



LGF: Leading governance forward

E-mail: admin@livgovforum.org.uk

www.livgovforum.org.uk

Twitter: [LpoolGovForum](https://twitter.com/LpoolGovForum)

OVERVIEW OF THE 2023 MAY LGF CONFERENCE

CONTENTS:

1. Introduction
2. Aims of the conference
3. Attendance and analysis of feedback
4. School sectors represented
5. Synopsis of delegate's comments
6. Suggested future conference topics
7. Summary and overall outcomes

APPENDICES

- A. Biography of conference speakers
 - B. Names of schools represented at the conference
 - C. Summary of LGF conferences
-

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

The purpose of this report is to provide governors, trustees, and our stakeholders with a succinct overview of the outcomes from the recent conference. The information is primarily based on the LGF feedback forms completed by governors and trustees attending the event.

This was our 10th half-day conference we have organised for Liverpool school governors and trustees. The focus and topic on this occasion was:

Building children's resilience and improving their educational outcomes through attachment and trauma-informed friendly practices.

We were delighted to welcome Rohit Naik, Headteacher of Hope School (SEMH) to deliver and facilitate the presentation for us. Rohit was supported by two Hope School governors Sarah Goldman and Katie Atkinson who were able to provide testimonies from their personal experiences.

NB: The biography of the conference speakers is given in Appendix A.

2.0 AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE:

The key aim of part one of the conference was to provide attendees with an overview of the attachment and trauma framework and importantly highlight the real difference it can make in building children's resilience and improving their self-esteem and supporting them to reach their potential coupled with an improvement in their educational outcomes.

Rohit Naik, an inspirational speaker who has extensive experience and knowledge, highlighted how unmet needs and trauma affects pupils' ability to learn and how introducing an attachment and trauma-informed strategy provides support and ensures every pupil has a positive experience of school life.

The key aim of the second part of the conference was to give delegates an introduction to the Hearts programme, which is being led by Virtual School Liverpool. There is considerable interest, both nationally and locally, to implement and develop an attachment and trauma-informed strategy and framework within schools. The Hearts programme currently supports and facilitates 32 Liverpool schools to build capacity and progress toward being recognised as a committed and effective attachment and trauma-informed school. Rohit provided delegates with an overview of this important Liverpool schools project.

3.0 ATTENDANCE AND ANALYSIS OF FEEDBACK:

NUMBERS ATTENDING FROM ALL SECTORS	NUMBER
Total number booked-in and attended	47
Booked-in who apologised and did not attend	4
Booked-in who did not attend nor apologise	9
Booked-in on day	3
Total attended (47 + 3)	50
LGF EVALUATION FORMS	
Feedback forms completed	40 (80%)
OVERALL RATING BY ATTENDEES	
Very good	36 (90%)
Good	4 (10%)
Requires improvement	0

4.0 SCHOOL SECTORS REPRESENTED:

SCHOOL SECTOR	NUMBER
Nursery & Infant	2
Primary	29
Secondary	3
Special	6
Trust/MAT	5
The total number of schools represented	45
Additional data (Governors serving on more than one board)	-
Primary & Secondary	2
Primary & Special	2
Special & Secondary	1
Total serving on more than one board	5

NB: The full listing of the actual schools represented at the conference is detailed in Appendix B.

5.0 SYNOPSIS OF DELEGATES COMMENTS:

SUMMARY OF KEY COMMENTS
<p>Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There was a strong endorsement from the delegates that the conference fully met its key objectives summarised in Section 2 above.
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A passionate, knowledgeable, and engaging speaker • Well-informed content, professionally and effectively delivered • Informative and thought-provoking event • Two powerful personal testimonies • Hearing lived experiences • Above and beyond meeting expectations • Incredibly important information • Highly informative, thought-provoking, and engaging • Directly relevant to every school • There were good opportunities to ask questions <p>Quality Assurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-organised event with good communications • Keep up the good work • Lapel mic for speakers as it was sometimes difficult to hear • More practical examples of implementation and approach would be helpful • Perhaps more time for discussion among participants <p>Venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent in every way/Very good venue and facilities, including a large car park which made parking very easy and stress-free <p>Refreshments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response was positive/ Most appropriate for the event • The light barm's breakfast remains popular.

6.0 SUGGESTED FUTURE CONFERENCE TOPICS:

Thank you to those governors who suggested the topics below. We will take them into account when planning future LGF conferences:

- Workload and well-being; SEND; Importance of reading for pleasure; Liverpool Literacy Cycle; Psychological, Supervision, Liverpool Law Clinic and Inclusion in mainstream schools.

7.0 SUMMARY & OVERALL OUTCOMES:

The delegates undoubtedly felt Rohit Naik was an engaging speaker with a comprehensive and in-depth knowledge of attachment and trauma-informed principles.

There was also a very strong view the key objectives set out in section 2 were fully met and that they had benefitted from their attendance at the conference. Furthermore, it was another opportunity for governors/trustees from across the Liverpool educational sectors to learn together.

We had a total of 50 governors and trustees attending this 10th LGF conference who represented 44 Liverpool schools across the city with an overall average of 41 attendance for the 10 LGF conferences we have delivered to date.

Furthermore, several days before the actual event we did have the courtesy of four apologies. We also had a cohort of nine governors/trustees who booked-in, but unfortunately did not attend on the day nor offer any apology for their non-attendance. It will be appreciated that it does have unnecessary cost implications for us not cancelling in advance.

It was also interesting to note that on this occasion a high number of females to men were present; 39 (78%) female and 11 (22%) male. Normally, we have a much more balanced group.

We were also rather surprised at the small number of governors/trustees attending from those schools engaged in the Hearts project, although we are conscious special arrangements had been made early in the project for the Chairs of the schools involved.

For information, a summary of all 10 conferences arranged over the years to date by the LGF is listed in Appendix C.

We would like to take the opportunity to record our thanks to our speakers, Rohit Naik, Sarah Goldman, and Katie Atkinson for making this another successful LGF conference and for ensuring that our members found it a well-worth and enjoyable event from which they fully benefited.

Finally, we would also like to thank all the delegates who supported and attended the conference and for their important contribution in raising appropriate questions which helped to make this 10th conference another successful LGF event.

Circulation:

- Jonathan Jones, Director of Education
- Chairs of the three Liverpool Headteacher Associations (LASH, LPHA & ALSSH)
- Ajay Sethi, CEO School Improvement Liverpool
- Jane Holmes, Principal Officer: Schools, School Improvement Liverpool
- Elaine Rees, CEO, Liverpool Learning Partnership
- Carolyn Lawler, Liverpool Virtual Headteacher
- 3 Conference Speakers (Rohit Naik, Hope School Headteacher, Sarah Goldman, Hope School Governor & Katie Atkinson, Hope School governor)
- LGF Committee Members
- LGF Website

APPENDIX A

BIOGRAPHY OF CONFERENCE SPEAKERS

ROHIT NAIK:

Rohit was the lead speaker and has been the Headteacher of Hope School (SEMH) for over 22 years. Through his leadership, the school embarked on a journey to bring itself into the vanguard of attachment-friendly, inclusive practice. The school has gained the 'Attachment and Trauma Sensitive' school award.

Having worked in a range of educational settings, Rohit is recognised locally and nationally as being at the forefront of Trauma-informed practice

Rohit is a National Leader of Education (NLE) and was awarded the Pearson's Primary Headteacher of the Year in 2017 and an OBE in the 2022 Queen's Birthday Honours, for services to education.

NB: Rohit is willing to attend Board of Governors meetings to raise awareness and support schools to make progress.

SARAH GOLDMAN & KATIE ATKINSON:

Sarah and Katie are both Hope School governors.

Katie made reference to the positive impact Hope School had on her son and summarises this as follows:

"At the tender age of 12, my son has learnt who he is. He knows how to handle his emotions, he knows how to regulate himself and he also knows what situations to avoid. He knows his limits, his triggers and he understands himself".

Sarah is a birth mother and an adoptive parent and is also a parent champion with the Anna Freud Centre in London.

Sarah and Katie shared their experiences as both parents and governors. They were able to draw on their experiences of how things can go wrong if the understanding of attachment and trauma is not taken on board when offered and how difficulties can be exacerbated for both the individuals and families that may find themselves in such a situation.

APPENDIX B

NAMES OF SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

PRIMARY SCHOOLS	SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Barlow's Primary	Calderstones
Banks Road Primary	Gateacre
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary	St Hilda's CE High
Bishop Martin Primary	<i>(Total = 3)</i>
Childwall Valley Primary	
Croxteth County Primary	TRUST/MAT
Greenbank Primary	Faith Primary Academy
Gwladys Street Primary	All Saints MAT
Heygreen Primary	Harmonize Academy
Holy Name Catholic Primary	Rainbow Trust
Holy Family Catholic Primary	St Margaret's CE Academy
Kingsley Primary	<i>(Total 5)</i>
Kirkdale St. Lawrence Primary	
Mossfits Lane Primary +	SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Normal Pannell Primary	Abbots Lea +
Northcote Primary	Clifford Holroyd
Our Lady Bishop Eton	Ernest Cookson
Phoenix Primary	Hope
St Anne's Primary	Palmerston
St Charles Catholic Primary	Sandfield Park
St Cecilia's Catholic Junior	<i>(Total =6)</i>
St Cleopas CE Primary	
St Cuthbert's Catholic Primary +	NURSERY & INFANT SCHOOLS
St Mathew's Catholic Primary +	Ellergreen Nursery
St Nicholas's Catholic Primary	Sudley Infants
St Patrick's Catholic Primary	<i>(Total = 2)</i>
St Silas Primary	
Smithdown Primary	
Wavertree Primary	
<i>(Total = 29)</i>	
The grand total of 45 schools/academies participated in this 10th LGF Conference.	

+ = 4 Schools on the Hearts project

APPENDIX C

SUMMARY OF LGF CONFERENCES

CONFERENCE NUMBER	CONFERENCE DATE	NUMBER ATTENDED	CONFERENCE SUBJECTS / TOPICS
1	October 2015	46	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteacher Wellbeing
2	October 2016	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteacher Appraisals and • Philosophy for Children
3	March 2017	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Budget Reductions, • LLP Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing project & • Improving Children's Wellbeing through Yoga
4	October 2017	31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mental Health <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The touch that matters and ○ Attachment Friendly Principles
5	April 2018	41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online Safety and • Liverpool Promise
6	November 2018	64	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing Body Self-Assessment and • Liverpool's Education Vision
7	May 2019	51	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The effective governance of SEND and • SEND provision in Liverpool
8	November 2019	47	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Headteacher and Staff wellbeing; how can Governing Bodies ease the pressure
9	July 2022	20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep and its Importance in Education
10	May 2023	50	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attachment & Trauma- Informed Friendly Practices
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE		41	-

We did not hold any conferences during the years 2020 and 2021 due to the worldwide Covid 19 pandemic.

ATTENDANCE:

There are currently about 2,120 governors/trustees across all educational sectors and thus on average, only approximately 1 % attend our conferences.