Claire Roper did not attend this meeting or share apologies in advance.

3.	<b>Register of Interests</b>  There were no updates to the register of interests.												
4.	<b>Declaration of pecuniary interests in relation to agenda items</b>  There were no declarations of pecuniary interest in relation to items on the agenda.												
5.	<b>Membership and Organisation</b>  MA referred to point 3.2 in the Terms of Reference for the Trust Board. To remain compliant, the committee were asked for any self-nominations to become the Chair of the Quality and Standards committee. There were no self-nominations made when MA posed this question.  MA shared with the committee that SY expressed interest to continue as the Chair of the Quality and Standards Committee. MA asked if the committee approved and there was unanimous approval for SY to continue in this role.  SY also referred to the titles used in the attendance list, and it was agreed that going forward, the term Committee Associate would be used for all attendees, apart from Trustees, VB and TL.												
6.	<b>Minutes of the Quality and Standards Committee 13.06.24</b> a) Approval of the Minutes: Committee agreed to make final amendments to the minutes that has been received to fix the typos before publishing these into the public domain.  b) Matters arising: There were no matters arising.  c) Action log: Items 08b is to be carried over to the next meeting and Andrew Hawley will be invited to attend the next committee meeting.  <b>Action Log:</b> <table><tr><th>Minute Ref.</th><th>Action to be taken</th><th>By Whom</th><th>Completion date</th></tr><tr><td>08b</td><td>Report on Alternative Provision.</td><td>VB</td><td>17.10.24</td></tr><tr><td>09b</td><td>Report on external examination access arrangements percentage/number/impact.</td><td>VB</td><td>17.10.24</td></tr></table>	Minute Ref.	Action to be taken	By Whom	Completion date	08b	Report on Alternative Provision.	VB	17.10.24	09b	Report on external examination access arrangements percentage/number/impact.	VB	17.10.24
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7.	<b>TCAT School Improvement (For Discussion and Information)</b>												

Scorecard and academy Education updates (PowerPoint):

VB shared a presentation with the committee and provided an overview of the format for scorecard meetings which all Heads and Principals attend. VB shared that the Scorecard and PAP are used to support both the TCAT review and Peer Review processes.

**A Trustee asked if VB is leading all academy reviews.**

VB confirmed that VB and TL lead all academy reviews and shared that two academy reviews have been completed this term. There has been a slight amendment with peer reviews and Heads and Principals are working together to lead on these. VB asked if there were any questions relating to the Scorecard update. There were no questions asked.

VB confirmed that The Sutton Academy and Dallam Primary have officially joined TCAT. VB added that Claire Lawton has joined as the new Headteacher of Penketh South Primary School and has had a very positive start.

TCAT SLT Seminar:

VB provided the committee with an overview of the key discussions that took place during the recent SLT seminar. This seminar was hosted at The Halliwell Jones Stadium and VB confirmed that all Senior Leaders were in attendance. The key focus for this seminar was Educational Excellence and colleagues were given the opportunity to discuss what this means to them, and how this looks within their own setting. Educational Excellence will be one of the core Trust strategies throughout the academic year. VB explained that discussions highlighted the significance of curriculum and referred to Hywel Robert's guest talk at a recent TCAT leadership conference which explored this in more detail.

Peer Review planning and reports:

VB referred to the Appleton Thorn Peer Review document that the committee could access via GovernorHub. VB asked if there were any questions in relation to this document. No questions were raised, however, Vicky provided justification for the implementation of quick wins and next steps content in this report and the committee were complimentary about the additional information included within the report.

***A Trustee asked if academy reviews cover the same areas.***

VB confirmed that academy reviews are based on individual needs and confirmed that Penketh High School's report will be shared in the next Quality and Standards Committee meeting.

SLT Seminar Reflections (Report):

VB referred to the SLT Seminar Reflection document. SY highlighted the key areas contained within the Trust Priorities for 2024-25. A discussion took place relating to Educational Excellence and referred to details contained within the report. VB shared that Educational Excellence is the core focus for colleagues across the trust and explained the importance of refinement within the curriculum.

***A Trustee requested confirmation relating to the committee's core focus.***

VB confirmed that Educational Excellence is the core focus for this committee.

Lead Practitioner priorities 2024 25:

VB shared a presentation with the committee relating to the LP offer and the expansion of Lead Practitioner capacity in SEND, Behaviour and Coaching.

***A Trustee asked if the Director of STEM is the same for primary and secondary.***

VB confirmed that STEM is led by the same Lead Practitioner.

***A Trustee queried if all LPs have the same amount of release time from their academies.***

VB confirmed that LPs have different release times due. VB shared that release time differs dependent on the support required both internally and externally.

VB asked if there were any questions relating to Lead Practitioners. There were no questions asked.

ITT, ECT and NPQ update (report)

VB shared an overview of success rates of employment for ITT students who have completed their training through the Train to Teach Programme. The committee were pleased with the information that was shared relating to full employment following completion of the course.

***A Trustee asked if TCAT had seen an increase of interest and***

***numbers from potential ITT students.***

VB confirmed that there is an increase in interest and applications for the Train to Teach programme and referred to increased numbers for the 2023-24 and 2024-2025 cohort. VB added that Jill Hodgson and Jill Moules are in the process of reading applications and conducting formal interviews to ensure the highest calibre of students are being selected for the programme.

***A Trustee asked if ITT trainees have experience in different academies.***

VB confirmed that all trainees are provided with placements across different academies to ensure trainees have experience in a range of settings.

VB highlighted the changes for 2024-25 relating to ITT Mentor training and shared that Jill Moules is leading on the mentor programme to support mentors.

***A Trustee asked if mentors in schools get paid extra money.***

VB confirmed that mentors do not receive any extra pay, but they do receive additional time to support them in their role.

***A Trustee queried where TCAT advertises the Train to Teach programme.***

VB confirmed that adverts are shared on the DfE website. The Train to Teach programme has also been shared at events TCAT have led at The Halliwell Jones Stadium and Jill Hodgson and Jill Moules attend recruitment events to advertise the course.

***A Committee Associate asked if funding has remained the same.***

*VB confirmed that the funding for ITT has remained the same and that there is no money made from the programme. VB added that TCAT have made a commitment to continue to offer this programme to support with sustainability planning.*

VB also provided an update relating to NPQ programmes and confirmed that there is less funding this year. VB shared the full titles for the National Professional Qualification courses and provided a short summary of the content covered within each of the programmes.

***A Trustee asked if the delegate numbers contained within the report had signed up prior to the funding.***

VB confirmed that this is correct.

#### Education Connect (report)

VB referred to TCAT's commitment to assessing the impact of CPD provided to colleagues and provided justification for this report. VB shared details relating to the range of CPD on offer to both TCAT colleagues and external clients. MA added further details relating to upcoming courses that will be offered to both TCAT colleague and external clients. MA explained the reasoning for the specific courses on offer and referred to the TCAT Staff Survey and feedback collected following the TCAT Leadership Conference.

VB referred to the bespoke external offer support work that also links with Education Connect and reiterated that all CPD including programmes, bespoke support, events and hub time all sits under the Educational Connect umbrella.

#### Trust External School Improvement work (report)

TL referred to the school-to-School External support work that was provide throughout 2023-24. TL shared that there was a range of support provided throughout the academic year with a total 162 staff deployments. TL shared that TSI work equates to £6000 which covers ten days' worth of support, and it was agreed that this sum would not cover the requirements for significant school improvement support work. TL shared that Lead Practitioners will be the key individuals leading support work with external clients. TL and VB confirmed that the opportunity to support schools provides Lead Practitioners with excellent CPD and opportunities to expand their leadership role. This has resulted in improved retention rates.

#### ***A Trustee challenged how the impact of school improvement work is measured.***

TL confirmed that the reports provided by colleagues show that TCAT have contributed to improvements made within individual schools. VB added that testimonials demonstrate the impact of external support work and commented that some of the schools TCAT have supported have received improved Ofsted grades.

A Trustee referred to the prospect of TCAT becoming a national provider for School Improvement work.

VB confirmed that there is a consistent large amount of school improvement work that TCAT are being asked to lead. VB explained that considerations are made prior to committing to any work to ensure TCAT academies are receiving required support from Lead Practitioners and that deployment of staff is very carefully managed.

#### ***A Trustee queried how TCAT respond when suggested change is not being implemented into a school despite recommendations.***

	<p>TL shared that risks that have been experienced by TCAT when conducting School Improvement work. TL added that the key challenge is that change is permission lead. TL shared with the committee that the development of relationships between Lead Practitioners and stakeholders is where the significant impact is made, and therefore, this is considered in the planning and preparations of any school support work.</p>
8.	<p><b>Attendance, Suspensions and PEX</b></p> <p>a) Attendance 2023-24, including academy spotlights (report):</p> <p>VB referred the Trust Attendance Report that was shared with the Committee prior to the meeting and asked if there were any questions. No questions were asked.</p> <p>SY commented that attendance looked consistent in line with national statistics. VB commented that attendance is still not as high as it was pre-Covid, however, VB did confirm that there is a huge amount of work that has been done to improve attendance with the implementation of strong strategies, policies, CPD and networking opportunities across the Trust.</p> <p>JL raised the implications of Arbor and the coding system that is used within this platform. JL shared details with the committee and there was some discussion relating to this and potential change and impact on attendance data.</p> <p><b><i>A Trustee commented that the TCAT results are good and added it is important to bear in mind and not lose sight that the national statistics are poor and that this must be considered.</i></b> The full committee agreed with this comment. VB confirmed that this is a key Trust priority and that this information is covered in the Scorecard which forms part of a key conversation between the Director of Education and Headteacher/Principal.</p> <p>b) Suspensions &amp; PEX 2023-24, including academy spotlights (report):</p> <p>VB shared the Trust Suspensions and Permanent Exclusion Report. VB shared the strategies that have been implemented to support students to improve attendance and shared the positive impact of the alternative provision which is being led by Andrew Hawley.</p> <p><b><i>A Trustee challenged if there are any new strategies being implemented to support permanent exclusions.</i></b></p> <p>VB shared that there are conversations that take place with Heads and Principals to ensure there is prevention in place before permanent exclusions take place. Hub Groups, Lead Practitioners and specific training has been provided to support colleagues and the crossover</p>



	attendance, behaviour and safeguarding. Two colleagues have been employed to work at the Alternative Provision to allow Andrew Hawley the capacity to complete more outreach work.
9.	<p><b>Assessment and Outcomes</b></p> <p>a) Outcome summary report</p> <p>VB shared the outcome summary reports for primary, secondary and post-16 academies.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>VB commented that overall, as a Trust results were good across the primary, secondary and post-16 academies. VB did request that entry levels for 2025-26 will not be available and that this needs to be on the radar.</li> <li>VB referred to the Primary Outcomes Report and asked if there were any questions. There were no questions raised.</li> <li>VB referred to the Secondary Outcomes Report and asked if there were any questions.</li> </ul> <p><b><i>A Committee Associate queried if there was any specific support in place to support students with their maths.</i></b></p> <p>VB confirmed that White Rose Maths has been implemented across the Trust to support KS3 Maths. VB also shared that there is a lead practitioner who is deployed to support maths and oversee curriculum development. Furthermore, additional support is being provided by The Sutton Academy who have an extremely strong math department.</p> <p>VB referred to the TCAT College Outcomes Report.</p> <p><b><i>MG and JL raised a query relating to the results by pathways for 'Mixed A-Level and Vocational'.</i></b> There had been a typo in the data for Priestley College. SY shared the correct data with the committee and did share that the number of merits for vocational subjects was not as high as previous years. VB emphasised the success rate of students who passed GCSE resits and it was agreed by the committee that this is a credit to Priestley College.</p> <p>SY shared details relating to Year 2 T-Level results. Details relating to the appeal raised have been recorded in Part Two: Confidential.</p> <p>b) Assessment policy: VB asked if there were any questions relating to the Assessment Policy. There were no questions raised.</p> <p>SY, the Chair, asked if the committee approve the Assessment Policy. Committee approved the Assessment Policy</p>
10.	<b>TCAT Strategic Objectives</b>

	<p>a) Education Excellence: VB shared further details relating to Educational Excellence and the strategies that sit behind this. There were no further queries or questions raised by the committee.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<p><b>Safeguarding Update</b></p> <p><b>a) Policies and statements</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Safeguarding policy statement</li> <li>- Child Protection and Safeguarding policy (got this and attached to check final copy)</li> <li>- E-Safety policy Primary (shared this is a new policy)</li> <li>- E-Safety policy Secondary (shared this is a new policy)</li> <li>- Prevent Risk Assessment</li> <li>- Prevent Statement</li> </ul> <p>There was a unanimous agreement from full committee for all policies discussed.</p> <p><b>SY asked if academies have received the E-safety policies.</b> VB confirmed that academies have been involved and have received a copy of the policy. This will replace individual policies to ensure consistency of approach across the Trust.</p> <p><b><i>A Trustee highlighted a query relating to the safeguarding training requirements on GovernorHub for Trustees and Governors.</i></b> VB confirmed that all safeguarding training instructions are stored in GovernorHub and that the overview of the safeguarding CPD can be located in the secured area of Education Connect. VB confirmed that this will be investigated as a matter of urgency and MA will liaise with AL to rectify this to ensure appropriate safeguarding training is completed.</p>
<b>12.</b>	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Sutton Trust Report:</u></li> </ul> <p>VB provided details relating to the Sutton Trust Report that was shared with the committee prior to the meeting. MG commented that it would be worthwhile capturing Post 16 movement. A discussion took place relating to Warrington students studying outside of Warrington. SY raised that competition within post 16 establishments has increased and one of the key factors impacting this is the offering of free buses. JL added that this topic has been discussed at WASCL with Warrington Headteachers and Principals. MG stated that the offering of free transportation has an impact on curriculum and the variety of courses offered within individual post 16 establishments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <u>Headteacher training and coaching programme update:</u></li> </ul> <p>SY asked if there were any questions relating to the Headteacher training and coaching programme. There were no questions asked.</p>

	<p>- <u>Leadership conference:</u> This had already been discussed in agenda item 7g) and there were no further questions raised.</p> <p>The Chair thanked Committee Associates for their time and confirmed the date of the next Quality and Standards committee meeting. JL and KB exited the meeting at 18:37.</p>
<b>13.</b>	<p><b>Date and time of next meeting</b></p> <p>The Chair, Sheila Yates, thanked the committee for their attendance and support. SY confirmed the date for the next Quality and Standards committee meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> February 5-7pm</li> <li>Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June 5-7pm</li> </ul>
<b>14.</b>	<p><b>Part Two – Confidential</b></p> <p>There are Part Two items to be discussed which will be captured in a separate confidential document accessible for relevant colleagues.</p>

This meeting was closed at 18:45.

#### Action Log:

Minute Reference	Action to be taken	By Whom	Completion Date
<b>5.</b>	<p>Terms of Reference to be added to GovernorHub for committee. If there are any queries or if anyone would like to raise something, please contact Melissa Alexander.</p> <p>Typos can be amended by Melissa Alexander and the final copy of the previous minutes from June 2024 will be updated on GovernorHub.</p>	MA	17.10.2024
<b>08b.</b>	Andy Hawley will be invited to the next Quality and Standards Committee Meeting to report on Alternative Provision.	VB	13.02.2025

<b>9a.</b>	Query raised by MG and JL relating to the 65.8% Mixed (A Level/ Vocational). VB agreed to amend this data.	VB	ASAP
<b>11a.</b>	Page 4 on TCAT Safeguarding Statement 2024 includes an incorrect date. This will need to be amended.	VB	ASAP
<b>11a)</b>	Safeguarding Training requirements needs to be added to GovernorHub to ensure all Governors and Trustees are completing the required training.	MA	ASAP
<b>12)</b>	VB will discuss the post 16 climate with James Gresty in further detail.	VB	13.02.2025
<b>12)</b>	Report on external examination access arrangements percentage/number/impact.	VB	12.06.2025