

Report to: County Consultative Committee

Date of meeting: 1 February 2018

By: Director of Children's Services

Title: Local Authority Governor Update for Councillors

Purpose: To update Councillors on the nomination for appointment of Local Authority Governors

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Committee is recommended to note the report

1 Background

1.1 It was agreed by Full Council on 17 October that:

- the Governor's Panel would be 'discontinued'; and instead
- the power to nominate Local Authority Governors be delegated to the Director of Children's Services

The report to Council also stated that the Lead Member for Education and Inclusion, Special Educational Needs and Disability would be provided with regular summary reports concerning vacancies, applications approved for nomination and the take up of training by Local Authority Governors. It was agreed that Scrutiny committee Members would be given access to these reports and that they would have the ability to scrutinise issues if they so wanted.

1.2 So as to meet these requirements it was agreed that a report is provided to the County Consultative Committee (County Forum) each time it meets providing the required information.

2 Supporting information

2.1 Since the 1st September 2017 the following Local Authority Governors were nominated for appointment, all were current local authority governors and all were approved for reappointment for a further 4 year term of office.

Ian Stewart	Ashdown Primary School	Reappointment
Matthew Jones	Harlands Priamry School	Reappointment
Pauline Burnaby-Davies	Rodmell Primary School	Reappointment
Emma Creffield	Cross in Hand Primary School	Reappointment

2.2 Of the 114 Authority Governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 13 vacancies. This is a vacancy rate of 10.8%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is 16.8%.

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 bodies and governors is accessed through the Governors Online database. This is a database maintained by the local authority, since January 2016 clerks to governing bodies for local authority maintained schools are now responsible for updating the information on their governors and governing bodies. The Governor and Clerking Team do regular checks of the data to highlight inaccuracies and missing data. Clerks have dedicated training through the clerk network meetings and trainings on using and updating the database. We do not hold governor information for academy schools.

2.4 The East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. This includes working with Inspiring Governance <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/> and SGOSS Governors for Schools <https://www.sgoss.org.uk/> to help advertise governor vacancies and identify potential governors.

2.5 The team also supports governing boards that have a large number of vacancies, or have a need for experienced governors to strengthen their board to recruit experienced governors from existing East Sussex governors. Since September 2017 we have identified and placed 50 governors at 3 schools.

2.6 The team have just commenced a recruitment campaign for governors in East Sussex, this will include a digital campaign on social media, local radio and publicity across East Sussex. The campaign will be two fold, aimed at employers to consider releasing their staff to be governors to help develop their skills in the workplace, and also at individuals. This campaign should have a positive impact of the number of governor vacancies in East Sussex.

Governor Training

2.6 The Governor Online database that is used for governors to sign up for training does not currently have the facility to report on governor training by governor type. We are in discussion with the company to develop a report to show this information so that it can be shared with you at future meetings. Since September 2017, we have run 26 training courses for governors with 230 attendees.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

For information only.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None