

Autumn Local Area Forum
GOVERNORS' Local Area Forum Summer 2019
SUMMARY REPORT

The local area forums for governors took place as follows:-

05/06/2019	GOV705	19:00 – 21:00	Uckfield Civic Centre
12/06/2019	GOV706	18:30 – 20:30	County Hall, Lewes
20/06/2019	GOV707	19.00 – 21.00	The Sussex Exchange, Hastings
27/06/2019	GOV708	19:00 – 21:00	East Sussex Training and Development Centre, Eastbourne

The following officers were in attendance:

Ofsted

Philip Bunn – Consultant Headteacher.

Carrie Beech – Project Lead: Primary and Early Year.

Elizabeth Funge – Head of Education Improvement.

Local Area Forum Chair	Name
Uckfield	Jenny Barnard-Langston
Lewes	Denise Kong
Eastbourne	Jane McCarthy-Penman
Hastings	Richard Sage

Agenda

No	Item	Time
1.	Welcome	7.00pm (6.30 Lewes)
2.	Minutes & Matters Arising	7.00pm (6.30 Lewes)
3.	Ofsted	7.05pm (6.35 Lewes)
4.	ESGF session An opportunity for governors to meet with their elected ESGF representative.	8.30pm (8.00 Lewes)
5.	Close	9.00pm (8.30 Lewes)

Agenda Item	Discussion and Decisions	Action
1.	Welcome	
2.	<p>To receive the minutes of the Summer Term County Forum, East Sussex Governor Forum and Spring Local Area Forum <i>This item is included on the agenda each term for information only.</i> The minutes were noted as above.</p>	
3.	<p><u>The New Ofsted Framework</u> Governors received a briefing about the new Ofsted framework and what this means to governors. The session aimed to ensure that governors are aware of the changes that are happening and to have the opportunity to ask questions and network with other governors.</p> <p>The new Ofsted framework comes into effect from the 1st September 2019. At the moment, schools are being inspected under the current framework, although some schools that have been inspected recently have reported a shift towards the new framework.</p> <p>Governors need to ensure that the school meets the inspection criteria. If they can't see the evidence they will try to find it. The easier it is for the inspector to see the evidence, the more likely that the inspection will be successful. Inspectors will be looking at a school's website in the weeks prior to the inspection taking place. Governors need to ensure that all the statutory information is available on the website.</p> <p>The inspection process rarely looks at finances. However, there will be questions about the pupil premium. Inspectors will ask how the pupil premium pupils are performing. How do you know that the grant is being well spent.</p> <p>The inspectors will look at whether a school is meeting its statutory responsibility and there is evidence for these core functions. Are volunteers fulfilling all the stings they are meant to be doing. Are governors holding the school to account?</p> <p>Governors need to be clear what their role in the inspection process is. Who is best place to talk to the inspector about different areas. It is important to have the right people there with key knowledge in a short amount of time. Governors need to make sure they are well briefed and are clear about what they know. A killer response to a question means the inspection moves on. File need to be kept dynamically up to date and to be easily accessible. If the chair is likely to be unavailable, a few governors need to be up to date to cover this.</p> <p>One governor commented that a common question is "how do you know that rather than have just been told". Governors need to know they have found the evidence and checked it and seen why it is so. If the inspector doesn't ask the right question, make</p>	

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	<p>sure that the answer and information you want the inspector to know comes out. Governors need to ensure that their role in the inspection process is evolved well before the inspection. The relationship between the headteacher and the key members of the board is essential in demonstrating that a school meets the inspection criteria. It is important to rehearse before-hand and be able to demonstrate the evidence. Skype or phone calls are OK if the key people are unavailable. Inexperienced governors are not best placed to meet with the inspector.</p> <p>Governors need to ensure they are singing from the same hymn sheet as the headteacher. Governors must evidence challenge to the headteacher over the data. Governors and the headteacher need to be saying the same things and knowing why. This stems from how robust the schools self-evaluation is. Everyone needs to be really clear about where the school is at. It is OK to say that you do not meet the criteria. The key thing is to know how you are addressing something and that everyone is saying the same thing, which is a powerful response. Communication behind the scenes and before an inspection is key to this.</p> <p>Inspectors won't ask all the questions. As part of the session, governors received a list of the questions that inspectors have been asked.</p> <p>Giving the right answer is essential. The pupil premium will be centre to this. If you are asked a question, start the response by talking about the pupil premium children. Know the disadvantaged and other groups of children. Compare the pupil premium children and demonstrate how the gap has been closed.</p> <p>The inspector will collect evidence throughout the day. The governors will ratify what the inspector has collected. Ofsted will triangulate the evidence.</p> <p>The new framework will look at the quality of education, behaviour and attitudes, personal development and leadership and management. There will be a judgement for overall effectiveness. There will be no change to how governance is inspected. Short inspections will now be 2 days. Small schools will have a 1 day inspection. The new framework for outstanding is far tougher.</p> <p>The new framework says that inspectors wont look at internal data. Governors need to demonstrate how they are using the data to make an impact. What conclusions are being drawn from it.</p> <p>Onsite preparation for the inspection has been scrapped. The initial phone call will take place between 10.30am and 2pm. If the head is not there, then the next senior person will need to take the call. The head of school will need to be prepared to act up if the executive headteacher is unavailable. The call will be split into 2. The first part will focus on how well the school is doing since the last inspection. The second part of the call will focus on the operational and organisational aspect of the inspection.</p> <p>There will be a transitional period with the quality of education. Schools will have the</p>	

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	<p>chance to bring their curriculum in line with the changes. Governors will need to be clear on what is the intent behind the curriculum. There will be a focus on reading and inspectors will want to hear children read and also read the work they have produced.. Exercise books should show how children are being pushed.</p> <p>Schools will be looked at in how they deal with bullying, not the absence of it. Governors will need to communicate how bullying is dealt with in the school.</p> <p>The SEF needs to be aligned to the new framework and linked to the new areas.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the easier you can make the inspector see something, the easier it is.</p>																	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Dates of the next meetings:</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="264 904 1329 1227"> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 904 456 972">13/11/2019</td> <td data-bbox="456 904 663 972">18.00 – 20.00</td> <td data-bbox="663 904 815 972">GOV793</td> <td data-bbox="815 904 1329 972">The Sussex Exchange, Hastings</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 972 456 1039">21/11/2019</td> <td data-bbox="456 972 663 1039">18.00 – 20.00</td> <td data-bbox="663 972 815 1039">GOV794</td> <td data-bbox="815 972 1329 1039">County Hall, Lewes</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1039 456 1106">28/11/2019</td> <td data-bbox="456 1039 663 1106">10.00 – 12.00</td> <td data-bbox="663 1039 815 1106">GOV795</td> <td data-bbox="815 1039 1329 1106">Uckfield Civic Centre</td> </tr> <tr> <td data-bbox="264 1106 456 1227">28/11/2019</td> <td data-bbox="456 1106 663 1227">18.00 – 20.00</td> <td data-bbox="663 1106 815 1227">GOV796</td> <td data-bbox="815 1106 1329 1227">East Sussex Training and Development Centre, Eastbourne</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	13/11/2019	18.00 – 20.00	GOV793	The Sussex Exchange, Hastings	21/11/2019	18.00 – 20.00	GOV794	County Hall, Lewes	28/11/2019	10.00 – 12.00	GOV795	Uckfield Civic Centre	28/11/2019	18.00 – 20.00	GOV796	East Sussex Training and Development Centre, Eastbourne	
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<p>5.</p>	<p>ESGF Forum</p> <p>Representatives from the Local Authority left the meeting so Governors could meet with representatives from the ESGF.</p>																	