

COUNTY FORUM: Summer Term 2019

SUMMARY REPORT

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

Date: 8th May 2019

Venue: County Hall, Lewes

Present: Cllrs Standley, Belsey, Shuttleworth, Galley. Karen Marr, Denise Kong, Patricia Metham, Stuart Ford, Monica Whitehead, Richard Sage, Margaret Stebbing, Luke Shevels, Jenny Barnard-Langston, Elizabeth Funge and Clare Cornford.

Apologies: Cllr Scott, Jane McCarthy-Penman, Sue Berry, Duncan Irvine, Jane Branson

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1.	Minutes of previous County Forum Meeting – 24th January 2019 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.	Academy Update Anney Primary School converted to academy under the BOSCO Academy Trust on the 1 st February 2019. There is a lot of publicity in Peacehaven around the proposed conversion of Telscombe Cliffs and Peacehaven Heights to academy. No decisions have been made yet. It will be a decision for the governing board as to how they proceed. . Peacehaven Community School has been working on becoming an academy for some time and the consultation has happened. There is a secondary school in Eastbourne considering converting to academy, although no academy order has been made.	
6.	Local authority governor appointments and governor vacancies. 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. JBL commented that the recruitment campaign was well run. Part of the Hot Topic at the Local Area Forums will be about governor recruitment. Recruiting Foundation Governors and young governors are a real challenge. Employers need to be more aware of the benefits for them supporting their staff to be governors.	

7.	<p>The New Ofsted Framework</p> <p>The proposed topic for the Summer round of Local Area Forums is the new Ofsted framework. The consultation on the New Ofsted Framework has now closed and the final framework will be published in the Summer term. A briefing was held for teachers with an overview of the proposed changes.</p> <p>The proposal for the summer local area forums is to lead a facilitated discussion on the impact of the changes for schools, with a focus on what questions governors should be asking about how their school is preparing for the changes, the role of governors in inspection and how to challenge schools on their preparedness for inspection. The session will be led by an experienced Headteacher with Ofsted experience, either as an Inspector or having been recently inspected. The structure for the session is proposed as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Brief overview of the proposed changes (possibly using some of the Ofsted slides), 20 mins ○ Overview from ESGF on the response they made to the consultation, 15 mins ○ Facilitated discussions on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - views on the proposed changes - likely impact of the changes for your school/s - questions to ask your school about how there preparedness for inspection - The role of governors – sharing good practice about governors’ involvement in recent inspections. <p>There is a proposed shift to look at the whole curriculum, rather than just a focus on the data. Most governors have welcomed this. The new approach is much more rounded, whereas the challenge before is a fixed view of a school by Ofsted.</p> <p>Governors made the following points about the proposed framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Organising Enrichment is a real challenge for a small school. ● Behaviour is different to conduct. Behaviour for learning is important. ● It is hard to believe that the focus on data won’t ease off. It is important to state how you use the data and tell the story of the data. Justifying poor data should be Ok if you can tell the story why. ● The onsite preparation by the inspector needs to be robustly feedback. This may be taken out of the final framework. <p>It had been hoped to ask Ofsted to deliver a briefing session for all governors. However, they are unable to deliver the session. The local Authority has secured Phillip Bunn, who is an external advisor, to run the 4 sessions. He will provide an overview for the changes and facilitate work with governors as to what this means. At the end of the session, governors will have clarity in their role.</p>	
8.	<p>Governor Local Area Forums</p> <p>It was agreed to take the new Ofsted framework forward as the topic for the Summer round of Forums.</p> <p>The ESGF informed Councillors about the discussion they had around the cost of the Local Area Forums. Some schools and academies do not attend the sessions. It was felt that schools that subscribe do so for the support and training programme, rather than the forums. The cost of attending the Local Area Forum for non-subscribing schools and academies is £80. The ESGF would like to make the session free to attract more schools and help facilitate networking and provide</p>	

	<p>capacity for schools, particularly with Ofsted.</p> <p>The Spring round of Local Area Forums on System Leadership were well received. They stimulated some interesting questions for governors to take back to their schools. CC to send an an email on behalf of Karen Marr thanking the presenters.</p> <p>The number of attendees at the last round of local area forums was noted.</p>	
9.	Any other Business	
10.	Dates of Future Meetings TBC	