

ACT or REACT Universities in Schools

LORRAINE GEARING
Director of Educational Strategies

▪ Gov.uk / DfE [Schools That Work for Everyone](#)

- *“As well as allowing new selective schools we will bring forward a new requirement that means universities who want to charge higher fees will be required to establish a new school or sponsor an existing underperforming school”*
- *“Under the new arrangements, universities would be expected to use their educational expertise to do more to raise standards in schools. This will create a talent pipeline, through which pupils from all backgrounds will have a greater opportunity to get the grades and skills they need to go on to university, and help universities in their efforts to widen participation of lower income students”*

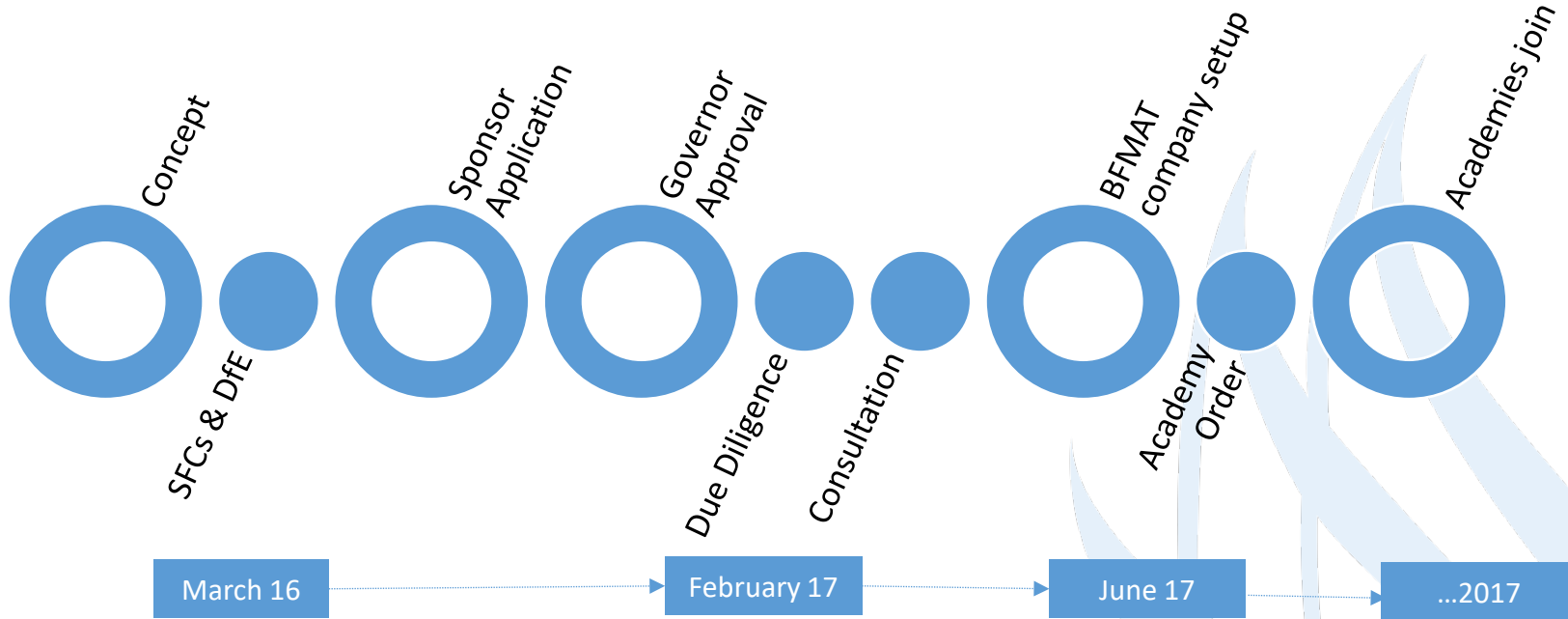
PM Press Release, September 2016

OFFA [18-19 Access Agreement](#)

- **Including:** Paragraph 6. *“We expect all institutions to set out in their 2018-19 access agreements how they will work with schools and colleges to raise attainment for those from disadvantaged and underrepresented groups. This includes a strong expectation that we will see greater numbers of higher education providers sponsoring schools (either as main sponsor or co-sponsor) or with advanced plans to do so, with a view to improving attainment of disadvantaged and under-represented groups to enable them to apply to higher education if they wish to.”*

Coventry University

Sponsor Development Timeline



Can it be Done for Everyone?

■ STATE FUNDED

- 16,786 primary schools
- 3,408 secondary schools

■ ACADEMIES

- 3,748 Primary
- 2,325 Secondary

GOV.UK – 2017 Statistics

Against a backdrop of 160+ UK HEIs

Difficult to Template

- Each university led Multi-Academy Trust is different
 - Guidelines
 - Processes
 - Regional variation
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 - What was acceptable in 2014 is vastly different to now

Current Engagement in Academies

- Dec 2015 [HEFCE Academies data](#) has 12 universities listed as having a MAT (Multi-Academy Trust)
- Universities are more engaged with UTC and sponsoring a Free School

Will/Should/Count/Do University Led Academies Demonstrate Improved Academic Performance?

Is it working? – recent headlines

- *“The track record of those universities that have sponsored academies is not strong. Last December, figures revealed that 57 per cent of university-sponsored academies were found by Ofsted to be less than ‘good’.”*

TES - September 2017

- And this week the Education Central Multi-Academy Trust, a 13-school academy chain sponsored by the University of Wolverhampton, was told by Ofsted that it urgently needed to strengthen its support for secondary school improvement.

What Can We Offer?

- Opens new opportunities in Higher Education – research, work experience
- World-class links with business and industry
- Greater confidence in and understanding of Higher Education
- Access to professional services at scale and greater organisational resilience
- Structured development and progression opportunities for staff

What Can We Learn?

- Learning needs of young people
- Current teaching methods used in schools and SFCs
- The continuing changes to curriculum and its potential impact on students beginning undergraduate courses
- Community engagement with the support of a local anchor institution
- The impact of government measures on schools improvement

Our Conclusion to date

- We have gained new insights into DfE
 - Direction
 - Changes
 - Pressures on Schools
- We have deepened our relationships with selected schools
- We have created links at faculty level
- We are collaborating on research

Painful at times, but worth it!

Any Questions?

