



COUNTY CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE (GOVERNORS)

THURSDAY, 11 JULY 2024

10.00 AM REMOTE MEETING VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

MEMBERS - Councillors Bob Standley (Chair) Colin Belsey, Roy Galley, Phil Scott, Alan Shuttleworth.

ALSO INVITED – Jenny Barnard-Langston, Katharine Rabson-Stark, Margaret Rooms, John Murray, Clare Cornford, Charlotte Johnstone.

Minutes Rosie O'Brien

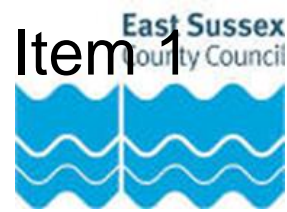
A G E N D A

1. Minutes of the previous meeting (*Pages 3 - 4*)
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. Academy Update – John Murray, Senior Manager: Leadership and Governance, Governor and Clerking Services.
6. Local Authority Governor Appointments and Governor Services Update – Charlotte Johnstone, Project Officer, Governor and Clerking Service.
7. ESGF Verbal Update for Councillors to include:
 - Reflection of the academic year 2023-2024.
8. Any other items previously notified under agenda item 4

3 July 2024

Contact Charlotte Johnstone (Project Officer– Governor and Clerking Service)
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County Consultative Committee - Minutes

Summary Report

Meeting: County Consultative Committee comprising of Councillors’ and East Sussex Governors’ Forum (ESGF).

Date: Wednesday 20th March 2024

Present: Councillors – Bob Standley (Chair), Colin Belsey, Alan Shuttleworth.

ESCC Officers: Clare Cornford, Charlotte Johnstone, Katie Ridgway, Rosie O’Brien (Minutes).

Members of the ESGF: Denise Kong, Jenny Barnard-Langston

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1	<p><u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with no further comments.</p>	
2	<p><u>Apologies for absence</u> Apologies received from Roy Galley, approved by committee members.</p>	
3	<p><u>Disclosure of interests</u> No interests declared.</p>	
4	<p><u>Urgent Items</u> No urgent items raised.</p>	
5	<p><u>Academies Update</u> Verbal update from KR. There have been two conversions since the last County Consultative meeting. Chantry Primary School and Newick Church of England Primary School converted to DCAT on 1st March 2024. The Pupil Referral Unit College Central is in the process of transferring from Sabden Multi Academy Trust to London South East Academies Trust. ESGF Members expressed an interest in further information on the transfer as it takes place.</p>	
6	<p><u>Local Authority Governor Appointments and Governor Services Update</u> Update from CJ. Since the last County Consultative meeting, there have been 6 Local Authority Governor appointments, 4 of these were new appointments and 2 were reappointments. The Governorhub system continues to work well for Governor Services and East Sussex school governors. Out of 1139 governors, only 95 have not yet signed up, this number was at 185 at the last meeting in November. There has been increased communication with school governors and Governor Services continue to enhance the training programme. Governor Services have received positive feedback on complaints support provided to schools, and three new complaints training and briefing sessions have been added to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Handling Complaints for Headteachers and Senior Leaders. - Undertaking a thorough stage 2 complaint investigation. - Managing an effective stage 3 complaint panel. 	

	<p>Governor Services recently held a Local Area Forum on SEND. This included 90 Governors from 58 different schools.</p> <p>124 new governors have been appointed since September 2023 in maintained schools. There has been further success with the governor recruitment campaign with 8 people expressing an interest in becoming a school governor since the last County Consultative meeting.</p> <p>The locum clerking service has supported 20 meetings across 9 schools since September. The Clerk Accreditation has been updated and is now the East Sussex Excellence in Clerking programme.</p> <p>Councillors commented that the numbers for recruitment were positive.</p>	
7	<p><u>ESGF Verbal Update for Councillors</u> Update from DK and JBL</p> <p>JBL confirmed that in recent ESGF sessions there was positive conversations and positive feedback following the sessions. This included SEND local area forums and new governor networking sessions.</p> <p>JBL highlighted the high level of exclusions in schools currently, expressing that this is the way schools are managing difficulties. Chairs of governing boards should be encouraged to read EHCP's and the needs of children in their schools to allow forward thinking towards SEND and exclusions. Committee members discussed future opportunities to encourage governors to look at exclusions as a last resort, rather than a solution to difficulties.</p> <p>DK asked about the figures on exclusions across the region. Members are aware Eastbourne has the fewest number of exclusions, this is down to the geography and schools close together supporting each other.</p> <p>KR included the exclusion statistics for each area group. See Appendix 2.</p> <p>Members discussed the difficulties schools are dealing with now that were less challenging before Covid. This included gaps in development for different year groups due to missing school, and how this should be considered in schools for each age group.</p> <p>ESGF members discussed the scrutiny review with the Councillors and asked what progress was being made on the recommendations.</p> <p>BS confirmed that the recommendations had gone through Council and Children's Services had accepted these recommendations.</p> <p>DK discussed the potential opportunities for councillors to undertake therapeutic thinking training. Councillors confirmed they would be interested in undertaking this to understand what therapeutic thinking is, how it is different to other solutions, how it benefits schools and how it works.</p>	
8	<p><u>Feedback from ESGF sessions and Local Area Forums</u> Item covered in item 7.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any other items</u> Councillors confirmed that SACRE recently visited a junior school where the new syllabus has been incorporated with positive feedback.</p>	

Report to: County Consultative Committee

Date of meeting: 11 July 2024

By: Charlotte Johnstone

Title: Local Authority Governor appointments and Governor and Clerking Service Update for Councillors

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) For information

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 20th March 2024, 3 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. There was one new appointment and two reapplications.

Beverley Waldis	Riverside Federation	Reapplication
Ian Sandbrook	Western Road Community School	New Application
Ann-Marie Murphy	Icklesham CofE Primary School	Reapplication

2.2 Since the County Consultative Committee last met in March 2024, the Governor and Clerking Service has been reflecting on further support that could be provided to East Sussex governors. The Governor and Clerking Service has run an Exclusions briefing session which was delivered in collaboration with the Inclusion and Partnerships team within the Education Division. This session focused specifically on the East Sussex process for exclusions including Governor Disciplinary Committees. The session provided a structured outline of the procedure governors must follow during these processes with the aim of enabling boards to comply with regulations and feel confident about the process. We kept exclusions as a theme that we also fed down through our Clerk Networking sessions where clerks could discuss their best practices and top tips for clerking a Governor Disciplinary Committee, again with a key focus on policy and procedural compliance. In our Governor and Clerk Training Programme Survey which went out to all boards at the end of April, several governors cited the Exclusions briefing session as one of the most valuable sessions they have attended this academic year.

2.3 The Governor and Clerking Service has also responded to the upcoming statutory government guidance on school attendance. Attendance is a priority focus for the East Sussex Education Division, and in collaboration with Sarah Speedie, the Strategic Lead for Education Improvement we ran a Local Area Forum with the subject 'Working Together to Improve School Attendance'. 58 governors over 50 schools attended these sessions and many provided feedback including "*this was very useful...I have lots of questions to go back and ask to the SLT*" and the ESGF-facilitated networking enabled practical support and advice shared amongst governors across East Sussex school boards. Due to the statutory obligations and popularity of the session, the Governor and

Clerking Service are going to run these sessions again in the 2024-2025 academic year to ensure all boards have access to this information.

The Governor and Clerking Service is also developing and delivering a new '*Attendance and Inclusion*' training session for governors which will look at the relationship between attendance figures at school and the topics of inclusion, considering how building on and improving inclusivity can impact attendance figures.

2.4 There have been 58 new governors appointed since the County Consultative Committee last met in March 2024 and in total there have been 178 new governors appointed since the 1st September 2023 in maintained schools.

2.5 Clerking: When the County Consultative Committee last met in March 2024, the Governor and Clerking Service had just begun the new ESCC certified course for clerks, the Excellence in Clerking Programme. In the last two weeks we finished the final session with our clerks. They are currently undertaking the final component of the programme which is a candidate test which will challenge their knowledge and also offer them the opportunity to practically put together a plan that supports the professional development and improvement of their boards. This programme started by covering the most essential basic elements of governance and clerking and goes on to cover some of the more complex procedures a clerk has to administer, as well as managing problems and navigating difficult discussions on the board. We are proud of how our first cohort has managed their time effectively and engaged thoughtfully with the work.

The second cohort is full and will start in September 2024, and the third cohort waitlist is starting to build with clerks already in place for March 2025.

The Governor and Clerking Service also wants to ensure that clerks are considered across the board, so we are running a new session in the academic year that is aimed at Chairs of Governors. The session '*Chairs Briefing: Working Effectively with your Clerk*' will be delivered by Jenny Barnard-Langston. Chairs are invited to discuss how the working relationship between Chairs and Clerks can be improved and reminding Chairs of the Clerk's position on the board, being that of advisor and maintaining compliance. The aim is that this session will be of benefit to Chairs to develop their responsibility as line manager, and to also have a positive benefit on the role of the Clerk.

Charlotte Johnstone
Project Officer

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