

COUNTY FORUM: Summer Term 2018

SUMMARY REPORT

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

Date: 2nd May 2018

Venue: County Hall, Lewes

Present: Cllr Standley, Cllr Galley, Stuart Ford, Julie Dougill, Sue Berry, Monica Pell, Jenny Barnard-Langston, Matthew Jones, Jane Branson, Geoff Lucas, Denise Kong, Jane McCarthy-Penman, Karen Marr, Richard Sage, Duncan Irvine, James Roberts, Clare Cornford

Apologies: Tina Nay, Ian Pickard, Cllr Shuttleworth, Monica Whitehead.

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1.	Minutes of previous County Forum Meeting – 2nd February 2018 The minutes were noted as a true record.	
2.	Apologies for Absence Apologies were received and noted as above.	
3.	Declaration of Interest 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.	Urgent Items No urgent items were raised	
5.	Academies Update There was no academy update since the last meeting.	
6.	Governor Workload – Creating the Time Members of the County Forum received a proposal of the topic that will be taken forward to the next round of governor area forums. The subject aims to explore how governing boards operate. They will look at how workload is distributed across the board and what help is available if support is needed. This will include identifying skills gaps and looking at effective recruitment. The presentation will also examine how governor to governor support be effective and how the ESGF can provide support. Succession planning is one issue that affects governing boards. The Local Authority is often contacted to see if they can provide a chair. Succession planning provides a means of recruiting a chair from within. JBL stated that people in local communities are often committed but don't realise what the role means in terms of volunteering. Chairs often develop themselves. Good succession planning ensures that the right skills are round the table. Governors need to allow each other to do their role. The board needs to commission out work amongst the governing board. There needs to be systems in place to support governor to reach their potential and to demonstrate impact. It is	

	<p>essential that skills are used well do ensure that the right people are doing the job as opposed to everyone doing everything. Time limits need to be imposed on tasks and. Looking at the timing of meetings is also important. Governor expectation should be managed so governors are aware of what is expected of them and the GB is aware of what activity is taking place.</p> <p>Governing boards find that the most effective way of working is to have only full governing boards with task groups or portfolio holders who report back to the governing board.</p> <p>Training is an essential part of ensuring that governors are equipped to carry out the role. Induction training is not compulsory, but most governing boards want their governors to undertake some form of induction.</p> <p>Governing boards can look at how they recruit governors. Having a conversation means governors are aware of what the commitment is and what is involved. There should be a clear expectation of what training should be undertaken, particularly with induction. Governing boards should ensure that they undertake a skills audit or skills assessment so as to identify the skills they need around the table. This self assessment should be evidence based using descriptors. Training from the Local Authority, online and from other sources are available for governing boards.</p> <p>Governors need to be aware of what their responsibilities are. There needs to be some depth conversations about contribution and expectation. For some governors who are experts in their fields, it can be difficult to understand things such as funding streams, finance and expenses. Training and support can help overcome issues such as these.</p> <p>Governing boards need to understand the motivations of people around the table. It is essential that the governing board manage and make the most of these expectations, otherwise people tend to not feel valued and leave.</p> <p>The National Governors Association offers a Future Chairs Programme. Some chairs undertake this and others choose not too. There are a lot of different motivations to becoming chair and it is a big job with a heavy workload. Some governing boards have deputy chairs rather than a vice chair and also some governing boards have co chairs. This needs to be well managed. The Local Authority provides good guidance on this.</p> <p>Governors will explore what support is available to them such as National Leaders of Governance or the East Sussex Local Support Governor programme. They will learn how they can access the right types of support.</p> <p>Inspiring Governance will also be attending the Local Area Forums to provide guidance on skills gaps and vacancies and making sure all the information is used in recruiting governors.</p> <p>Members of the Forum watch 2 short video clips from Inspiring Governance on recruiting school governors and on employer engagement.</p> <p>Inspiring governors looks at re-educating governing boards about governor recruitment. Schools need to register their vacancies as well as the skills they are looking for. This will help Inspiring Governance to target employers with skills that governing boards are looking for.</p> <p>In East Sussex, there is a need to target small businesses and their directors. It is important to emphasise that the training employees would receive as a governor can be fed back into the business as professional development.</p>	
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	<p>Councillor Standley said that support could be sought from councillors in identifying potential governors.</p> <p>Cllr Galley stated that he is on the Federation for Small Business and there are a lot of people with different associations. JR stated that Michael Roy from Inspiring Governance is passionate about governor recruitment and would be happy to come and talk to interested parties.</p> <p>East Sussex County Council has a policy on volunteering as a governor. This need to be clearer to employees. Some governors in business are allowed time off to volunteer but then have to report back on how their time has been spent and what they have achieved.</p>	
7.	<p>Local Authority Governor Update</p> <p>Councillors received an update on the nomination for appointment of Local Authority Governors since the last County Forum. They also received an update of the vacancy levels across governing boards. It was noted that there had been a slight raise in numbers of parent governor vacancies. This is normal in the summer term and governing boards usually recruit so vacancies are filled in time for the new academic year.</p>	
8.	<p>Governor Area Forums</p> <p>It was noted that the attendance figures were up for the Governor Area Forums in the Spring Term. This is likely to have been driven by Safeguarding being on the agenda. . Both presentations were well received.</p> <p>It was agreed to take Governor Workload through to the next round of Local Area Forums in the Summer term.</p>	
9.	Any other Business	
10.	Dates of Future Meetings	