

## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 11:15 on:  
Tuesday 16 November 2021 at The Stanley Room, St Mary's Millennium Centre, West  
Derby Village, Meadow Lane, Liverpool L12 5EA.

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### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** Kathy Desmond (Acting Chair), David Blythe (Treasurer), Dave Cadwallader,  
Dave Owens, Maureen McDaid, Mary Donahue, Marlene Taylor.

**Visitors:** Carmel Robinson, Nicola McCloy, Katie Atkinson, Richard Lovegrove, Alex Thorpe.

**Apologies:** Danielle Azanuwha, Cliff Barton, Frank McFarlane, Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien,  
Barbara Murray, John Thornhill, Michael Morris, Annamaria Roberts

**Guest speaker:** Janet Myers, North-West Regional Lead for National Governance Association

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Noted – DB is Chair of Trustees for St Mary's Millennium Centre, the venue for today's 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

Summary of Actions	
Documents re MMC etc. To be distributed to LGF members. <b>Distributed</b>	JD/BD/PA
Feedback from meeting to discuss school's being forced to become academies. <b>See 3.7</b>	MMc

## **2.0 LGF Matters and Events**

### **2.1 Finance**

DB reported that the bank balance as of 1.11.21 was £2768.62.

### **2.2 Feedback from Events**

Not applicable.

### **2.3 Future Events**

Forthcoming LGF meetings: All to be held at St Mary's Millennium Centre, L12 5EA unless advised otherwise.

7.12.21

25.1.22

8.3.22 – subsequently changed to 15.3.22

24.5.22

12.7.22

The date of the LGF Conference is dependent on the Covid situation. To be advised.

### **2.4 Website**

DB reported that the website is up to date. Today's visitors were encouraged to visit the website and provide feedback/suggest topics for future conferences etc.

### **2.5 Twitter Account**

Not applicable

### **2.6 Others**

Not applicable

## **3.0 Feedback from Representatives**

### **3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum**

An online meeting is to be held this afternoon (16.11.21). The meeting scheduled for 22.9.21 was cancelled at short notice.

### **3.2 LLP Executive Board**

Weekly Briefing notes issued by Elaine Reece will continue to be circulated by DB.

### **3.3 LLP All Learners**

Not applicable

### **3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More**

Feedback from meeting held on 29.9.21 is covered by the briefing notes circulated by DB.

### **3.5 LLP Maths Group**

Not applicable

### **3.6 Liverpool Safeguarding Board**

Not Applicable

### **3.7 Other**

Several Catholic schools, which were previously judged to require Special Measures by Ofsted, have formed a 'turn around' trust called St Joseph's Turn Around Trust.

The Interim CEO of the trust is Kirsty Tennyson who is currently setting up a framework. A meeting is to be held on 29.11.21, after which time more information should be available. Andrew Truby will take up the permanent CEO post in January 2022.

## **4.0 Other Items**

### **4.1 NGA**

Please see Appendix A.

### **4.2 Other**

The unintended consequence of the lock down:

RL, Foundation Governor at Faith Primary School expressed concern that young children have missed socialisation due to covid and are have difficulties developing relationships. This is having a detrimental effect on their behaviour and consequently, their learning. He gave examples of pupils' disruptive behaviour in school, some of which had resulted in violence towards staff. He stated that there are cases of teachers considering leaving the profession because of pupils' behaviour. It was acknowledged that the wellbeing of pupils is important, but the wellbeing of staff is also important.

KA, Parent Governor of Hope School recounted her experience with one of her children highlighting the experience of her child since joining Hope School, a school dedicated to the education of pupils with social, emotional, and mental health issues. KA explained her child had been a school refuser but since joining Hope his attendance has increased from 0% attendance to over 98% attendance in his first half term. She said the school had enabled the child to understand himself and the school's tailored therapeutic approach had contributed to his improvement. KA also referred to the school's Family Works programme which works directly with parents/carers. She said this had had a very positive effect on their home life.

RL recounted a personal story highlighting the importance of the pupils being taught by staff who understand the pupils.

KD said that it may be beneficial for schools experiencing problems with pupils' behaviour to contact Hope School.

A discussion ensued regarding governors' experiences of their own school and Hope School's approach.

Meeting concluded at 11:45

<b>Summary of Actions</b>	
Feedback from Liverpool School Forum meeting held on 16.11.21	DB/MMc

**Next meeting:**

The next committee meeting will be at St Mary's Millennium Centre, Meadow Lane, L12 5EA at 10am on Tuesday 7 December 2021, 10:00 – 12:00. Guest speaker John Byrne, School Finance.

## Appendix 1

Janet Myers, Northwest Regional Lead for National Governance Association was introduced by KD. JM explained that NGA is a charity with the aim to improve governance so that governors can improve education and thereby improve outcomes for children.

JM shared a power point with the meeting which has now available on the LGF website under Other Reports.

JM talked about how governance has developed during and after Covid, priorities for the next 12 months and what support can NGA offer governors. She encouraged governors to contact NGA if there were areas where they felt they needed support.

JM explained that a survey of governing bodies was conducted at the start of the pandemic and the results showed that the following 6 areas were of most concern:

- Balancing the budget
- Staff wellbeing
- Ensuring a broad and balancing curriculum
- Improving attainment
- Pupil wellbeing
- Support for pupils with SEND

Surprise was expressed that balancing the budget was top of list. This led to a discussion regarding the issues raised by dealing with the pandemic and the resulting actions/benefits.

JM explained NGA's priorities for the next 12 months and then shared the results of a second survey conducted recently where priorities changed to:

- Pupil mental health
- Managing and improving premises
- Attracting and keeping high quality leaders
- Best use of resources
- Behaviour and exclusion
- Support for pupils with SEND

JM expanded on the above areas, highlighting the appropriate NGA publications that would provide support to governing boards. Governors were encouraged to share their own school's experiences.

JM informed the meeting of the support NGA can offer including the NLG programme (National Leaders of Governance) which provides an external review of governance. It was noted that schools do not have to pay for this service directly. Currently 64 designated NLG's have been recruited. Concern was expressed that as NLG's are now paid, they may be less informal and

approachable. JM is to send KD details of a network set up by former NLG's who offer informal support to governors at no charge.

JM highlighted that the NGS Skills Audit has been recently updated and is available for all to access, not just NGA subscribers. Attention was drawn to forthcoming events.

KD thanked JM for her informative presentation and for delivering it in person. JM left the meeting after her presentation as she had a meeting in Birmingham.

A discussion took place regarding NGA versus The Key. The different costs were highlighted and that the NGA provides free information (including webinars) that is available to non-subscribers.