



## COUNTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (GOVERNORS)

WEDNESDAY, 13 OCTOBER 2021

3.30 PM REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEMBERSHIP - Councillors Colin Belsey, Roy Galley, Phil Scott, Alan Shuttleworth and Bob Standley

### A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (*Pages 3 - 6*)
2. Apologies for absence
3. Disclosure of Interests  
  
Disclosure by all Members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
4. Urgent items  
  
Notification of any items which the Chair considers urgent and proposes to take at the appropriate part of the agenda. Any members who wish to raise urgent items are asked, wherever possible, to notify the Chair before the start of the meeting. In so doing, they must state the special circumstances which they consider justify the matter being considered urgent.
5. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4
6. Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors March 2021 (*Pages 7 - 12*)
7. Academies Update (*Pages 13 - 14*)
8. Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors (*Pages 15 - 18*)
9. Discussion around COVID, how schools coped and how governors saw their role (*Pages 19 - 20*)
10. Excellence for All (*Pages 21 - 22*)
11. ESGF Update to the County Consultative Committee (*Pages 23 - 24*)
12. Governor local area forums (*Pages 25 - 26*)

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5 October 2021

Contact

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## COUNTY FORUM: Autumn Term 2019

### SUMMARY REPORT

Meeting: **County Forum Meeting** comprising of the County Consultative Committee and East Sussex Governors' Forum (ESGF)

Date: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Venue: County Hall, Lewes

Present: Cllrs Standley, Shuttleworth.  
Karen Marr (KM), Denise Kong (DK), Patricia Metham (PM), Stuart Ford (SF), Jane McCarthy-Penman (JMP) Margaret Stebbing (MS), Luke Shevels (LS), Duncan Irvine (DI), Jane Branson (JB), Matthew Jones, Jessica Stubbings and Clare Cornford.

Apologies: Cllr Scott and Cllr Galley, Monica Whitehead, Richard Sage, Jenny Barnard-Langston

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1.	<b>Minutes of previous County Forum Meeting – 8<sup>th</sup> May 2019</b> The minutes were noted as a true record.	
2.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received and noted as above.	
3.	<b>Declaration of Interest</b> Disclosures by all members present of personal interests in matters on the agenda, the nature of any interest and whether the member regards the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.  No interests were declared.	
4.	<b>Urgent Items</b> Councillor Standley signed the memorandum of Understanding with the ESGF on behalf of the Local Authority.	
5.	<b>Academy Update</b> Peacehaven Community School converted under the swale Academy Chain in September 2019. There are academy orders in place for 2 schools – The Causeway School and St John's Meads CofE primary School. They are both likely to convert during this academic year.	
6.	<b>Local authority governor appointments and governor vacancies.</b> Members of the County Forum received a report detailing the nomination for appointment of authority governors for information.  Members were made aware of the current vacancy rate in East Sussex, it was noted that September is the peak time of the year for vacancies as boards are in the process of making appointments for the new academic year. Members heard about proposals to tackle vacancies through targeted "become a governor" evenings.	

7.	<p><b>Educational Attainment in East Sussex</b></p> <p>Members of the forum received an overview of attainment in East Sussex, which outlined the headline data from the previous academic year. The main outcomes were noted for each of the key stages.</p> <p>It was noted that these results have been shared with schools, the Secondary Board and the Primary Board and have been used to inform joint priorities for this coming year. These priorities are:</p> <p>Primary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Urgently improve outcomes at Key Stage 2, improve progress in all subjects and mathematics and reading outcomes</li> <li>▪ Performance of disadvantaged pupils in all measures at all key stages</li> <li>▪ Improving attendance</li> <li>▪ Reducing exclusions, particularly for disadvantaged pupils and those with SEN/D.</li> </ul> <p>Secondary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Commitment to maximize attendance and minimize exclusions</li> <li>▪ Affirmative action to raise achievement – and close ‘achievement gaps’ where they exist</li> <li>▪ Classroom teaching and leadership at all levels to be of the highest quality</li> <li>▪ Reduce in-school variation by subjects.</li> </ul> <p>Governors need to be equipped to ask schools questions about their data and the school’s performance compared to national and county averages. It was agreed that questions for governors to ask should be included at the end of the report along with details of relevant training, and that the report should be circulated to all governors.</p>	
8.	<p><b>OFSTED and the New Curriculum</b></p> <p>Feedback from governors at the last round of Local Area Forums was very positive and they have requested a further session on the new Ofsted Framework with a concentrated focus on the curriculum. They have requested that Phil Bunn delivers this session.</p> <p>The session will focus on the published framework. The session will look at how Ofsted will inspect schools and what they are looking for in terms of the curriculum. We hope to get a chair from a school that has been inspected under the framework to come along to each session and share their experiences too.</p> <p>The purpose for the Governors’ Briefing Sessions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To provide governors with up to date knowledge of the new Ofsted Inspection Framework with a specific focus on the ‘<i>Quality of Education</i>’ judgement area.</li> <li>○ To support governors’ preparations for Ofsted. inspection.</li> <li>○ To provide an opportunity for networking and discussion with other governors.</li> </ul> <p>The sessions will cover the following areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The new Ofsted Inspection Framework.</li> <li>○ Understanding the new ‘Quality of Education’ judgement area.</li> <li>○ How Ofsted inspect the ‘Quality of Education’.</li> <li>○ How Governors can prepare for Ofsted inspection.</li> <li>○ How Governors can monitor and evaluate the ‘Quality of Education’ in their schools – practical steps.</li> </ul>	

9.	<b>Governor Local Area Forums</b>  It was agreed to take the Ofsted framework and the curriculum forward as the topic for the Autumn round of Forums.  The number of attendees at the last round of local area forums (summer) was noted, there were very high levels of attendance. It is hoped that this trend will continue.	
10.	<b>Any other Business</b> The ESGF informed the County Consultative Committee that following a survey to governors, the times and days of all local area forums has now changed. We will ask governors for their feedback about the new timings of the sessions.  The ESGF updated that they have agreed that they will meet both before (January) and after (March) the spring round of forums. The County Consultative Committee will meet after the Local Area Forums so the ESGF can feed back to councillors on any issues raised.	
11.	<b>Dates of Future Meetings</b> TBC	

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**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**By:** Clare Cornford

**Title:** Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors

**Purpose:** To update Councillors on the nomination for appointment of local authority governors and governor vacancies

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1) For information

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#### 1 Background

1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to approve nominations for local authority governors. Once nominated, schools then appoint local authority governors onto their governing board.

1.2 This report provides a summary of local authority governor applications approved for nomination, and information about the level of governor vacancies across the county.

#### 2 Supporting information

2.1 Since the last meeting report on the 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020, 37 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 37, 16 were reappointments and 21 were new appointments. The governors in italics were placed as a result of the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign.

Kevin Doherty	Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	New Appointment
Victoria Crouch	St Mary's Catholic Primary Crowborough	Reapplication
Alison Doig	Heathfield and Woodlands	
Jon Dilley	Peacehaven Community College	Reapplication
Jenny Dudgeon	Netherfield CEP School	Reapplication
Honey Clarke	Quercus Federation	New Appointment
Rick Love	Rocks Park	Reapplication
Mandy Watson	Newick Primary School	New Appointment
Lesley Farmer	Ticehurst and Flimwell	New Appointment
Angela Reid	Sacred Heart	Reapplication
Beverley Waldis	The Riverside Federation	Reapplication
William Lovett	Nutley	Reapplication
<i>Billy Stevens</i>	<i>South Ashdown Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Diane Ryan</i>	<i>St Mary Star of The Sea</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Fiona Chalk</i>	<i>Sussex Spires Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Jennifer Sutherland	St Thomas Winchelsea	New Appointment
<i>Lisa Mahony</i>	<i>St John's CE Primary School Crowborough</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Dee Harvey</i>	<i>Brede Primary School</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Margaret Rooms	St John's, Seaford	New Appointment
Sarah Ellis	St Richards Catholic College	Reapplication
<i>Wendy Collier</i>	<i>Pevensey and Westham</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>

Karen Bye	Icklesham CP School	Reapplication
Nigel Jewell	The Haven CE Methodist	Reapplication
<i>Vanessa Tomlinson</i>	<i>The Genesis Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Duncan Irvine	Sussex Spires Federation	New Appointment
Deborah Rowland	Danehill Primary	New Appointment
Jan Meyer	Polegate Primary	Reapplication
Lindsay Pamphilon	Wadhurst Primary	Reapplication
Charles Grimble	Cradle Hill	Reapplication
Nicola Rand	Little Common	Reapplication
<i>Pamela Lewis</i>	<i>South Malling</i>	<i>New Application</i>
Jenny Barnard-Langston	The Bluebell Federation	New Application
<i>Stuart Carruthers</i>	<i>The Oaktree Federation</i>	<i>New Application</i>
Laura Carter	Willingdon Primary School	Reapplication
Nicole Hartley	West Rise Infant School	Reapplication
Ben West	Tollgate Junior School	New Application

2.2 Of the 102 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 13 vacancies, of which we know 4 are in the process of making an appointment. This is a vacancy rate of 12.9% which shows a significant decrease since September 2019 when the vacancy rate for local authority governors was at 22.5%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 14.9%. 9 of the newly appointed LA governors came through the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign and are testament to the success in reducing governor vacancy levels that the campaign has had.

2.3 Further information on the governor vacancies across East Sussex, by type of governor is shown in Appendix 1.

2.4 Information on governing boards and governors is accessed through the governors online database. This is a database maintained by the local authority; clerks to governing bodies for local authority maintained schools are responsible for updating the information on their governors and governing boards. The governor and clerking service conduct regular checks of the data to highlight inaccuracies and missing data. Clerks have dedicated training through the clerk network meetings and training sessions on using and updating the database. The local authority does not hold governor information for academy schools.

2.5 The Governor and Clerking Service (GCS) supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. The launch in January 2020 of the new, more localised recruitment campaign where the GCS match potential governors directly with schools has been a success. Since the launch of the new expression of interest form, 57 people have applied to be matched with schools. We had planned some recruitment events in the Spring of 2020, but these have had to be cancelled. All the promotion of the GCS recruitment campaign has been online. 45 governors have been placed since January 2020 and the GCS team are actively looking to match the outstanding 12 applicants with a suitable vacancy.

2.6 The local authority invites applications for Local Support Governors (LSGs). These are experienced and skilled governors who are willing to help support other governing boards across East Sussex. There are currently 12 LSGs in East Sussex. Another round of recruitment will take place in term 5. Local support governors can be nominated as interim additional governors or chair of governors as required, they are also asked to sit on governor panels, facilitate governor to governor networks and provide advice on specific issues. 10 LSGs have sat on Panels as independent governors and 5 LSGs have joined an additional board to provide support.



## **Governor Training**

2.7 Since September 2020, GCS moved the training programme online and have also developed a comprehensive networking and briefing programme for governors. Between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 18<sup>th</sup> March, 1545 governor and clerking training places have been accessed over 75 training, briefing and networking sessions.

## **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

For information only.

**Clare Cornford**

**Project Officer: Governor and Clerking Service**

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## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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### Report on ESGF and school governance March 2020 – March 2021

#### Background

The East Sussex Governor Forum consists of 12 elected volunteer school governors from across the County. We serve a tenure of 4 years. The forum has been in existence for many years and has developed in this time to be a vehicle for consultation and communication between the elected members of the council, council officers and the close to 2000-strong school governor volunteer force.

#### Purpose

We promote good governance by liaising between the County Council and the school governor volunteer force, by supporting training and networking, and acting as sounding board to highlight areas of current interest:

- *Identify key issues for East Sussex governors and ensure elected members understand their impact*
- *Plan agendas across the year in response to issues of importance to East Sussex governors*
- *To receive and discuss data, information and reports to help East Sussex governors fulfil their support and challenge role*
- *To seek the support of elected members for issues which affect schools and school leaders in East Sussex*
- *To ensure that governor briefings, information and network meetings respond to identified priorities*
- *To ensure that governing bodies in East Sussex are informed about key issues, policies and decisions which will affect them in their role?*
- *To represent the views of governors*

#### Joint Responsibilities

1. It is the responsibility of governors to be informed and set the agenda for consultation, we need to horizon scan and know what Council decisions are going to impact on schools
2. It is the responsibility of councillors to engage with us as the legally responsible bodies which oversee maintained schools before decision making
3. It is a joint responsibility to use our consultative structures to engage with each other in the best interests of our children's education.

#### Review of the past year

The ESGF noted at its last meeting its disappointment that certain parts of the media or other public figures or bodies, talk about schools being "closed" and refer to the situation as if no learning is taking place, however during this time, governors report, schools have been providing high quality remote learning alongside teaching in school for Key Worker children, which has been a major challenge. Regular phone calls from form tutors; extra support available for pupils who are not accessing and completing work; pastoral support for pupils suffering from anxiety; teachers dreaming up creative and fun ways to replace school trips; schools working hard to encourage as many vulnerable pupils as safely possible to come to school, to name but a few.

Governors, the legally responsible body, accountable for the quality of education and for safety/security of children and staff, have been providing school senior leaders with the opportunity for supportive conversations, and they have been helping schools to ensure that all groups of children are safe and are able to learn well. Governors have also been checking on staff wellbeing and celebrating school successes in order to ensure that those running our schools feel valued.

### Governor feedback

The ESGF collects feedback from governors regularly from our facilitated networks and forums – Chair of Governors Networking (6 per annum), Governor Area Forum (3 events 3 times per year), local governor networking and specific networking eg new governor, safeguarding governor networks. Many of these in the last year have included ESGF members in the role of facilitator or trainer.

In our latest Area Forums, we looked at how to promote the Wellbeing of Governors and governors discussed the Transition from a Virtual World. Schools have found some of the technology so useful that they wish to stick with the flexibility and depth that online meetings offer. Some school are planning to continue online parents' evenings after restrictions are lifted following positive feedback from parents - governors and schools make extensive use of surveys in order to deliver what is most useful to pupils and families. Recording assemblies and other gatherings have made it possible for whole families to share some performances that children have taken part in.

Governors mentioned their appreciation of the wide variety of training topics delivered by Governor Services, and they are so much more accessible now they are on line.

High quality, frequently accessed training is very important in developing a high quality governor volunteer force. Training means helps governors to be both impartial and informed, essential if they are to be supportive as well as being able to question appropriately. Since September 2020, 1545 governor and clerking training places have been accessed over 75 training, briefing and networking sessions.

The ESGF has been able to provide a strong level of support to governors across the County and we in turn receive excellent levels of support from Governor Services. This good relationship is evidenced by the fact that we have a full complement of active governors, with Governor Services actively recruiting. The county has also created the role of the Local Support Governor, where volunteers are trained to help support other governing boards in various areas of need.

### Next year and beyond

Wellbeing of governors will be a part of our plans for the next year, along with further development of our relationships with other organisations linked with education and governance.

Recognition from councillors and MPs is always important to the morale of our school staff and governors. For example, when public figures speak in the media about specific examples of good work in local schools. We look forward to updating you on these plans and to our ongoing collaboration.

**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Jessica Stubbings

**Title:** Academies Update (Standing Item)

**Purpose:** For members of the County Consultative Committee to hear an update about academy conversions

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1) For members of the committee to hear an update about academy conversions.**

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### **1 Background**

**For members of the County Consultative Committee to hear an update about academy conversions**

### **3. Conclusion**

**3.1 For information only**

**Alison Jeffery**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Clare Cornford

**Title:** Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors

**Purpose:** To update Councillors on the nomination for appointment of local authority governors and governor vacancies

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## RECOMMENDATIONS

### 1) For information

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#### 11 Background

1.1 The local authority has a statutory duty to approve nominations for local authority governors. Once nominated, schools then appoint local authority governors onto their governing board.

1.2 This report provides a summary of local authority governor applications approved for nomination, and information about the level of governor vacancies across the county.

#### 2 Supporting information

2.1 Since the report sent to Councillors on the 18<sup>th</sup> March 2021, 13 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 13, 6 were reappointments and 7 were new appointments. The governors in italics were placed as a result of the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign.

Peter Chowney	New Application	Sandown Primary school
Vicky Harries	Reapplication	Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary School
Alan Brundle	Reapplication	The Pioneer Federation
Yvette Aeberhard	New Application	Alfriston Primary School
Jonathan Nay	Reapplication	Bourne Primary School
Sally Domingo-Jones	Reapplication	Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School
Stuart Scott	Reapplication	St Pancras Catholic Primary School
<i>Helen Hoffman</i>	<i>New Application</i>	<i>Ticehurst and Flimwell</i>
Mark Weeks-Pearson	New Application	St Richards Catholic College
<i>Linda Turton</i>	<i>New Application</i>	<i>Icklesham Primary School</i>
Martin Holley	New Application	Hankham Primary School
Nabil Zakher	Reapplication	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School
Noah Curthoys	New Application	Priory school

2.2 Of the 102 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 12 vacancies, which we are working with the boards to recruit governors. This is a vacancy rate of 12.3%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 17.59%. We would expect for vacancies to be slightly higher in September and October as boards have their first meetings of the academic year and may not yet have made new appointments. 30 new governors have been appointed since 1<sup>st</sup> September 2021.

2.3 Further information on the governor vacancies across East Sussex, by type of governor is shown in Appendix 1.

2.4 Information on governing boards and governors is accessed through the governors online database. This is a database maintained by the local authority; clerks to governing bodies for local authority maintained schools are responsible for updating the information on their governors and governing boards. The governor and clerking service conduct regular checks of the data to highlight inaccuracies and missing data. Clerks have dedicated training through the clerk network meetings and training sessions on using and updating the database. The local authority does not hold governor information for academy schools.

2.5 The Governor and Clerking Service (GCS) supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. The launch in January 2020 of the new, more localised recruitment campaign where the GCS match potential governors directly with schools has been a success. Since the launch of the new expression of interest form, Since the launch of the campaign, 91 people have expressed an interest to become a governor. All applicants are matched with a school and very few have not resulted in an appointment.

### **Governor Training**

2.7 Since September 2020, GCS moved the training programme online and have also developed a comprehensive networking and briefing programme for governors. Between 1<sup>st</sup> September and 31<sup>st</sup> August 2021, 2675 governor and clerking training places have been accessed over 147 training, briefing and networking sessions.

### **Clare Cornford**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None



**Appendix 1**  
**Governor Places and Vacancies in East Sussex local authority maintained schools**  
**Monitoring Report 2020-2021**

	2017/8 February	2017/8 April	2018/19 September	2018/19 January	2018/19 April	2019/20 September	2019/20 March	2020/21 March	2021/22 October
Governor Places at LA Maintained schools	1395	1395	1340	1340	1291	1252	1240	1256	1216
Vacancies (not including non gov HT)	226 (16.2%)	221(15.4%)	251 (18.7%)	234 (17.46%)	214 (16.57%)	235 (18.7%)	188 (15.1%)	188	214 (17.59%)
Schools with 25%+ vacancies	1	1	6 – start of term	4	6	8 (start of term)			
Head teachers who are not governors	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Head teachers who are governors	116	116	111	111	111	108	107	109	105
LA governor places	114	114	109	109	105	102	101	101	97
LA governor vacancies	13 (10.8%)	12 (10.5%)	10 (9.2%)	13 (11.9%)	13 (12.3%)	23 (22.5%)	12 (11.8%)	13 (12.9%)	12 (12.3%)
Parent governor places	274	274	266	266	251	243	241	243	230
Parent governor vacancies	35 (12.7%)	45 (16.4%)	43 (16.2%)	48 (18%)	43 (17.1%)	32 (13%)	24 (9.9%)	31 (12.76%)	30 (13%)
Staff governor places	114	114	109	109	105	102	101	102	97
Staff governor vacancies	17 (14.9%)	12 (10.5%)	18 (16.51)	14 (12.8%)	12 (11.4%)	11 (10.8%)	8 (7.9%)	13 (12.75)	12 (12.3%)
Co-opted governor places	502	502	490	490	473	456	456	452	447
Co-opted governor vacancies	109 (21.7%)	98 (19.5%)	108 (22%)	98 (20%)	88 (18.6%)	110 (24%)	93 (20.3%)	70 (15.49)	101 (22.5%)
Foundation governor places	269	269	255	255	246	241	234	249	240
Foundation governors vacancies	52 (19.3%)	52 (19.3%)	62 (24.31%)	61 (23.9%)	58 (23.5%)	59 (20.4%0	51 (21.7%)	61 (24.49%)	59 (24.5%)
New governors	183 (since 01/09/17)	204 (Since 01/09/17)	288 (1/09/17 – 31/08/18) 20 since 01/09/18	124 since 1/9/18	210 since 1/9/18	288 since 1/10/18. 37 since 1/9/19	135 since 1/9/19	183 new governor since 1/9/20	

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**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Councillor Standley

**Title:** Discussion around COVID, how schools coped and how governors saw their role

**Purpose:** For members of the County Consultative Committee to discuss the impact of COVID with members of the ESGF

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1) For members of the committee to discuss COVID, how schools coped and how governors saw their role.**

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### **1 Background**

**For members of the County Consultative Committee to discuss the impact of COVID with members of the ESGF**

### **3. Conclusion**

**3.1 For members of the County Consultative Committee to be aware of how schools coped and how governors saw their role during the COVID 19 Pandemic.**

**Alison Jeffery**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Jessica Stubbings

**Title:** Excellence for All

**Purpose:** For members of the Committee to hear about the revised Excellence for All Strategy

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## ***RECOMMENDATIONS***

### **1) To hear about the revised Excellence for All Strategy**

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#### **1 Background**

- 1.1 For members of the Committee to hear about the revised Excellence for All Strategy and how it will be rolled out to educational settings across the county.

#### **2 Supporting information**

- 2.1 Appendix 1 – Excellence for All Strategy

#### **3. Conclusion**

- 3.1 To be aware of the revised Excellence for All Strategy.

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**Alison Jeffery**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Karen Marr and the ESGF

**Title:** ESGF Update to the County Consultative Committee

**Purpose:** For members of the Committee to receive an update from the ESGF

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **1) To receive an update from Karen Marr and the ESGF.**

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#### **1 Background**

##### **1.1 For members of the Committee to receive an update from the ESGF, to include:**

- the return to school and the role of governors
- how challenges have been overcome in fulfilling obligations in a virtual world,
- safeguarding
- finance
- the long-term vision for the East Sussex Governors Forum

#### **2 Supporting information**

- 1) As always, schools are anxious about funding. We have a large number of small schools, which traditionally find it much harder to run stable budgets than larger schools, which are able to absorb changes in circumstance more easily. The picture across East Sussex schools is uneven; some have been hit particularly hard by COVID related absences and had to pay extra for supply; or have had to deal with extended leadership absences. However some schools have found that the extra per-pupil funding for COVID has enabled them to maintain a reasonable level of provision to mitigate against the detrimental effects of the pandemic. Governors have a responsibility to make sure that schools are accountable for this money. The new Funding Formula from the government will redistribute funds nationally for the year 2022-23. The Schools' Finance department at County have been working on an initial estimate for small schools, as early as possible, because they understand the pressures on small schools. We are hopeful that there will be more help for the small East Sussex schools as a result of the Funding Formula.
- 2) KCSIE has been updated to include more detailed guidance on child exploitation and to ensure that all staff know to reassure pupils who are reporting abuse, especially sexual violence and harassment, that they will be taken seriously. These are two rapidly developing areas of awareness in schools. Questions that governors will be asking may be around staff training, and how schools can show stakeholders that they are taking these concerns seriously.
- 3) Many schools were open over the summer for Catch up provision for disadvantaged pupils. Governors may be asking their schools about things such as engagement and uptake; any issues arising; whether any positive practices can be taken from the experience; what they have learned from the experience.
- 4) OFSTED inspections are coming back into schools. There will be increased focus on the most disadvantaged pupils. Disadvantage has previously been synonymous with those with a pupil premium grant, but there is more emphasis on disadvantaged pupils for any reason a school

has identified, such as SEND, in order to ensure that the needs of all pupils are being met. The extra funding available to help SEND pupils is very often not sufficient to cover needs, meaning that schools have to be creative around how they provide for these pupils.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

#### **3.1 For information**

**Alison Jeffery**  
**Director of Children's Services**

Contact Officer: Clare Cornford

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#### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None



**Report to:** County Consultative Committee

**Date of meeting:** 13<sup>th</sup> October 2021

**By:** Clare Cornford

**Title:** Governor local area forums

**Purpose:** For members of the Committee to look the, attendance and feedback from the last round of local area forums. For members of the committee to hear about the proposed agenda items for the next round of local area forums.

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1) To note, attendance and feedback from the last round of meetings
  - 2) To agree on the agenda for the next round of local area forums.
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### **1 Background**

1.1 For members of the Committee to look the attendance and feedback from the ESGF from the last round of local area forums. For members of the committee to hear about the agenda items for the next round of local area forums.

### **2 Supporting information**

2.1 Attendance at the Local Area Forums for the Academic Year 2020-2021

The Local Area Forums moved online due to COVID. The number of sessions were reduced from 4 to 3 and the times changed to accommodate governor need. There is now no geographical breakdown to the Forums.

<b>Autumn 2020 Local Area Forum – Therapeutic Thinking</b>	<b>Number of attendees</b>
Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 10:00 – 12:00	25
Monday 19 <sup>th</sup> October 2020 from 14:00 – 16:00	13
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2020	47
	<b>85</b>
<b>Spring 2021 Local Area Forum - Governor Wellbeing and Virtual Governance</b>	
Monday 1 <sup>st</sup> March 2021 from 14:00 – 16:00	27
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March 2021 from 18:00 – 20:00	24

Friday 5 <sup>th</sup> March 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00	31
	<b>82</b>
<b>Summer 2021 Local Area Forum – Communication with Stakeholders</b>	
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 from 18:00 – 20:00	30
Wednesday 9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00	13
Thursday 10 <sup>th</sup> June 2021 from 14:00 – 16:00	9
	<b>52</b>
<b>Autumn 2021 Local Area Forum – Ofsted Inspections are back – what Governors need to know. Bookings already made</b>	
Monday 18 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 14:00 – 16:00	28
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> October 2021 from 18:00 – 20:00	18
Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> October 2021 from 10:00 – 12:00	27
	<b>73 to date</b>

Autumn 2021 session will focus on Ofsted restarting inspection and what governors should expect.

### **3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 To note any feedback from the ESGF from the last round of local area forums.

**Alison Jeffery**  
**Director of Children's Services**

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### **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None