

GOVERNOR NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2018

1. Supporting Stronger Governance

2. Governor Partnership Briefings

3. Policy Updates

4. Governor Recruitment

5. Save the Date

1. Supporting Stronger Governance

The 2018/2019 Supporting Stronger Governance offer has now been in place for a couple of months – all schools received three hard copies for use within school; the offer is available via the [Supporting Stronger Governance](#) webpage too, where you will also find further resources and tools to assist your governance journey. If you have not already accessed the information or support offered, please do so at your earliest convenience.

All requests and enquiries will be initially directed through LCC Governor Services either by email: GovernorSupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk or by telephone: 01522 553240. We are pleased to welcome Helen to the team as our new Governor Services Officer and she will be working alongside Melanie to ensure governors across Lincolnshire are able to access the right support to help them to continue to grow and develop.

Training for Governors/Trustees:

Thank you to those governors who have already requested bespoke training sessions. Should you wish to carry out a session in your school, but do not have the numbers of governors to justify the cost or are not linked to an existing cluster of schools, please contact the helpline for further support.

As a reminder, governors across all educational settings within Lincolnshire are currently able to access e-learning via [Learning Link](#). If you have not already registered, please do so. The National Governance Association has teamed up with Virtual College, one of the UK's top e-learning providers, to deliver accessible, engaging and convenient e-learning. With 24/7 multi-device access to modules, learning can be completed anytime, anywhere and at any place that suits the learner. Governors are able to benefit from a catalogue of high-quality interactive online training modules to help develop your governance skills and knowledge. Modules reflect the latest legislation, the Department for Education's **Governance Handbook** and the **Competency Framework for Governance**.

[Learning Link](#) can also be used as a training tool for the whole governing body either within a meeting or in separate sessions, especially in terms of developing the enhanced expectations of governance and the Governing Bodies three core functions; strategic direction, holding leaders to account and financial performance.

Clerks Development Programme

The first cohort of the Clerks Development programme is coming to an end – Cohort 2 begins at the end of March 2019 and the registration process is now open. Please follow the link on the [Supporting Stronger Governance](#) website which will direct you to the NGA site for you to sign up if you want to benefit from this opportunity – funding is available.

Chairs Development Programme

The first cohort of the Chairs Development programme is coming to an end - Cohort 2 begins in February and the registration process is now open. Please follow the link on the [Supporting Stronger Governance](#) website which will direct you to the NGA site for you to sign up if you want to benefit from this fully funded opportunity.

Consultancy: External Reviews of Governance

The Local leaders of Governance team already have a number of External Reviews of Governance in the planning stage - please contact the Governor Support line if you wish to arrange your governance review. To assist governing bodies in their preparation for an ERG, self-review tools are available via the *Resources* section of the [Supporting Stronger Governance](#) webpage.

2. Governor Partnership Briefings

The dates for 2018 / 2019 have all been published and you can book upcoming events as usual through [Eventbrite](#). The spring term venues and dates are:

- Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, Lincoln: Monday, 18 March 2019 – 7pm-9pm
- Walton Girl's High School, Grantham: Wednesday, 20th March 2019 – 7pm-9pm
- Bannovallum High School, Horncastle: Monday, 25th March 2019 – 7pm-9pm
- Boston St Thomas CE Primary School, Boston: Wednesday, 27th March 2019 – 7pm-9pm

PLEASE NOTE: It has come to our attention that the Governor Partnership Briefings, Spring Term 2019 dates published in the booklet are not correct – please check your booking date or contact Governor Services if unsure.

Governors who attended the partnership briefings in the Autumn Term were pleased with the new format and topics covered, which linked to what had been delivered at the Headteacher briefings. The Governors who attended appreciated the time to network and share best practice. We would like to develop this further and if you are able to share your success stories then please email governorsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk. We have noted from the feedback requests for updates on Ofsted, data and finance which will be built into future sessions. The briefings provide valuable updates and summary information. Further details and support can be accessed through the [Learning Link](#) or the units offered as part of [Strengthening Governance Offer](#). The slides for the event can be accessed via Lincolnshire Learning Partnership (LLP) [Events](#) page.

Watch this Space: It was also suggested through the Governor Partnership Briefings to hold a short session as an introduction to Governance in order to provide new Governors with a support network and induction to Lincolnshire. From Spring Term 2019, we are pleased to announce that we will be introducing this opportunity for new governors prior to the Governor Partnership Briefings. Partners from the Supporting Stronger Governance offer will deliver support and guidance to those new to the role and this will be available free of charge. Please encourage all new governors to take advantage of this fantastic offer. A similar induction offer will be available to all new Clerks to Governors prior to the Clerks Networking events.

3. Policy Updates

LCC Updates:

As discussed at the Governor Partnership Briefings, please remember to speak with your Headteacher with regard to any LCC policy reviews and updates that have been delivered through the **School News, Safeguarding News and Schools Finance** bulletins that are published on [Perspective Lite](#). These bulletins include important updates to the **Pay, Complaints** and **Safeguarding** policies which Governing Bodies of maintained schools will need to approve plus changes to the **Keeping Children Safe in Education Act (KCSIE)**, including updates required with regard to **Section 128 checks, GDPR and records management**.

All schools now have access to unlimited accounts and your Headteacher has the administration right to authorise access to the most relevant information depending on your level of governor appointment.

For your information, **School News** is published every Friday and **Safeguarding News** every Tuesday; while much of the information may be operational information for schools to note, it is important that as governors you are aware of this as there may be strategic questions you need to ask with regard to your school/academy at that time.

Please make sure that you have thoroughly reviewed and recorded your governor membership and terms of office and that your Clerk to Governors has reported any changes to Governor Services as a priority.

DfE Updates:

If you have not already done so, please refer to the DfE [Latest Documents Updates](#) in order to include these on your upcoming meeting agendas. Again, you will find the most recent National changes with regard to areas such as KCSIE, Funding, Data Protection Toolkit and School Resource Management.

4. Governor Recruitment

A common theme for many governing bodies is the difficulty in recruiting governors. Across Lincolnshire, we support the recruitment of governors through our relationships with partner agencies such as [Inspiring Governance](#) and [Academy Ambassadors](#). This allows us to support Governing Bodies, Trustees and/or Directors to fill vacancies. Inspiring Governance are working with the sector in Lincolnshire to recruit governors across all educational settings; Academy Ambassadors provide free, bespoke recruitment support to multi-academy trusts looking to strengthen their board and is a not-for-profit programme funded by the Department for Education.

To assist in your recruitment requirements, it is also important to consider the existing skills and vision of your governance structure; please refer to the skills audit/ collation matrix and resource packs which are available via the [Supporting Stronger Governance](#) webpage which will assist in this process.

5. Save the Date

We will be delivering a **Governor Conference** in 2019 as part of the Supporting Stronger Governance Offer – please ensure you save **Wednesday, 13 November 2019** in your diary. Further information will be provided in the New Year.

~~~~~

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact Governor Support via e-mail on [governorsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorsupport@lincolnshire.gov.uk)