



## Liverpool Governance Forum

E-mail: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk) [www.livgovforum.org.uk](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk) Twitter: [@LpoolGovForum](https://twitter.com/LpoolGovForum)

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### LGF ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2022

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#### **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 strategic education committees which operate in the city.

The range of committees is listed in Appendix A, together with the name of the committee member and the committees on which he/she represents 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](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk)

#### **OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY MICHAEL MORRIS, LGF CHAIR:**

I have the pleasure of welcoming you to this eighth LGF Annual Review, which is my first report as the LGF Chair. The key aim of the report is 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 2021/22 academic year.

First of all, I would like to thank Kathy Desmond who stood down as Chair at our 2021 AGM last November, and formally retired from the LGF committee at the end of July. Kathy has served on the LGF for about 12 years, 9 of which were as Chair. Kathy's commitment and dedication to the LGF are unquestionable. Kathy has led from the front and raised the profile of the LGF and highlighted the importance of the governor and trustee voice on the various strategic education committees. We will certainly miss Kathy's input and knowledge at our meetings and offer her our best wishes for the future.

I would also like to make a special mention to Frank Macfarlane who unfortunately passed away last February. Frank was Chair of Governors at Archbishop Blanch CE High School and several other schools and was well known in the education sector and the community in general. He was also a key LGF committee member for many years and his advice, guidance, and sense of humour are sadly missed.

Following the covid restrictions over the past couple of years, we were delighted to hold one of our conferences last July. Despite the disappointing low numbers attending, it was a successful event delivered by our guest speaker Dr. Neil Stanley, the nationally recognised sleep specialist.

There are approximately 2125 governors/trustees engaged in Liverpool City Schools. However, we only have 12 active LGF committee members. We are, therefore, keen to engage more members to spread our workload.

LGF members serve on several high-level strategic educational committees. They are excellent opportunities to contribute to education policy and further develop your skills and I do hope that some of you will give this matter your serious consideration and make contact with us.

Finally, I would like to record my thanks to my fellow committee colleagues for their commitment, dedication, and hard work serving and 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.

#### CONFERENCE:

After a two-year forced break due to the covid pandemic, we were very pleased to re-introduce our conference programme last July. It was our ninth conference and was delivered and presented by Dr. Neil Stanley one of the UK's foremost sleep experts and the author of "How to Sleep Well" and covered the topic "**Sleep and its importance in Education**". It was not unfortunately well attended with only 19 delegates present, which is well below our average attendance of 40. It would appear this was due to late cancellations due to covid on the rise again. It is also recognised that some governors/trustees are still rather nervous about attending such events. Nevertheless, the presentation was most engaging and informative with typical positive comments such as "**Excellent event; the speaker was very knowledgeable, engaging, and easy to listen to**".

The key message we all took away is that regular quality sleep at night allows us to be energetic, alert, reduces stress, and improves our learning and memory; these are all essential benefits our children need so that they are "**ready to learn**" when they arrive at school and thus thrive and develop effectively. It is most important that we try and get this message across to parents/carers.

#### MEETINGS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

We held seven committee meetings during the academic year. Initially, 5 meetings were held at the St Mary's Millennium Centre, West Derby due to the covid restrictions in schools. However, for our May and July meetings, we were pleased to engage with schools once again meeting at Mosspsits Lane Primary in May, and Archbishop Blanch in July. We would like to record our thanks to them both for hosting 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 like to thank all our guest speakers for giving their time and making a valuable contribution to our work. A summary of the meetings held is as follows:

MONTH	MEETING, GUEST SPEAKER & TOPIC <i>(Pre-meeting Development/Information session)</i>
<b>September</b>	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Jonathon Dickson, Head of Resonate, Notre Dame</i> <i>Topic: Benefits of providing high-quality music in education and the support which is available</i>
<b>November</b>	AGM followed by guest speaker and Committee meeting <i>Speaker: Janet Myers, North West Regional Lead, National Governance Association</i> <i>Topic: Update on NGA structure and support available to governors and trustees</i>
<b>December</b>	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: John Byrne, LCC Strategic Finance Manager</i> <i>Topic: Overview of the current funding situation for Liverpool schools</i>
<b>January</b>	Committee meeting only
<b>March</b>	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Brendan Purcell, LCC Energy Manager</i> <i>Topic: Challenges for schools with the rising costs of energy and opportunities to monitor and control costs</i>
<b>May</b>	Committee meeting Mosspsits Lane Primary School and guest speaker: <i>Speaker: Jonathan Jones, LCC Director of Education</i> <i>Topic: Overview of recent government white and green papers on education and highlighting their aim on academisation</i>
<b>July</b>	Committee meeting at Archbishop Blanch and guest speaker: <i>Speaker: Elaine Rees, CEO, Liverpool Learning Partnership</i> <i>Topic: LLP update including the outcome of the recent 10-year review</i>

## PUBLICATIONS:

Once again School Improvement Liverpool published 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](http://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 optimistic that we will be able to continue our policy of holding our meetings 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](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk)

## DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

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

- **13<sup>th</sup> September, 2022 (To be held at Hope School of Excellence, Gateacre)**
- **8<sup>th</sup> November, 2022 (School venue to be confirmed) and**
- **6<sup>th</sup> December, 2022 (School venue to be confirmed)**

All meetings are on a **Tuesday from 10 am until approximately 12 noon**, except for our meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> 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 normally 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 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 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2022 is as follows:

<b>SUMMARY OF 2021/22 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>	<b>£</b>
Bank balance brought forward on 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2021	2798:62
Income received during 2021/22 academic year	3775:00
Expenditure during the reporting year	2686:40
Closing bank balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2022	4525:02
Less debtors (i.e. Cheques issued but not cashed at year end)	-637:80
Effective net balance	3887:22
<i>NB: A full statement of accounts will be available at the LGF November, 2022 AGM</i>	

Finally, we hope you find this 8<sup>th</sup> issue of the LGF annual review as interesting and informative as ever.

## APPENDIX A

### 2021/22 OVERVIEW OF LGF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

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

The LGF committee formally met regularly to coordinate its activities, obtain feedback from members who have attended the various strategic 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](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk)

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

<b>LGF COMMITTEE / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	
<b>NAME &amp; SCHOOL</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS &amp; REPRESENTATION</b>
Joe Hartley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honorary President</li> </ul>
Michael Morris <i>(St Margaret's CE Academy)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Member, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>LCC, Priority 4, Educational Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
Maureen McDaid <i>(St Nicholas Catholic Primary &amp; Gateacre)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
David Blythe ( <i>Honorary Secretary</i> ) <i>(Hope &amp; Gateacre)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Danielle Azanuwha <i>(The Beacon CE)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Cliff Barton <i>(Sudley Infant)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Dave Cadwallader <i>(Rainbow Educational MAT, Smithdown Primary, Gateacre &amp; Clifford Holroyde)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides advice and guidance to the LGF committee and acts as the liaison with School Improvement Liverpool</li> </ul>
Andy Chadwick <i>(Ranworth Square Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> <li>All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Richard Lovegrove <i>(Faith Primary)</i>	-
Cllr Barbara Murray <i>(Childwall Valley Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair of Education and Skills Select Committee</li> </ul>
Avril O'Brien <i>(St Paul &amp; St Timothy Catholic Infant)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>LCC Race Equality Taskforce</li> </ul>
Dave Owens <i>(Mossfits Lane Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> <li>All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Marlene Taylor <i>(Lawrence Community Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
John Thornhill <b>(1)</b> <i>(Sudley Juniors &amp; St Julies High)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
<b>NAME &amp; SCHOOL</b>	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>
Kathy Desmond <b>(1)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Immediate Past LGF Chair</li> </ul>
Mary Donohue <i>(Broughton Hall High)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Governor representative at Board Meetings, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Mark Ray <i>(Longmoor Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Independent panel governor</li> </ul>
Paula Anderson <b>(2)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Secretary</li> </ul>

**(1)** John Thornhill and Kathy Desmond both resigned on the 31<sup>st</sup> July, 2022. We thank them both for their valuable contribution to the work of the LGF committee.

**(2)** We also record our thanks to Paula Anderson our Meeting Secretary for her efficient and effective secretarial service. Her general support and the prompt issue of the minutes after meetings are greatly appreciated.