

## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on 5.12.23 at  
Hope School, 251 Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool L25 2AR

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The meeting commenced at 10:05

**Guest Speaker:** Lisa Dorrity, LA Lead on Ethical Leadership. Please see Appendix A.

DB took this opportunity to share the news that Hope School had been awarded a Pearson National Teaching Gold Award for their work in delivering the Hearts Project. Members offered their congratulations on a tremendous achievement.

### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome and Apologies

**Present:** David Owens, David Blythe, Dave Cadwallader, Marlene Taylor,  
Joyce Smith, Michelle Haywood

**Apologies:** Maureen McDaid, Richard Lovegrove, Andy Chadwick, Haley Igbokwe,  
Danielle Azanuwha, Barbara Murray, Michael Morris, Avril O'Brien

In the absence of both MM and MMcD, DC took on the role of acting Chair for the meeting.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No changes to previous information were declared.

#### 1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website. PA thanked DB for completing the minutes of the AGM and committee meeting held on 7.11.23.

## **1.4 Matters Arising**

- \*DC – The Key Membership. DC reported he had emailed The Key who eventually replied and indicated that they were happy to support the LGF as they were supporting Liverpool school. DC has contacted them again to confirm that they are happy to provide the service free of charge.
- \*DC – To contact Lisa Dorrity. Actioned
- \*MM/DC - New Governor Induction Pack. DC confirmed the working party had met a second time to progress the pack. It is hoped to present the pack at the LGF meeting to be held in January 2024.
- \*DC - Instagram account. DC reported that he was advised that Instagram was a photo/video-based platform. It was agreed that this would be difficult for LGF to achieve regularly. It was suggested that in the future 1 or 2 suggestions for inclusion on the LGF X ( Twitter) account should be discussed at committee meetings for inclusion on the account by AO'B. See 2.5

## **2.0 LGF Matters and Events**

### **2.1 Finance**

DO was welcomed to the role of treasurer. He confirmed the LGF funds currently stand at £ 3,054.82 held in the HSBC account with a further £2,000 held in the new Lloyds account. DO confirmed that once the last outstanding cheque for £82 has been reconciled the funds will be transferred to the Lloyds account and the HSBC account will be closed.

DC asked if a list of schools that do not subscribe to LGF was available. DB is to forward the list to DC.

### **2.2 Feedback from Events**

AGM was held on 7.11.23.

It was agreed to discuss topics for future conferences at the next LGF meeting. There have been no events since the last LGF meeting held on 7.11.23. Ethical Leadership was suggested as a possible topic.

### **2.3 Future Events**

The next LGF committee meeting is to be held at Kensington Primary School, Brae Street, Liverpool L7 2QG at 10:00 on Tuesday 30 January 2024.

Suggestions were invited for future venues for LGF meetings. Michelle Haywood (MH) undertook to contact King David School to see if they could offer a venue for the meeting to be held in March 2024.

DO said that Moss Pits School may be able to offer a venue but the start of the meeting would need to be delayed to a 10:15 start.

A discussion took place regarding the date and time of future AGM meetings to allow them to be synchronised with other organisations. It was suggested the earliest time the AGM could be held was September to allow reports on the full previous academic year to be made at the meeting.

## **2.4 Website**

DB confirmed the LGF website was up to date.

## **2.5 X - Twitter Account**

Suggestions for inclusion on the X (Twitter) account were discussed and the following were decided upon:

1. We had a very interesting speaker – Lisa Dorrity who spoke on Ethical Leadership – (hyperlink to be included).
2. At the next LGF meeting a New Governor Induction Pack will be discussed.

PA is to contact AO'B and request the above be added to the LGF's X account.

## **2.6 Others**

Not applicable

## **3.0 Feedback from Representatives**

### **3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum**

DO was unable to attend the last LSF meeting. MH reported that the finance training was useful.

### **3.2 LLP Executive Board**

There have been no meetings since the last LGF meeting.

### **3.3 LLP All Learners**

There have been no meetings since the last LGF meeting.

### 3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

There have been no meetings since the last LGF meeting.

### 3.5 Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership (LSCP)

There have been no meetings since the last LGF meeting.

### 3.6 Other

Reference to Ethical Leadership is to be added to this heading for future agendas.

It was noted the current time and date of LGF meetings may not be the most convenient time to allow more governors to attend. This is to be discussed at a future meeting.

Venues are to be sought for future meetings, especially in the north of the city.

### 4.0 Other Items:

Not applicable

### Time and Date of the Next Meeting

Tuesday 30 January, 10:00 at Kensington Primary School, Brae St, Liverpool L17 2QG

The meeting concluded at 11:30

<b>Actions</b>	
Meeting with Jo McCarthy for MM & MMcD to be confirmed.	MMcD
DC is to be provided with a list of schools that do not subscribe to LFG	DB
AO'B is to be sent X (formally Twitter) suggestions	PA

## Appendix 1

**Guest Speaker:** Lisa Dorrity, LA Lead on Early Years and Ethical Leadership.

Lisa Dorrity was introduced and welcomed by DC who explained she was the LA Lead on Early Years and Ethical Leadership.

A document, produced by SIL on behalf of LCC, on Celebrating Ethical Leadership Across Liverpool was distributed. *(NB: Please note there is a link to the document on the SIL website.)*

LD explained that she had become involved with developing Ethical Leadership in schools across the city as a result of Priority 4 of the Educational Improvement Plan - recruitment and retention of teaching staff.

LD said initially a working party was set up after Covid, made up of representatives of all educational sectors. Their purpose was to discuss the language and approach used when providing support for staff and headteachers whilst always keeping the needs of pupils and parents paramount.

LD said the working party was conscious that they did not want to add to the workload of school staff in implementing the embedding of the principles behind Ethical Leadership. Rather, they wanted a simple Liverpool Pledge that could be applied across the city by using the framework detailed in the document above.

The document (Celebrating Ethical Leadership Across Liverpool) provides scenarios that can be applied to situations that may arise in schools and provides a guide on how these and similar scenarios should be approached and dealt with, including the language to be used. It was designed to support Headteachers in dealing with difficult situations that may arise with the benefit of ultimately reducing the stress surrounding difficult decisions.

LD said that Phase 2 involved inviting governors to be part of the process which was an area previously overlooked. She said she wanted to work with governors to upskill them in the use of the principles of Ethical Leadership, use of appropriate language, etc. to better allow them to deal with difficult situations/conversations they may have to deal with in their capacity as a school governor.

LD said she hoped to arrange a pilot group of schools to progress this initiative, which will include governors. It was noted that funding for this project expires in March 2024 so any meetings will have to be arranged quickly. DC confirmed that LGF would be happy to provide governor representatives to attend pilot group meetings.

It was suggested that governors may benefit from some Health and Wellbeing Training undertaken by SIL. This is to be investigated.

MH asked if the Celebrating Ethical Leadership Across Liverpool document had been distributed to schools. LD confirmed that an electronic version had been sent to all schools and appropriate organisations. The paper version provided to LGF members was produced following requests from schools. It was noted that links to organisations that governors/schools may find useful are included on the back page of the document.

A short discussion took place regarding the support governors need to better carry out their role. DC commented that LD's presentation provided a catalyst to begin thinking of what is currently available for governors to support themselves and each other during what can be a stressful role and if that support is equitable across the city. MH highlighted the support/services provided by DC in his SIL capacity which she found invaluable.

LD highlighted that SIL is currently producing a series of 'spotlights' on roles that are difficult to recruit, including governors. A link to the series will be circulated asap.

LD was thanked for her interesting and informative presentation.