

Re: Appointment of Mark Parkinson as the next chair of the Edsential board

We wish to go on record with our unanimous support for Mark Parkinson as the next chair of the Edsential board.

The coming years will be difficult for Edsential, as we recover from the financial impact of Covid-19, and we will need stability in the governance of the business. The business has exceeded expectations in its performance since inception, whilst this is due to many factors the skills and guidance of the current board are not least amongst them.

Mark was pivotal in championing the original case for the establishment of Edsential and in giving it its child-centric mission; he has been a passionate advocate for the business ever since. Mark's impending retirement from his role with CWAC will provide the time and space to become a very engaged and proactive chair.

We believe Mark has the skills, connections and experience to help Edsential continue to develop during the next few years. His reputation within Wirral and West Cheshire schools is first class and it will enhance the confidence that head teachers have in our role as a community interest company. His experience as a director of education will bring strategic insight into future education policy and a range of regional/national contacts that will promote Edsential's profile nationally.

Due to his role in setting up Edsential and everyday engagement with it, Mark has a high profile within all Edsential's teams and is very highly regarded as a person and a leader.

We believe Mark is the outstanding candidate to lead the board forward and help us to guide Edsential successfully during the coming years.

Jane Owens, Chair

Jo Beer, NED

Ian McGrady, ED

Elaine McGunigall, NED

Nic Wetton, NED

Simone White, NED

Adrian Whitely, NED

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