

Committee(s)	Dated:
Board of Governors of the City of London School for Girls City of London Primary Academy Islington Governing Body	27 June 2016 TBC
Subject: Partnership arrangements between City of London School for Girls and City of London Primary Academy Islington	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision
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Summary

This report outlines the proposed continued partnership arrangement between City of London School for Girls (CLSG), and City of London Primary Academy Islington (COLPA Islington), which will support the primary academy in delivering an outstanding school in the first few years from opening, and enhance the existing role CLSG has in the education of local children and supporting the local community.

The connection between the two schools will offer further benefits to both schools as it explores shared vision for education and governance arrangements, opportunities for shared services and joint staff training initiatives, and collaborative working to enhance children's education.

As COLPA Islington approaches opening it would be beneficial for both schools to formalise the partnership arrangements, to identify the levels of commitment, and how the schools can collaborate further going forward to improve outcomes.

Recommendation(s)

Governors are asked to:

- Note the progress that has been made so far from the partnership arrangements between the two schools.
- Endorse the formalisation of the partnership arrangements

Main Report

Current Position

1. COLPA Islington is a new City of London Primary Academy, opening in September 2017, which will be built on the old Richard Cloudesley School site, to the north of the Golden Lane Estate. It is envisaged the school will be in temporary accommodation from September 2017 until July 2019 while the permanent school is being built.

2. Partnership arrangements have already been in place between the two schools with governors from CLSG also joining COLPA Islington governing body when it was first formed, and until recently the Head of Prep at CLSG has also been the interim Executive Head for COPA Islington. These arrangements have already led to;
 - a. being successful in the application to the DfE to open a school
 - b. facilitating and administrating the governing body meetings taking place,
 - c. supporting the development of the school vision and web site,
 - d. advised on school structure and submissions of documents to the DfE,
 - e. enabled community engagement activities to take place,
3. Going forward it would be helpful to formalise the partnership arrangements between the two schools, to identify the levels of commitment, and how the schools can collaborate further going forward.

Proposals

4. As COLPA Islington leads up to its opening in September 2017 and beyond, the school would benefit from the vast amount of experience and expertise which CLSG has established over many years, in developing its vision for education. The key to this is strong governance, and with this in mind the model adopted by City of London Academies Trust is to have up to two governors from partner organisations. In the case of COLPA Islington this representation is further increased by a sponsor governor from the Court of Common Council also being a governor of CLSG. The current membership of COPA Islington is attached as appendix 1.
5. In addition, excellent schools are achieved through outstanding leadership. The soon to be appointed Head Teacher for COLPA Islington would benefit in the first few years from receiving coaching and/or mentoring from an outstanding Head in the form of the Head of CLSG. The key areas of support needed from an Executive Head are attached as appendix 2, and this will be funded from the school's budget. While the Head the Head Teacher is not appointed in the lead up to the school opening, it is envisaged that the Head of CLSG will be able to provide some support to a project support officer in conjunction with the Academies Programme Directo
6. It is also envisaged that the benefits from this collaboration will not be one sided but can enable the sharing of services and joint staff working/training initiatives which can either reduce costs or generate income for either or both schools. That going forward the two schools can look at what cross cutting systems may be possible, such as ICT, and support and challenge for inspection readiness. There will also be the opportunities to explore curriculum planning and joint access activities around learning.
7. When the permanent COLPA School is completed, it will be a number of years before it is at full capacity, with the first cohort of children starting in Reception in September 2017, giving the opportunity to access the underutilised purpose built primary school facilities. Such as opportunity to share the site can provide the

opportunity to further participate in joint activities, enhance the education of children, and supporting the local community.

Conclusion

8. The proposed partnership arrangement between City of London School for Girls, and City of London Primary Academy Islington, will support the primary academy in delivering an outstanding school in the first few years from opening. Close collaboration between the schools will also develop opportunities for shared services and joint initiatives to enhance the education for children, and supporting the local community.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Table of COLPA Islington Governing Body Membership
- Appendix 2 – Areas of responsibility for Executive Head

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