

Report to: County Consultative Committee

Date of meeting: 9th October 2019

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

1) For information

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 on 8th May 2019, 12 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 12, 7 were reappointments and 5 were new appointments.

Leonard Parkyn	Maynards Green Primary School	Reappointment
Jen Farrer	All Saints Primary, Bexhill	Reappointment
Rosie Gloster	Western Road Primary School	New Appointment
Anita Rookley	Tollgate Junior School	New Appointment
Tim Rowbottom	St Michael's Playden	New Appointment
Peter Smyth	St Mark's Hadlow Down	New Appointment
Joy Mercer	Potentially Grovelands Primary School	New Appointment
Penelope Spurrell	The Weald Federation	Reappointment
Chris Jennings	Chyngton Primary School	Reappointment
Isabel Hodger	Guestling Bradshaw Primary School	Reappointment
Anne Allison	Park Mead Primary School	Reappointment
Chris Woodbridge-Cox	Danehill Primary School	Reappointment

2.2 Of the 102 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently **23** vacancies. This is a vacancy rate of 22.5%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 18.7%. Governor Services are currently processing 5 applications and a further 5 Local Authority Governors are waiting for their appointment to be ratified at their next Full Governing Board meeting. This will bring the vacancies down to 13.

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.

2.4 The governor and clerking service supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. We are launching a new, more localised, recruitment campaign, this includes a form on the ESCC website that people interested in becoming a governor can complete, we can then use the vacancy data we hold to match governors with a local school. The campaign will include a social media campaign and “become a governor” events in local areas where governor vacancies are high.

2.5 The service also supports governing boards that have a large number of vacancies, or have a need for experienced governors to strengthen their board, to identify and recruit experienced governors. Since September 2017 the team have identified and placed 19 governors at 17 schools.

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 13 LSGs in East Sussex with 2 more governors going through the application process. 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.

2.7 A locum clerking service offer was launched in September. This service allows governing boards to buy in an experienced, accredited clerk if their substantive clerk is unable to clerk a meeting or while they are recruiting a substantive clerk. There have already been a number of requests for locum cover.

Governor Training

2.8. The governor and clerking 2019/20 training programme started at the end of September. There are 81 sessions booked in over the academic year. Over the last academic year, 45 local authority governors have attended 142 courses, including training and briefings run by the governor and clerking services and the Local Safeguarding Children’s Board.

2.9 The service is planning to send regular information to local authority governors 3 times a year. This is to support them in providing the governing body with an understanding of the current East Sussex policy and approach for school improvement as outlined in the responsibilities and expectation for local authority governors.

2.10 15 local authority governors attended the last round of local area forums.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

For information only.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None