

Report to: County Consultative Committee

Date of meeting: 18th March 2021

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 report on the 25th March 2020, 37 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 37, 16 were reappointments and 21 were new appointments. The governors in italics were placed as a result of the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign.

Kevin Doherty	Battle and Langton Church of England Primary School	New Appointment
Victoria Crouch	St Mary's Catholic Primary Crowborough	Reapplication
Alison Doig	Heathfield and Woodlands	
Jon Dilley	Peacehaven Community College	Reapplication
Jenny Dudgeon	Netherfield CEP School	Reapplication
Honey Clarke	Quercus Federation	New Appointment
Rick Love	Rocks Park	Reapplication
Mandy Watson	Newick Primary School	New Appointment
Lesley Farmer	Ticehurst and Flimwell	New Appointment
Angela Reid	Sacred Heart	Reapplication
Beverley Waldis	The Riverside Federation	Reapplication
William Lovett	Nutley	Reapplication
<i>Billy Stevens</i>	<i>South Ashdown Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Diane Ryan</i>	<i>St Mary Star of The Sea</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Fiona Chalk</i>	<i>Sussex Spires Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Jennifer Sutherland	St Thomas Winchelsea	New Appointment
<i>Lisa Mahony</i>	<i>St John's CE Primary School Crowborough</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
<i>Dee Harvey</i>	<i>Brede Primary School</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Margaret Rooms	St John's, Seaford	New Appointment
Sarah Ellis	St Richards Catholic College	Reapplication
<i>Wendy Collier</i>	<i>Pevensey and Westham</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>

Karen Bye	Icklesham CP School	Reapplication
Nigel Jewell	The Haven CE Methodist	Reapplication
<i>Vanessa Tomlinson</i>	<i>The Genesis Federation</i>	<i>New Appointment</i>
Duncan Irvine	Sussex Spires Federation	New Appointment
Deborah Rowland	Danehill Primary	New Appointment
Jan Meyer	Polegate Primary	Reapplication
Lindsay Pamphilon	Wadhurst Primary	Reapplication
Charles Grimble	Cradle Hill	Reapplication
Nicola Rand	Little Common	Reapplication
<i>Pamela Lewis</i>	<i>South Malling</i>	<i>New Application</i>
Jenny Barnard-Langston	The Bluebell Federation	New Application
<i>Stuart Carruthers</i>	<i>The Oaktree Federation</i>	<i>New Application</i>
Laura Carter	Willingdon Primary School	Reapplication
Nicole Hartley	West Rise Infant School	Reapplication
Ben West	Tollgate Junior School	New Application

2.2 Of the 102 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 13 vacancies, of which we know 4 are in the process of making an appointment. This is a vacancy rate of 12.9% which shows a significant decrease since September 2019 when the vacancy rate for local authority governors was at 22.5%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 14.9%. 9 of the newly appointed LA governors came through the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign and are testament to the success in reducing governor vacancy levels that the campaign has had.

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.

2.5 The Governor and Clerking Service (GCS) supports governing boards in a number of ways to recruit governors. The launch in January 2020 of the new, more localised recruitment campaign where the GCS match potential governors directly with schools has been a success. Since the launch of the new expression of interest form, 57 people have applied to be matched with schools. We had planned some recruitment events in the Spring of 2020, but these have had to be cancelled. All the promotion of the GCS recruitment campaign has been online. 45 governors have been placed since January 2020 and the GCS team are actively looking to match the outstanding 12 applicants with a suitable vacancy.

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 12 LSGs in East Sussex. Another round of recruitment will take place in term 5. 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. 10 LSGs have sat on Panels as independent governors and 5 LSGs have joined an additional board to provide support.

Governor Training

2.7 Since September 2020, GCS moved the training programme online and have also developed a comprehensive networking and briefing programme for governors. Between 1st September and 18th March, 1545 governor and clerking training places have been accessed over 75 training, briefing and networking sessions.

3. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

For information only.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None