

Report to: County Consultative Committee

Date of meeting: 13th October 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

11 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 report sent to Councillors on the 18th March 2021, 13 local authority governors were nominated for appointment, all were approved for a 4 year term of office. Of the 13, 6 were reappointments and 7 were new appointments. The governors in italics were placed as a result of the East Sussex Governor Recruitment Campaign.

Peter Chowney	New Application	Sandown Primary school
Vicky Harries	Reapplication	Ditchling (St Margaret's) Church of England Primary School
Alan Brundle	Reapplication	The Pioneer Federation
Yvette Aeberhard	New Application	Alfriston Primary School
Jonathan Nay	Reapplication	Bourne Primary School
Sally Domingo-Jones	Reapplication	Iford and Kingston Church of England Primary School
Stuart Scott	Reapplication	St Pancras Catholic Primary School
<i>Helen Hoffman</i>	<i>New Application</i>	<i>Ticehurst and Flimwell</i>
Mark Weeks-Pearson	New Application	St Richards Catholic College
<i>Linda Turton</i>	<i>New Application</i>	<i>Icklesham Primary School</i>
Martin Holley	New Application	Hankham Primary School
Nabil Zakher	Reapplication	St Mary Magdalene Catholic Primary School
Noah Curthoys	New Application	Priory school

2.2 Of the 102 local authority governor places in East Sussex maintained schools, there are currently 12 vacancies, which we are working with the boards to recruit governors. This is a vacancy rate of 12.3%. The overall vacancy rate for all types of governors in East Sussex is currently 17.59%. We would expect for vacancies to be slightly higher in September and October as boards have their first meetings of the academic year and may not yet have made new appointments. 30 new governors have been appointed since 1st September 2021.

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, Since the launch of the campaign, 91 people have expressed an interest to become a governor. All applicants are matched with a school and very few have not resulted in an appointment.

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 31st August 2021, 2675 governor and clerking training places have been accessed over 147 training, briefing and networking sessions.

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BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None