



LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Committee Meeting: Tuesday 2 December 2025 at 10:00 am

Venue: Springwood Heath Primary School, Danefield Rd, Liverpool L19 4TL

The meeting commenced 10:10.

Speaker: Dave Cadwallader, SIL Lead and LGF Committee member gave a brief overview of the new arrangements for Ofsted inspections. See Annex 1.

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome, Apologies:

Present: Michael Morris (via Zoom), David Blythe, Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens, Michelle Hayward, Maureen McDaid, Richard Lovegrove, Joyce Smith, Marlene Taylor,

Apologies: Barbara Murray, Peter Devaney, Andy Chadwick, Avril O'Brian, Sharon Pearson.

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 held on 21 October 2025 had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the previous meeting.

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DO confirmed the LGF bank account balance currently stands at £8565.75.

Currently the only expected expenditure is the room hire fee for today's meeting and the monthly account fee.

2.2 Feedback from events (conferences, AGM, etc.)

There have been no events since the last LGF meeting.

2.3 Future events (Meetings, Venues, Conferences, AGM, topics for Governors Digest, Speakers for Committee meetings, etc.)

LGF Conference

The date for the next LGF Conference was confirmed as 14 March 2026. The subject for the conference is still to be confirmed.

The following suggestions for speakers at the conference were put forward:

- YPAS (Young Person's Advisory Service) could be invited to address the conference to outline their services.
- A headteacher to address the conference on the subject of staff welfare.
DC is to suggest an appropriate headteacher. It was noted that governors have a responsibility to ensure the wellbeing of all staff is addressed by ensuring appropriate policies and procedures are in place and adhered to.
- Martin King from DFEE was suggested to speak on the support DFEE can offer schools undergoing the new Ofsted Inspection process. GJ volunteered to contact Mr King if required. It was noted that in future DC will be delivering training on the new Ofsted Inspection as part of his role as SIL Lead, but it will not include information on post inspection process/support.
- Changes in the role/responsibilities of SIL and how this effects the service offered to schools

It was agreed that MM, MMcD, DB and DC should meet at St Margaret's C of E Academy on 21 January 2026 at 10:00 to decide on the topic(s) for the forthcoming conference. All committee members are invited to attend the meeting.

Venues for future LGF Committee Meetings

- 10 February 2026: St Margaret's Academy, Aigburth Road, L17 6AB
- 5 May 2026: Corinthian Community Primary School, Inigo Road, L13 6SH
- 30 June 2026: Venue to be confirmed.
- 14 March 2026: Spring Conference. Hope School Hope School is to be approached regarding holding the conference at their venue.

2.4 Website

DB reported that the website is up to date.

2.5 Other (matters for raising)

Concern was expressed regarding the recent fast turnover of high level LCC Officers. A letter regarding this concern is to be sent to Andrew Lewis, Chief Executive of LCC as there is genuine concern that, ultimately pupils are being affected detrimentally. The letter is to be drafted by MMcD to be forwarded to and sent by MM. Concern re children suffering.

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool School's Forum

Feedback from the Subgroup meeting held on 26 November 2026 was provided by GJ who Highlighted the following:

- Pension contribution is to be reduced by 20%.
- Funding for CAHMS is to be reduced.

- Costs for PFI for schools is to be raised. A review of the programme thus far has been requested.
- Trade Union funding is to be pooled as previously primary schools were subsidised by the secondary sector for this service. A review has been requested.
- A request for a further 5% increase for SEND had been made but no decision was made as there was insufficient information provided.
- Legal Services – schools can receive 15 hours free legal advice. It was noted that short telephone conversations will not be deducted from the 15-hour total.

GJ stated that a review of the Terms of reference for LSF is to take place.

MMcD asked for clarification regarding the shortfall in funding. GJ replied that Andrew Buck has provided a document detailing the number of schools that carry an ‘in year’ deficit. It was noted that this, and the potential increase in SEND funding will have a detrimental effect on the amount of funding schools will receive.

It was noted that the expertise of GJ is much appreciated by his LGF colleagues. The next Schools Forum meeting is to take place on 21/1/26.

3.2 LLP

There has been no meeting since the last LGF meeting.

3.3 LSCP (Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership)

LSCP Board met on 3/11/25 where concerns were raised regarding the effectiveness/ purpose of the Board. A meeting to discuss this issue is to be arranged. It was noted that LSCP is a statutory requirement and is comprised of representatives from SEND, LCC, Health Services, Social Care etc.

3.4 Other (other committees, matters for raising etc)

It was confirmed that LGF is to support another school in an appeal hearing to take place on Tuesday 16:12:25 at 4pm. The meeting is to take place at Toxteth Annex (to be confirmed) and will be attended by RL, GJ and MM.

MMcD thanked members for attending today’s meeting and wished all very Happy Christmas. MM thanked DC for his IT expertise and MMcD for chairing the meeting.

Dates and Times of Future Meetings:

- 10 February 2026: St Margaret’s Academy, Aigburth Road, L17 6AB.
- 5 May 2026: Corinthian Community Primary School, Inigo Road, L13 6SH.
- 30 June 2026: Venue to be confirmed.
- 14 March 2026: Provisional date for the Spring LGF Conference.

The meeting concluded at 11:40.

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING	
Letter to Andrew Lewis re LGF concerns to be drafted, approved and sent	MMcD/MM

Annex 1

D Cadwallader delivered a short presentation on the subject of New Arrangements for Ofsted inspections. The power point presentation is to be shared with committee members.

DC took the members through the presentation which explained the changes which came into effect on 1.12.25. He explained that Ofsted had consulted with school regarding the new changes during the period March to May 2025. This was called The Big Listen. Details of the changes were released in September 2025.

The aim of the new inspection process is to give parents more information and ultimately will be fairer for professionals and raise standards for pupils.

Pilot inspections were held at schools that had volunteered to be inspected during the period September to November 2025. A total of 115 pilot inspections took place.

DC highlighted the main changes which included the following:

- Ofsted Inspectors will start inspections with the expectation that standards are already being met.
- Report Cards will replace the old Report. A computerised Report Card will offer an 'at a glance' record of the judgement and can be downloaded. The download includes a link to Parent View and is 'mobile friendly'. More information on each inspection area can be found by using the 'drop down' menus.
- New inspection areas include Leadership and Governance (under one heading) and Inclusion. It was noted that although Governance will form part of the inspection information may not appear on the final report card.
- There is a 5-point judgement. Exceptional, Strong Standard, Expected Standard, Needs Attention, Urgent Improvement.
- If an area is judged as 'Needs Attention' it will be subject to monitoring. Only this area(s) will be reinspected.
- Safeguarding will be judged as Met or Not Met.
- Progress rather than Achievement will be inspected.
- 'Deep dives' are replaced by case sampling.
- The context of the school is to be taken into consideration and will be ascertained from the pre inspection conversation with the Headteacher and by examination of the school's website.
- To achieve an acceptable outcome on the final Report Cards a school must meet all expected standards. Descriptors for each area are published on the Ofsted website.
- Inspections will be carried out by HMI's. It was noted that there are insufficient numbers of HMI's to carry out the inspections at present.
- There will be an additional inspector on the first day of the inspection.
- Schools can, if it wishes, appoint a nominee to act as liaison between the inspectors and the school.
- Post inspection monitoring is designed to result in quicker actions.
- Governors are expected to be knowledgeable about school, provide challenge, hold leaders to account for staff CPD and support for SEND pupils etc.

MMcD invited questions or comments. CD noted that Ofsted has a clear view of the expectations for governors. It was noted that governing boards in MATs may have different responsibilities than maintained schools.

DC was thanked for his informative presentation.