

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on:
Tuesday 21 September 2021 at The Stanley Room, St Mary's Millennium Centre,
West Derby Village, Meadow Lane, Liverpool L12 5EA.

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Kathy Desmond (Chair), David Blythe (Hon Secretary), Mary Donohue, Dave Cadwallader, Cliff Barton, Michael Morris, David Owens, Cynthia Carmichael, Marlene Taylor, Maureen McDaid, Danielle Azanuwha.

Apologies: Andy Chadwick, Frank McFarlane, Avril O'Brien, Howard Harris, Pauline Warrington,

Danielle Azanuwha was welcomed by KD and then governors introduced themselves and shared some information regarding their backgrounds. DW introduced herself and shared her background, explaining she wanted to be involved with LGF in response to a request for more diversification on the forum

Guest speaker: Jonathon Dickson, Head of Resonate.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Noted – DB is Chair of Trustees for St Mary's Millennium Centre, the venue for today's meeting. The venue has been provisionally booked for the next LGF meeting.

1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the meeting held on 13.7.21

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB reported that the current bank balance is £ 2798.62. As a result of the resignation of CC and as agreed at the July meeting, the application for MM to be the new signatory to the HSBC Bank account is progressing.

DB highlighted that HSBC is to charge charity account holders in future. This will cost LGF approximately £90 per year. Another bank is to be investigated. Nationwide/Coop was suggested as possible replacements. It was agreed not to rush into changing banks as it is possible that other banks may also begin to levy a charge.

DB reported that he had contacted the Headteacher Associations regarding subscriptions.

2.2 Feedback from Events

Not applicable

2.3 Future Events

The date of the next LGF conference is to be confirmed although it is expected to be held in the Spring Term, Covid permitting. KD reported that she had contacted Neil Stanley regarding addressing the conference on the subject of 'Sleep in Education'.

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date – 3 documents from today's meeting, provided by J Dickson will be uploaded to the LGF website.

2.5 Twitter Account

Not applicable

2.6 Others

Not applicable

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

A meeting was held on 8.9.21. The subjects for discussion were LEA budget for education (provisional) and School debt recovery. It was noted that currently £18.3 million is owed by schools to the LA and recovery plans have already been agreed for some schools.

A meeting of the Funding Working Group was held on 16.9.21. The LA's draft response to DfE consultation on the National Funding Formula was reviewed and agreed. The meeting was attended by CB, DB, MMc. John Byrne's input was much appreciated.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

Not applicable

3.3 LLP All Learners

A meeting is to be held on 22.9.21.

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

A meeting is to be held on 29.9.21.

3.5 LLP Maths Group

Not applicable

3.6 Liverpool Safeguarding Board

Not Applicable

3.7 Other

MM, LGF representative on Liverpool Priority 4 Group, reported that it had gone out to tender to appoint an organisation to drive forward the priorities of Priority Group 4 (to improve standards of governance and leadership, staff retention etc.) MM said he believed a decision may have been made regarding the successful applicant but the information has not been shared yet.

4.0 Other Items

4.1 NGA

CC reported that she had not received any communication from NGA for quite some time. However other governors reported receiving both digital and paper newsletters.

LGF's NGA subscription etc. is to be reviewed at the AGM to be held on 16.11.21.

4.2 Forced Academies

MMc highlighted that Gavin Williamson, when Secretary of State for Education decided that all schools that had ever been in Special Measures, regardless of whether they had improved or not, had to become academies. As a result, several Catholic primary schools will be forced to become academies. The Arch Diocese is currently consulting on this issue but will want to protect the ethos of the catholic schools. Schools in the first of three waves may be affected from next spring. MMc expressed her concern that governors of the schools affected may find that they are limited in the services they would be able to buy into. MMc is to provide feedback after a meeting to be held soon regarding this issue.

DC queried if this change would be allowed under current law. It was noted that the initial decision may be affected as Gavin Williamson is no longer in post

4.3 Alternative Education Provision

Mary Donahue highlighted that Jonathon Jones had sent a directive that AEP's (Alternative Education Providers) have to register as schools going forward. Not all AEP providers meet the criteria for registering as a school. After a recent conversation with an Ofsted inspector MD was concerned that pupils who access AEP provision must also be educated for their remaining school time and their "home school" must prove their needs are being met. This is an area that may be scrutinised in forthcoming Ofsted inspections. This could prove problematic for some schools and could lead to pupils being removed from their AEP. MD raised a concern as to what would happen

to the pupils as there are insufficient places in special schools etc. to accommodate them. This decision has been challenged and MD is awaiting feedback from a lead HMI.

4.4 C Carmichael - Tribute

KD thanked CC for her long service as a member of the LGF, stating that she had been a mainstay and foundation stone of the organisation. CC reminisced on her attendance at many conferences going back to 1997. KD stated that CC will be greatly missed especially for her sound advice and reliability.

4.5 K Desmond - Resignation

KD announced that she will be resigning as Chair of LGF and will be resigning as a governor within the year. KD said that she had enjoyed working with her LGF colleagues and will miss them all. KD said she will support her successor until she leaves.

MD spoke on behalf of the rest of LGF saying how sorry she was to hear of her resignation and that her presence at LGF meetings will be greatly missed.

DB stated that, as secretary, he will be supporting her successor, whoever that may be.

KD thanked all for attending.

Meeting concluded at 11:35am

Summary of Actions	
Documents re MMC etc. To be distributed to LGF members	JD/BD/PA
Feedback from meeting to discuss school's being forced to become academies	MMc

Next meeting:

The next two committee meetings will be at St Mary's Millennium Centre, Meadow Lane, L12 5EA at 10am on Tuesday 16 November 2021, 10:00 – 12:30 (NB: AGM followed by committee meeting). Guest speaker Janey Myers, North West Lead, NGA and Tuesday 7 December 2021, 10:00 – 12:00. Guest speaker John Byrne, School Finance.

Appendix 1

Jonathon Dickson, Head of Resonate was introduced by KD who posed several questions for JD to answer during his presentation. JD leads the delivery of the aims of the National Plan for music in Liverpool.

In response to one of the questions JD confirmed that there had been no increased government funding for the delivery of music and a proposed increase in Arts funding had not materialised.

JD shared a power point presentation highlighting the role of Resonate in the delivery of music across the school curriculum. Resonate is a DFE funded organisation to support Music in schools. Resonate are supporting schools in Warrington and Halton as well as Liverpool. JD stated that apart from a short time when the covid pandemic forced a lockdown Resonate has continued to provide music support for schools.

JD shared with the meeting that he had fostered 2 children for the past 3 years and had been dismayed at their lack of musical ability/knowledge when they first joined his family. JD said he was aware of literacy and numeracy interventions available to support pupils in making progress and the Model Music Curriculum (MMC) is trying to address the sort of gaps in music education that his own foster children and others have.

There has been a recent increase in interest in this subject with 3 documents being presented in the last 3 month. These documents are to be shared with LGF members.

The aim of the MMC is to raise profile of music in the curriculum, to get children thinking musically and to access instruments, singing etc.

Resonate is keen to work with schools in delivering an ambitious, well sequenced, well implemented music curriculum as highlighted by Ofsted.

JD noted that 55% of schools are taking part in a whole class instrumental programme (for at least 1 term in years 3/4. Resonate is funded to support school with this. Every child should have access to music lessons in KS 1,2 and 3 and all children should be singing, listening, composing, performing for a minimum of one term per year.

It was noted that the MMC is not statutory and is only for guidance, support and to prompt improvement in the school curriculums

JD said Governors need to ask their individual schools if there is a music policy? Do they have an ambitious, sequenced and accessible curriculum? Is there an opportunity to sing, play and learn? Is there access to venues, musicians and live music? Is there a KS4/5 offer?

JD invited questions.

MM – Highlighted that Academies don't have to follow national curriculum and invited JD to comment on this. – JD replied that academies do have to follow the Education framework and need to ensure every child has access to a school appropriate, well thought through and thorough music curriculum in the setting. MMC may be used to identify gaps in an academy's curriculum.

JD noted that Ofsted have recently appointed a new national adviser – Mark Phillips, a senior advisor for Ofsted this indicates a greater expectation for music in the curriculum in schools.

KD asked if there had been any progress in providing late tickets for pupils to access venues such as Philharmonic etc. In reply JD stated that Resonate runs music studios which, prior to Covid was attended by approximately 450 pupils weekly. The more senior students (Level 3) are automatically provided with a 'student pass' for the Philharmonic which entitles them to free or greatly reduced tickets.

School can buy into a music online concert service which can be beamed into classrooms. This costs approximately £250 for 6 concerts.

KD asked if special schools must provide music lessons. JD confirmed that this was the case, and this is an area Resonate is working hard at with Liverpool Special Schools and have managed to obtain additional funding to support special school pupils fostering talent. JD highlighted that 1 in 20 autistic pupils can have perfect pitch which is a much higher than the average figure.

KD asked JD's view of pupils all leaning towards learning the same type of instruments. JD agreed that some instruments are easier to teach/learn in the class setting than others. – Brass instruments were at a disadvantage during the Covid pandemic and string instruments are perceived as harder to learn.

KD asked if Resonate could help schools where there is a lack of expertise from the teaching staff and may be at a disadvantage when compared to academies who have lead teachers they can share? JD confirmed that Resonate runs a Development of Music Leadership Programme. About 90 schools have become involved in the programme in last 4 month. There are also online courses available linked to the MMC.

JD highlighted that Resonate offers support to school and encourages schools to contact them.

JD was thanked for his informative presentation.