



**Executive**  
16<sup>th</sup> April 2007

**Report from the Director of  
Children and Families**

For Action

Wards Affected:  
ALL

**Sponsor for the Wembley Academy**

Forward Plan Ref: n/a

**\*Reason for urgency: This report is urgent because the sponsor arrangements need to be in place now to enable the project to be delivered on time for September 2010. Any delay beyond 16<sup>th</sup> April would threaten the delivery time for the project.**

**1.0 Summary**

1.1 The Sponsor for the Wembley Academy, Andrew Rosenfeld, has withdrawn his sponsorship of the Wembley Academy. The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) have recommended the ARK (Absolute Return for Kids) Children's Charitable Trust to be the new Sponsor for the Academy in partnership with the Council. ARK subscribe fully to the Expression of Interest approved by the Executive in January 2006 and are an ideal partner for the Council.

**2.0 Recommendations**

2.1 The Executive are recommended to agree that the ARK Educational Charitable Trust should be approved, in partnership with the Council, as the new sponsor of the Wembley Academy, with specialisms in citizenship and mathematics.

**3.0 Detail**

3.1 The Sponsor for the Wembley Academy, Andrew Rosenfeld, has withdrawn his sponsorship of the Wembley Academy. The DfES have recommended the ARK

(Absolute Return for Kids) Children's Charitable Trust to be the new Sponsor for the Academy in partnership with the Council. ARK subscribe fully to the Expression of Interest approved by the Executive in January 2006 and are an ideal partner for the Council.

- 3.2 The Expression of Interest describes how the new Academy will be a 3 – 18 all-ability, non-denominational, local community school focussing on citizenship. The admissions policy for the Academy will conform fully to the National Code of Practice on School Admissions. The Academy will be committed to developing the five outcomes detailed in the Children Act 2004 – that every child should be safe, healthy, be able to achieve to their potential, participate in society and attain economic well-being. It will be a resource for the local community through its active citizenship programmes and community use of its playing fields and state of the art buildings. The Academy will be a full member of the Education Improvement Partnership which has as its membership every secondary school in Brent together with the Council. ARK propose that the Academy should have a second specialism of mathematics in addition to the specialism of citizenship. This is entirely in accord with the DfES and Children and Families department policy of encouraging schools to have additional specialisms and the importance given to mathematics. ARK are also very interested in working with Wembley Stadium and other local businesses and propose to develop those links during the feasibility stage as well as building relationships with other local education providers.
- 3.3 ARK's mission is to transform the lives of children particularly those who are disadvantaged. ARK is involved in a number of charitable initiatives. These include: Future Leaders - a new programme to identify and develop the skills of leaders to run the most challenging urban schools in partnership with the National College of School Leadership; a partnership with the UK charity Teens and Toddlers to develop an innovative teenage pregnancy prevention programme; and the sponsorship of five academies.
- 3.4 ARK is currently sponsoring five academies in the London boroughs of Southwark, Westminster, Lambeth and Hammersmith and Fulham. One opened in 2006, two are scheduled to open in 2007 and two in 2008. One of the proposed Academies is an all-through school, as is the proposed Wembley Academy.
- 3.5 ARK has a Board of Trustees who are an international group of financial investors. The Trust has a management and administrative infrastructure headed by a Chief Executive. The officers of the Trust are able, in partnership with the Council, to give educational, financial, legal and personnel support to the Academies. The officers of the Trust will work closely with the officers of the Council to undertake the feasibility study of the Academy.

#### **4.0 Financial Implications**

- 4.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. The overall financial implications of the Academy project have been reported previously to the Executive.

## **5.0 Legal Implications**

- 5.1 There are none arising from the recommendations in this report. The overall legal implications of the Academy project have been reported previously to the Executive.

## **6.0 Diversity Implications**

- 6.1 The DfES have appointed ARK as suitable sponsors following their diversity policies. The overall report on the need for school places and the Academy which was approved by the Executive in January 2007 had an Equality Impact Assessment.

### **Background Papers**

- i) Expression of interest for a second Academy in Brent, January 2006
- ii) Letter from ARK confirming their commitment to act as Sponsor.

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