



Liverpool Governance Forum

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LGF ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR ENDING 31ST AUGUST 2023

FORWARD:

Governors and trustees have an important role in the education and support of our children and the LGF was established in 1996 to coordinate and represent the views of Liverpool's Governors and Trustees on the various high-level strategic education committees which operate in the city.

We are always looking for new members to contribute to our work. They present excellent opportunities to have input into education policy and further develop your personal skills. We do hope that some of you will give this matter your serious consideration and make contact with us.

The range of committees is listed in Appendix A, together with the name of the committee member and the committees on which he/she currently represents the LGF.

LGF works closely with several key partners, which include the three Liverpool Headteachers' Associations, Liverpool Learning Partnership, Liverpool Local Authority, School Improvement Liverpool, and the National Governance Association. However, more detailed information on our work and activity is available on our website: www.livgovforum.org.uk

OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY MICHAEL MORRIS, LGF CHAIR:

I have much pleasure in welcoming you to this ninth formal LGF Annual Review, which is also my second report as the LGF Chair. As usual, the report aims to provide Liverpool school governors, academy trustees, and our partners with a succinct overview of our key activities and the progress we have made during the 2022/23 academic year.

It was a year that proved to be another interesting and challenging time for the LGF with high demands from governors and schools for our support, in particular, to sit as independent governors on various panels across Liverpool city schools.

We continued our policy to deliver another conference which was held last May, when Mr Rohit Naik, Hope School Headteacher delivered a passionate and engaging presentation on the **"Attachment and trauma framework"**. The feedback from the delegates attending was undoubtedly very positive.

Included in the presentation was an overview of the Hearts project which is supporting several schools across Liverpool to develop a robust model of embedding attachment and trauma-responsive care within each school. On behalf of the LGF, I would like to take the opportunity to offer our congratulations to all those involved in this innovative programme on being awarded the **"Pearson National Teaching Silver Award in the category: Impact through Partnership"** and offer our best wishes when they will be assessed for the gold award later in the year.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to my fellow hard-working committee colleagues for their commitment and dedication representing Liverpool governors/trustees over the last academic year to ensure we have an input into the important educational decision-making on behalf of Liverpool Schools.

A special thanks to David Blythe for the many duties he efficiently undertakes administrating and coordinating the work of the LGF and to Paula Anderson for the prompt and effective secretarial service she provides, coupled with her general support which is greatly appreciated.

CONFERENCE:

As mentioned in the chair’s comments above, last May we were pleased to hold our 10th half-day conference. It was delivered and presented by Rohit Naik, Headteacher at Hope School of Excellence, and covered the topic **“Building children's resilience and improving their educational outcomes through attachment and trauma-informed friendly practices”**. Support was provided by Sarah Goldman and Katie Atkinson, both parents and Hope School governors, who were able to provide testimonies from their personal experiences. The conference included an introduction and overview of the Hearts programme which currently supports and facilitates 32 Liverpool schools to build capacity and progress towards being recognised as a committed and effective attachment and trauma-informed school.

The conference was attended by 50 governors/trustees from across the city who overwhelmingly endorsed that the conference fully met its objectives. Furthermore, they felt Rohit was an engaging speaker with a comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of attachment and trauma-informed principles and that it was a well-organised event from which they had fully benefited.

MEETINGS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

We held seven committee meetings during the academic year. We would like to take the opportunity to record our thanks to all the schools who hosted the meetings and for their kind hospitality.

For six meetings we also invited guest speakers to address us on a range of various development topics. These were all informative and engaging. We would also like to thank all our guest speakers for giving their time and making a valuable contribution to our work. We would particularly like to mention Johnathan Nichols, who despite being unwell, insisted on delivering his talk via Zoom from his hospital bed. Sadly Jonathan passed away during the year and will be greatly missed by his family and the education sector in general. A summary of the meetings held is as follows:

MONTH	MEETING, GUEST SPEAKER & TOPIC <i>(Pre-meeting Development/Information session)</i>
September	Committee meeting at Hope School <i>Guest speaker: Mr Rohit Naik, Headteacher</i> <i>Topic: Introduction to attachment and trauma principles</i>
November	AGM and Committee meeting at St Margaret’s C of E Academy <i>Guest speaker: Mr Paul Olubayo, Race Equality Officer, Liverpool City Council</i> <i>Topic: Overview of his role and responsibilities as the first LA Race Equality Officer</i>
December	Committee meeting at Belle Vale Primary School <i>Guest speaker: Mr Jonathan Nichols, CEO of Rainbow Educational Trust</i> <i>Topic: Independent overview of the academisation process</i>
January	Committee meeting at The Beacon C of E Primary School <i>Guest speakers: Community Police Officers Danielle Sewoo and Neelam Chohan, Merseyside Police</i> <i>Topic: Hate crime makes me feel!</i>
March	Committee meeting at Mossfits Lane Primary School <i>Guest speaker: Mr Jonathan Dickson, Head of Resonate, Notre Dame School</i> <i>Topic: Update on music in education and the available support</i>
May	Committee meeting only at Childwall Valley Primary School
July	Committee meeting at Archbishop Blanch C of E Girls School <i>Guest speaker: Mr Ahmad Dolani, governor at Smithdown School</i> <i>Topic: Overview of research exercise into ethnic diversity on the Board of Governors in Liverpool Schools.</i>

PUBLICATIONS:

School Improvement Liverpool continued to publish three further issues of "**Governance News**" during the academic year, which also contained articles submitted by LGF members.

These important information documents contain a wealth of advice and guidance on current governance practice, ensuring governors and trustees are kept up to date on a wide range of topics.

We do recommend governors and trustees access and make full use of the documents, which can be accessed at: www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk

We would also like to record our thanks to SIL for their ongoing support, in particular, Dave Cadwallader for his specialist knowledge and guidance, which is very much appreciated.

MEETING VENUES:

For the 2022/23 academic year, we are aiming to deliver a similar programme of meetings and events in schools across the city.

If you would like to host one of our meetings, then please let us know by contacting David Blythe, LGF Honorary Secretary at: admin@livgovforum.org.uk

DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

The dates for our 2022/23 Autumn Term meetings are:

- 19th September, 2023
- 7th November, 2023
- 5th December, 2023

All meetings are on **Tuesdays from 10 am until approximately 12 noon**, except for our meeting on the 7th November, which starts with our AGM from 10 am to 10:30 am. This is then followed by our Committee Meeting from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm. Further details regarding our meetings and venues will be shown on our website.

FUNDING AND FINANCE:

LGF is funded by subscriptions from the majority of Liverpool schools; primary, special, and secondary at a nominal charge of £25 per school. This is collected on our behalf through the three Headteacher Associations, which is much appreciated. This enables us to play a full and active role in improving educational standards in Liverpool.

However, as academisation continues to grow, some academy schools are unfortunately no longer contributing or engaging with us and this is having a negative impact on our funding. We will, therefore, need to be innovative going forward on how we can bridge the discrepancy gap and remain an important and viable organisation.

To ensure financial control and accountability, we have a "**Finance and Operating Manual**" which sets out important parameters and is regularly reviewed and updated as required. The accounts are also independently audited.

A summary of the accounts for the year ending 31st August, 2023 is as follows:

SUMMARY OF 2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	£
Bank balance brought forward on 1 st September 2022	4525.02
Income received during the 2022/23 academic year	3105.00
Expenditure during the reporting year	2515.70
Closing bank balance on 31 st August 2023	5070.62
<i>NB: A full statement of accounts will be available at the LGF November, 2023 AGM</i>	

Finally, we hope you find this 9th issue of the LGF annual review as interesting and informative.

APPENDIX A

2022/23 OVERVIEW OF LGF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The table below details the LGF members and the various committees they represent on behalf of the LGF.

The aim of the LGF committee meetings is to coordinate its activities, obtain feedback from members who have attended the various strategic educational committee meetings, formulate policy and progress development plans. Minutes of committee meetings and other relevant information are promptly published on the LGF website: www.livgovforum.org.uk

LGF sub-committees are established when required, to focus and drive forward special projects e.g. the LGF Conferences.

LGF COMMITTEE / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
NAME & SCHOOL	COMMITTEE MEMBERS & REPRESENTATION
Joe Hartley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Honorary President
Michael Morris <i>(St Margaret's C of E Academy)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board Member, Liverpool Learning Partnership LCC, Priority 4, Educational Improvement Plan
Maureen McDaid <i>(St Nicholas Catholic Primary & Gateacre)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum
David Blythe <i>(Honorary Secretary)</i> <i>(Hope & Gateacre)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum
Danielle Azanuwha <i>(The Beacon C of E Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership
Cliff Barton <i>(Sudley Infant)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum
Dave Cadwallader <i>(Rainbow Educational MAT, Smithdown Primary, Gateacre & Clifford Holroyde)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provides advice and guidance to the LGF committee and acts as the liaison with School Improvement Liverpool
Andy Chadwick <i>(Ranworth Square Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main committee, Liverpool Schools Forum All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership
Haley Igbokwe <i>(Blackmoor Park Junior)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership
Richard Lovegrove <i>(Springwood Heath Primary & Faith Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Board observer, Liverpool Learning Partnership
Avril O'Brien <i>(St Paul & St Timothy Catholic Infant)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership LCC Race Equality Taskforce
Dave Owens <i>(Mosspits Lane Primary & Ernest Cookson)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership
Ian Smith <i>(Middlefield Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Committee member
Marlene Taylor <i>(Lawrence Community Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum
NAME & SCHOOL	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Peter Devaney <i>(St Patricks Catholic Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent panel governor
Cllr Barbara Murray <i>(Childwall Valley Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate
Mark Rea <i>(Ernest Cookson & Longmoor Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Independent panel governor
Joyce Smith <i>(Mosspits Lane Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Associate
Paula Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Meeting Secretary