

## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:30 on 08.11.22  
at St Margaret's C of E Academy, Aigburth Rd, Liverpool L17 6AB

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### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

MM welcomed all to the meeting and introduced guest speaker, Paul Olubayo, Race Equality Officer for Liverpool City Council.

Those present introduced themselves for the benefit of the guest speaker.

**Present:** Michael Morris, Maureen McDaid, David Blythe, Cliff Barton,  
Richard Lovegrove, Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens,  
Marlene Taylor, Danielle Azanuwha

**Visitors:** Haley Igbokwe, Ian Smith, Joyce Smith

**Apologies:** Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brien, Mary Donohue,

**Guest speaker:** Paul Olubayo, Race Equality Officer, Liverpool City Council  
Please see Appendix A

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

DPI Forms are to be completed by new LGF members. No changes to previous information were declared.

#### 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. Clarification – 3.1 the meeting held on 13.9.22 was a Liverpool Schools Forum, Funding Formula meeting.

## 1.4 Matters Arising

<b>Actions</b>	
Declaration of Pecuniary Interests forms to be forwarded to non-attendees <b>Actioned</b>	PA
Free banking to be investigated <b>Halifax provide Treasures Account via Bank of Scotland which is free if under £50,000 is deposited. DB is to make enquires and change from the HSBC if appropriate– MMcD to provide the telephone number. Noted Resolution may need to be recorded in LGF minutes to facilitate this.</b>	DO/MMcD
Slides and report from J Jones' presentation on Academisation <b>Actioned</b>	DB
AO'B to be contacted <b>Actioned</b> – AO'B hopes to be at next meeting	DB
List of committee representatives 2022/23 to be circulated <b>Actioned</b>	DB
AC to be contacted re ability to act as a representative on sub-committees <b>Actioned</b> – AC hopes to be at the next meeting	DB

## 2.0 LGF Matters and Events

### 2.1 Finance

DB reported that the current LGF bank balance stands at £4052.22. There is one cheque outstanding for £200 which was issued to the speaker from LGF Conference. It was noted that the speaker had initially offered his services for free so may not intend to cash the cheque. Expected expenditure for the following year includes NGA subscription. An invoice has arrived but appears to be incorrect – DB is chasing this up. An invoice for the cost of the LGF web site maintenance is also expected.

### 2.2 Feedback from Events

Not Applicable

## **2.3 Future Events**

Annual Conference – This will be discussed the next LGF meeting. Suggested topics for the conference to be held in May/June 2023 included: School’s financial situations, MATs, Attachment and Trauma (Rohit Naik has already been approached and is happy to address the meeting), Regional School Director, Appeals/Panels. MM and DB are to meet prior to the next LGF meeting to discuss the forthcoming conference. It was noted that it is possible to have more than one topic at the conference.

## **2.4 Website**

DB reported that the website is up to date.

## **2.5 Twitter Account**

It was noted that the implications of the recent change in ownership of Twitter and concerns regarding safeguarding must be considered when deciding whether to continue with LGF’s Twitter account or changing to another platform. This is to be investigated by HI and DA and added to the agenda of the next LGF meeting.

## **2.6 Others**

Not Applicable

## **3.0 Feedback from Representatives**

### **3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum**

Funding Formula meeting – CB provided feedback from the meeting held on 13.9.22 highlighting the following:

- \* Disapplication Request has been received. BSF funding is considered as exceptional funding in the funding formular. There was approval received from the DFE to fund 100% of the annual lifecycle contributions for the 7 BSF schools in 2012 However as the approval was prior to 2018/19 there is a requirement for the LA to submit a new Disapplication Request for consideration. The deadline for this is 18.11.22. This was brought to an extraordinary meeting of the School Forum where it was unanimously approved.

\*Increase in PFI Factor was proposed for 2023/24- consultation has gone out to Liverpool schools regarding an increase from 25%to 30%

\*Split Site Factor – implementation proposed for 23/24. This is out for consultation with Liverpool schools. A discussion took place after which it was agreed that LGF would support this providing other Liverpool schools did not suffer financially. CB is to feedback this information to the next Liverpool Schools Forum, Formular Funding meeting.

### **3.2 LLP Executive Board**

AGM and 10 year review has taken place. Strategic Plans have been updated and approved. Mental health and Reading continue to be an issue. Copy of Strategic Plans are to be requested if not available to the public. Noted LGF Governor Representatives were thanked by Elaine Rees for their attendance at LLP meetings.

### **3.3 LLP All Learners**

DO reported that nothing significant to report. It was noted that there was a poor take up for the Secondary Reading Festival.

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

DB reported that he had attended the meeting held on 5.10.22. The key points discussed were Mental Health – A whole school approach, Looked After Children, extra support with reading and cultural events. Noted the Reading Festival is going to take place in February 2023. Primary and Secondary events are to take placed on the same day but separately. Transition -It was noted there is now a standard form for schools to complete for pupils transitioning from primary to secondary school. Last academic year 94% of forms were completed by the deadline by primary schools. The form accompanies the pupil to their secondary school. MMcD asked if there anyway the form could identify young carers, so this info goes with them to their secondary school.

### **3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)**

LSCP is currently being revamped. Future meetings are to be confirmed.

### **3.6 Other**

MM noted that St Margaret's C of E Academy have made a request for a LGF member to sit on a parental complaint panel. The panel meets 29.11.22 at 1:30, followed by a meeting with the parents at 2:00.

MM commented that it was important that secular and faith schools communicate. RL volunteered to attend the meeting.

DA – asked for guidance/training on sitting on panels. DC explained that governor experience would suffice as governors will gain additional experience whilst sitting on a panel and would not be expected to chair a meeting until they were confident.

MM advised that Judicium, A London based firm of lawyers are offering free video training on Appeals tomorrow. MM is to share information to those interested.

#### **4.0 Other Items:**

##### **4.1 Other**

CB asked if others had noted if there was an increase in parental complaints and suggested this could be discussed at a further meeting.

Next meeting to take place on 6 December 2022 at 10:00 at Belle Vale Primary School. The guest speaker will be Jonathon Nichols, Chief Executive of Rainbow Trust

The meeting concluded at 11:48

<b>Actions</b>	
NGA invoice to be investigated	DB
Media platforms to be investigated	HI/DA
Discussion on future conference under Item 2.3	All

## Annex A

Paul Olubayo gave a verbal overview of his role and responsibilities as the first Race Equality Officer appointed by Liverpool City Council and highlighted the following:

PO, the sole member of the team, has been in post since August 2022 and, although this is his first time working in the city, he appreciates the unique nature of Liverpool and intends to be guided by those working in the city. He is taking a holistic view to promote racial equality and diversity across the city finding collaborative solutions whilst working directly with schools, community groups and other relevant organisations.

PO has met with the majority of Liverpool Headteachers and feels all the meetings so far have been positive and he had identified a passion and energy for positive change within schools and he hopes to work collaboratively across the education sector including headteachers, workforce, governors etc. and to provide a strategic leadership.

He stated that the key to success is adoption and implementation of robust and transparent Race Equality Policies in every educational establishment. Policies that are not just a 'tick box' exercise. Policies must be up to date and relevant to the current landscape and legislation. Parents, students, and staff must understand where the school stands on the issue of race equality, the process of reporting concerns etc. To achieve this aim PO wants to work with governors and the senior leadership teams of schools to help inform their policies.

PO explained that it is his intention to develop a policy steering group with different leaders from across the city coming together to share best practices and what could work in specific environments. He also shared a long term plan for a mentoring scheme to be set up alongside the soon to be launched Centre of Educational Leadership at Liverpool John Moore's University to upskill members of the community to enable them to become governors and understand the requirements of the role. PO said that he hoped existing governors could become potential mentors in future.

PO welcomed questions. MM asked how a Race Equality Policy would link in with, or differ from, a schools existing Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion Policy.

PO replied that it would provide depth and specific clarification on steps to ensure all understand the procedures and the school's commitment to promote racial equality in everyday practices. MM and PO agreed that a Race Equality Policy needed to be developed alongside the schools EDI Policy.

DA reiterated that a race equality policy must be embedded and supported by the whole school community and there must be a real desire for change. She felt it was important that the racial diversity of the school staff should represent the diversity of the school community. PO replied that it was his experience, in the short time that he had been in post, that headteachers had a real desire to make progress, and put in place actions that would have a positive impact on this issue within their school communities. He stated that the first steps were to put the base line in place i.e., policies which can then be followed by other initiatives to progress diversity and share best practice.

RL asked if PO would be providing training for school parents, pupils, and staff to educate them on this issue. PO replied that he was already working to identify the best trainers/resources to provide training however this was not something he would be providing personally as the time limitations of his role prevented it.

PO also shared that he was working to create a Race Equality Charter that schools could sign up to. This would provide steps that the school would have to implement, long term and short term goals to progress the school's development on this issue. PO stated that he will be working with SLT's to allow them to feed into this so they will have ownership of the charter and therefore be committed to its success.

DA explained that she runs a community organisation that, working with the police, is running a pilot scheme for year 5/6 pupils to teach them that hate crime is not acceptable. DA offered to share her experience and contacts with PO.

DC commented that it was important that as governors approve the school's policies they must also monitor the impact and relevance of policies.

HL highlighted that it was important that a school's governing board should be representative of the community's diversity. HL offered to link PO with business who have Black Leadership programmes in place.

MM thanked PO for his presentation and expressed a wish that there had been more time to explore the issue of how to attract more people to act as governors in general and specifically governors from a more diverse group.

PO asked the meeting what support governors would like from him as Liverpool's first Race Equality Officer agreeing that there was scope for a further meeting to discuss governor recruitment.

DC stated that a city-wide approach to race equality would be provided by the Race Equality Charter Mark which would be a positive move.

PO encouraged governors to contact him by email if they had any queries or suggestions regarding the issue of race equality.

During the ensuing debate, comments were made that highlighted the importance of governors being aware of the correct terminology and language to use when referring to race and ethnicity. It was felt that outdated terms can create barriers to having open and honest conversations on these important matters.