



LGF: Leading governance forward

E-mail: admin@livgovforum.org.uk and Website www.livgovforum.org.uk

SUMMARY OF THE 2026 APRIL LGF CONFERENCE

**Saturday, 25th April, 2026 at
Hope School, 251 Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool, L25 2RY**

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report aims to provide governors, trustees and stakeholders with a succinct overview of the outcomes of our recent conference. The information is drawn primarily from the LGF feedback forms completed by governors and trustees who attended the event.

This was the 12th half-day conference organised by LGF for Liverpool school governors and trustees. The focus of this conference was the important theme of “**Moving Education Forward**”.

The interactive session was delivered by James Backhouse, Director of Education & Inclusion at Liverpool City Council.

2.0 KEY AIMS OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference aimed to provide delegates with an understanding of:

- The return of statutory functions to Liverpool City Council;
- The government’s recent Schools White Paper, Every Child Achieving and Thriving; and
- How these developments may affect Liverpool as it seeks to move education forward in challenging circumstances.

3.0 ATTENDANCE AND ANALYSIS OF COMPLETED FEEDBACK FORMS:

NUMBERS ATTENDING FROM ALL SECTORS	NUMBER
Total number initially booked in	35
Booked-in who did not attend or apologise	3
Total attended	32
LGF EVALUATION FORMS	
Feedback forms completed	30 (94%)
OVERALL RATING BY ATTENDEES	
Very good	25 (83%)
Good	5 (17%)
Requires improvement	0

NB: 48 had been booked in for the original March date for this event.

4.0 SCHOOL SECTORS REPRESENTED:

SCHOOL SECTOR	NUMBER
Primary	21
Secondary	4
Special	5
Trust Board	1
The total number of schools represented	31

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

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 school delegates that the conference fully met its key aims set out in Section 2.0.
<p>Outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Really interesting and on focus • Informative, plain language and well presented • The speaker's presentation style was engaging and informative • Opportunity to ask questions of the Director, and his specific approach was very good • Exceeded my expectations • All information was valuable, informative and interesting • Focused and highly informative • Well-chaired event • Feeling more positive about the future of education in Liverpool <p>Quality Assurance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well-organised event • Excellent speakers, facilities and timing • Keep up the good work • Ran smoothly • Saturday attracted me to attend from the working week <p>Venue:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Excellent venue and facilities, including stress-free car parking • Venue is lovely, comfortable, convenient, with good accessibility <p>Refreshments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response was positive, with the breakfast / light barmes remaining popular and much appreciated

6.0 SUGGESTED FUTURE CONFERENCE TOPICS:

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

- Improving attendance; Ofsted new framework and visits; SEND, Impact of the environment on pupil behaviour, HR complexities and disciplinaries, Identifying partner services and newly commissioned services, and Academisation.

7.0 SUMMARY & OVERALL OUTCOMES:

Delegates clearly felt that the speaker delivered a transparent, engaging and informative session, with plenty of opportunities to ask questions, which was much appreciated.

There was also a strong view amongst delegates that the key objectives of the conference had been fully achieved and that they had benefited from attending the conference. In addition, the conference provided another valuable opportunity for governors and trustees from across Liverpool's education sector to network, share experiences, and learn together.

A total of 32 governors and trustees attended this 12th LGF conference, representing 29 schools across the city, including three governors who serve on more than one governing board.

It was disappointing that four governors/trustees who had booked places did not attend, with only one offering apologies in advance of the event. It is appreciated that late cancellations or non-attendance can result in unnecessary costs for the organisers.

There was a more balanced representation amongst attendees, with 15 female delegates (47%) and 17 male delegates (53%) present, whereas previous conferences have typically seen a higher proportion of female attendees.

For information, a summary of all 12 conferences organised by LGF is included in Appendix B.

We would also like to thank all delegates who supported and attended the conference, and for their valuable contributions through the questions and discussions raised, which helped make this 12th conference another successful LGF event.

Finally, special thanks are extended to Hope School for hosting the event and for its important contribution to ensuring the success of the conference.

Circulation:

- James Backhouse, Director of Education
- Chairs of the three Liverpool Headteacher Associations (LASH, LPHA & ALSSH)
- Ajay Sethi, CEO, SIL
- Jane Holmes, Director of Education Services, SIL
- Liverpool Learning Partnership
- Maxine O'Neill, Headteacher, Hope School
- LGF Committee Members
- LGF Website
- SIL Summer Governance Digest

APPENDIX A

NAMES OF SCHOOLS REPRESENTED

JUNIOR / PRIMARY SCHOOLS	SPECIAL SCHOOLS
Blackmoor Park Juniors	Abbot's Lea (*2)
Banks Road Primary	Clifford Holroyde
Blessed Sacrament Catholic Primary	Hope
Corinthian Community Primary	Palmerston
Greenbank Primary	Sandfield Park
Holy Cross Catholic Primary	(Total = 5)
King David Primary	
Kings Northway Primary	SECONDARY SCHOOLS
Lawrence Community Primary (*2)	Cardinal Heenan Catholic High
Mosspsits Lane Primary	King David High
Phoenix Primary	St Margaret's CofE
Rice Lane Primary	West Derby Academy
Smithdown Primary	(Total = 4)
Springwood Heath Primary (*2)	
Stockbridge Village	Trustee/Rainbow Educational Trust
St Anne's Catholic Primary	(Total = 1)
St Austin's Catholic Primary	
St Cecilia's Catholic Primary (*2)	
St Gregory's Catholic Primary	
St Paschal Baylon Catholic Primary	
Woolton Primary	
(Total = 21)	
NB:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (*2) = Two governors representing their school • 4 Governors/trustees serving on more than one board 	

APPENDIX B
SUMMARY OF LGF CONFERENCES

CONFERENCE NUMBER	CONFERENCE DATE	NUMBER ATTENDED	CONFERENCE SUBJECTS / TOPICS
1	October 2015	46	Headteacher Wellbeing
2	October 2016	20	Headteacher Appraisals and Philosophy for Children
3	March 2017	41	Budget Reductions; LLP Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing project and Improving Children's Wellbeing through Yoga
4	October 2017	31	Mental Health: The touch that matters and Attachment-Friendly Principles
5	April 2018	41	Online Safety and Liverpool Promise
6	November 2018	64	Governing Body Self-Assessment and Liverpool's Education Vision
7	May 2019	51	The effective governance of SEND and SEND provision in Liverpool
8	November 2019	47	Headteacher and Staff Wellbeing: How can Governing Bodies ease the pressure
9	July 2022	20	Sleep and its Importance in Education
10	May 2023	50	Attachment & Trauma- Informed Friendly Practices
11	November 2024	34	Effectively Handling School Complaints
12	April 2026	32	Moving Education Forward
AVERAGE ATTENDANCE		40	-