

County Consultative Committee – Minutes

Summary Report

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

Date: 15th November 2023.

Present: Councillors – Bob Standley (Chair), Alan Shuttleworth, Colin Belsey, Roy Galley.

ESCC Officers: Clare Cornford, John Murray, Charlotte Johnstone, Rosie O'Brien (Minutes).

Members of the ESGF: Denise Kong (Chair), Jenny Barnard-Langston, Alison Flynn.

Item	Decisions and Outcomes	Action
1	<u>Minutes of the previous meeting</u> The minutes were noted as a true record with no further comments.	
2	<u>Apologies for absence</u> No apologies received.	
3	<u>Disclosure of interests</u> No interests declared.	
4	<u>Urgent items</u> No urgent items.	
5	<u>Academies update (Standing Item)</u> Verbal update from JM. Since the last County Consultative Committee meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Little Common joined DCAT as of 1st October 2023. • St Andrew's Infant School joined DCAT as of 1st October 2023. • Tollgate Junior School joined DCAT as of 1st October 2023. • Chantry Primary School is consulting with DCAT. • Newick Church of England Primary School applied to convert to academy status with DCAT. JM explained to the committee that the Governor and Clerking Service are running two briefings on Academisation with a focus on leadership and governance. There were 30 attendees in the first session and there is a further 30 signed up to the upcoming session.	
6	<u>Local Authority Governor appointments and Governor Services Update</u> Update from CC. Since the last meeting there has been 14 Local Authority Governors nominated for East Sussex Schools. 5 of these nominations were new applications and 9 were reapplications. CC explained that the new Governorhub system has now been embedded for booking training and recording governor details for schools. There are now only 185 Governors in total that have not yet signed up to Governorhub and Governor Services is working to onboard these governors to the website. CC added that the new Governorhub system has helped improve and increase communication methods with schools. This has increased engagement and therefore increased the number of Governors booking courses. There is also a range of boards and forums available for all types of governors and clerks to join.	

	<p>CC informed the Committee members that Governor Services has held some new sessions this academic year including Evidencing Challenge for both governors and clerks. There have also been two sessions on the primary curriculum which proved to be very useful among 63 governors. There are 107 boards that subscribe to the Service Level Agreement provided by Governor Services. All these boards have accessed at least one governor networking, briefing or training session in the last academic year.</p> <p>CC added that there have been 76 new governors appointed in maintained schools since 1st September 2023. There has also been 10 Expressions of Interest since July.</p> <p>Governor Services have provided locum clerks for 8 meetings for 5 schools since September 2023.</p>	
7	<p><u>ESGF Verbal update for councillors</u></p> <p>Update from DK.</p> <p>DK informed the committee members that the previous Chairs Networking session was more positive than past sessions. Fewer governors had attendance issues to express and multiple schools have now stated working towards improving attendance by having a member of staff committed to working with families on absence.</p> <p>AS asked if there is any evidence to show that academies have issues of higher exclusions in comparison to maintained schools who are more embedded in the new alternative provision system.</p> <p>JM said there was a mixed picture when it comes to this issue, and that it depends on the approach of each trust.</p> <p>DK stated that when it comes to behaviour in schools, therapeutic thinking has developed positive results. ESGF members suggested another training session for school governors on therapeutic thinking to promote the use of this in schools.</p> <p>All members agreed this would be a good idea.</p> <p>Committee members discussed the councillor's approach on therapeutic thinking and councillors agreed that it would be useful to add more school focused training for councillors on issues such as exclusions, behaviour, and attendance.</p> <p>ESGF members and councillors discussed the potential letters to go out to MP's regarding school funding. ESGF members explained that school governors want to have an influence that positively affects schools. Governors also want MPs to know that current funding has less impact on their schools and would like more resources to benefit school children.</p> <p>Councillors suggested contacting the national governors' body, and to direct the letter there rather than MP's.</p> <p>Committee members discussed exclusions and were directed to the scrutiny document by BS. BS explained that the document is available to view and that recommendations were made that will be reviewed at the next cabinet meeting, then at the full council in February.</p> <p>Members then discussed councillors becoming school governors. It was established that a number of the county councillors are already school governors and that it could be positive to promote this idea to councillors.</p>	
8	<p><u>Feedback from ESGF sessions and Local Area Forum's</u></p> <p>Information covered in item 7.</p>	
9	<p><u>Any other items</u></p> <p>No items raised.</p>	