



**Minutes of the KGA County Assembly Meeting
Monday 9 July 2018 at 19.00 hours
Oakwood House
Oakwood Park
Maidstone
Kent
ME16 8AE**

Welcome and Chairman's Report

The Chair, Janice Brooke had unfortunately been suffering with ill health in recent months and was therefore unable to attend the meeting. Jack Keeler, the immediate past chair of the KGA therefore welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked new governors for attending the meeting. He apologised for the change of the meeting date as this had been necessary to ensure Matt Dunkley the new Corporate Director, was able to attend. Governors were also advised that a hard copy of the 'Being Strategic – Guide for Governing Bodies' was available for them to take away with them. The document which was produced by the National Governors Association (NGA) was also available online for Governors not in attendance.

Governors were asked to complete their online feedback forms after the meeting and suggestions for forthcoming meetings and training.

Lastly, Governors were also reminded to sign the attendance register which was by the door at the entrance to the room.

- **Matt Dunkley – Corporate Director for Children, Young People and Education**
Matt introduced himself to Governors and gave them a useful insight of his 35 years of varied professional Educational experience.
- **The Current Context**
 - Whole integration of the CYPE Directorate through a change programme
 - Two new Directors of Integrated Services managing Social Care and Early Help Services across a geographical area of Kent: Sarah Hammond and Stuart Collins
 - Development of CYPE Vision for the new Directorate going forward
 - Development of a Child Poverty Strategy for Kent due to increased patterns of Child Poverty in schools and comparing how Kent performs against 11 other nearest statistical neighbours. Governors were invited to give feedback to the consultation along with HTs and staff
 - A continual growing demand for statutory services which needs to be managed effectively. Staff and services being restructured and integrating services to a new model that will be far more effective

- “The Education People” to be launched on 1 September to deliver services to schools through a new vehicle. Richard Hallett Director of Organisation & Business Development would speak in more detail later during the meeting.
- **CYPE Vision: The Emerging Priorities for 2019-2020**
 - Looking at our relationship with the most underperforming schools, by wrapping services around the needs of vulnerable pupils and their families
 - Reconfiguring and improving our support to children with SEND, by improving support in mainstream schools, making practitioners more confident and inclusive and ensuring we have the right SEND provision within Kent
 - To improve the mental health and resilience of children and young people by ensuring that the newly commissioned CAMHS delivers timely and appropriate support
 - Focusing on providing more pathways for disaffected and vulnerable children at KS4 and beyond (aged 14 plus)
 - Increasing work with families so they are more engaged, resilient and ambitious for their children, and support meets their needs in a personalised way
 - Expanding our Care Leaver package so that young people, receive timely and appropriate support in their transition to independent adulthood
- **Developing a Child Poverty Strategy**
 - It will highlight the challenges both nationally and locally
 - It will describe our vision, approach and priorities
 - Five key priority areas:
 - Maximising house hold income
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles through access to good nutrition and appropriate primary care
 - Breaking the cycle of poverty and encouraging social mobility
 - Supporting schools, early years and childcare setting to focus on ‘poverty proofing education’
 - Supporting housing initiatives
- **School Standards Overview**
 - The proportion of Schools and Early Years settings in Kent with an Ofsted judgement of good or better has continued to improve
 - 92% of Kent schools have an Ofsted judgement of good or better, compared with 89% nationally.
 - 203,402 pupils (92.7%) now attend a good or outstanding school in Kent.
- **Primary KS2 against National**
 - Kent’s combined attainment has been above national for the last two years.
 - Progress scores have also been above those found nationally, apart from mathematics in 2017
- **Kent KS2 vulnerable group achievement**
 - Compared with our statistical neighbours, vulnerable groups are achieving well.
 - There was a slight narrowing of the achievement gap for disadvantaged pupils in 2017
 - The achievement gap widened for SEN pupils in 2017, both at SEN support and with an EHCP/statement
- **Secondary – KS4 outcomes against national**
 - KS4 gets more complicated. At Key Stage 4, Kent has maintained standards in line with the national average but fallen below in progress measures

- **Secondary – KS4 Disadvantaged group achievement and Gap against Statistical Neighbour (2017)**
 - More disappointing for KS4 disadvantaged group. Poor progress for these groups
 - Contrast between KS2 and KS4 is stark and interesting

- **Priorities Moving Forward**
 - Reduce the differences in outcomes for our disadvantaged pupils, particularly at KS4.
 - Continue to increase the number of good and outstanding schools
 - In partnership with schools and KAH, develop an effective system of school to school support
 - Ensure prompt solutions are found for under-performing schools
 - Continue to improve outcomes in mathematics
 - Develop the role of The Education People in supporting improvement in schools in Kent.

- **Emerging Priorities Moving Forward**
 - Spotlight on disadvantage: the governing boards role in spending, monitoring and evaluating the pupil premium.
<https://www.nga.org.uk/Guidance/Research/Spotlight-on-disadvantage.aspx>
 - Being Strategic: a guide for governing boards
<https://www.nga.org.uk/BeingStrategic>
 - Supporting disadvantage children

- **Table Discussion Feedback - How can Governors work with their school's SLT to address and drive down the gaps for the most disadvantaged pupils?**
 - Maths data levels looking at position in coastal positions compared to rest of Kent
 - Lessons need to be learned from Primary Sector to Secondary Sector
 - Dramatic drop off in High Needs funding at Secondary level. Where are the other local Las being compared to Kent in comparison
 - What do Secondary schools do for transition in Year 7
 - More small primary schools so 1 or 2 individuals account for a larger percentage at schools who don't get the funding for them
 - Upgrading to higher teaching system
 - Are Governors at Secondary schools monitoring the data and how the Pupil Premium funding is being spent
 - Primary schools need to equip children to be resilient
 - Not many secondary school governors attend training sessions
 - A lot of secondary schools are good at getting transition right
 - Some of the problems are due to increased mental health issues
 - Secondary school teachers should visit primary schools to observe the teaching
 - One example was that a secondary school had introduced a 'grammar stream' to push aspirations
 - Downside is that secondary schools ignore feedback from primary schools and undertake their own CAT testing
 - Some secondary schools already visit primary schools and observe teaching
 - Secondary school staff visit Year 6 children who will be transferring to secondary school under transition
 - Agreed need to address pathways at KS4 but don't want to go back to the grammar versus secondary split
 - Pupil Voice needs developing

Richard Hallett, Director of Organisation & Business Development to The Education People Spotlight on disadvantage: the governing boards role in spending, monitoring and evaluating the pupil premium

- **Things to know about the new Company**
 - Decision made by KCC Cabinet in March 2017 to establish an Education Services Company called The Education People
 - Wholly owned by KCC
 - Local Authority Trading Company (LATCo)
Limited by Guarantee so surplus is reinvested into the services it provides
Company board has representatives from our stakeholders as well as independent resource to support the company's activities. Richard told the assembly that Jack Keeler who sits on the Interim board had made representation that Governors be represented on the main board. This is still being considered.
 - Launch 1st September
- **Key reasons for new Company**
 - To secure for the longer term the ability to provide the highest quality services that we can to children, young people and families in Kent
 - To ensure that schools and other settings will continue to be well-supported by and work closely with their local authority to deliver the best possible outcomes
 - To realise the additional opportunities for growth in traded Education Services to better support the delivery of high-quality statutory services.
- **Company Values**
 - Moral Purpose
 - Excellence
 - People First
 - Spirit of Innovation
 - Stronger Together
 - Integrity
- **Services**
 - The Education People will continue to deliver services on behalf of KCC as well as delivering strategic traded packages.

Our new website will also provide you with information and the means to access all KCC services. www.theeducationpeople.org

- **Question and Answer Session**
 - Governors said that training should be much more Governor focussed. There is always a lot of good information but not pitched at Governors.
 - Governors were asked to provide feedback about what they would like to see in future training sessions to the link that would be provided for feedback
 - Governors suggested that training should be face to face
 - Governors also requested that e-learning and webinars should be used for Governors who had work commitments or family commitments
 - Richard Hallett suggested that he would attend Governor training sessions
 - Governors asked why they were now being charged to attend KGA Briefings. Suzanne said that this was due to their school not paying into the SLA. If schools subscribe to the SLA then they don't have to pay to attend the KGA or training
 - Governors asked if there could be some Academy specific Governor training
 - Governors were reminded by Richard that prices had been held at zero last year due to the new Company being set up. Governors should be aware that this year the prices would therefore increase for the SLA.

- Governors asked how the KELSI and Kent CPD online websites would work. Richard Hallett said that Governors should be able to access them both through the new Education People website once registered.
- A Governor asked if more training closer to Thanet could be organised as the locations were normally too far away
- Governors asked for additional New Governor Induction training. Suzanne said that as soon as a waiting list was created additional Induction training would be organised to cope with demand
- Governors asked that the system for signing up for training should be as simple as possible

The Chair advised that all slides from the briefing would be placed onto the Education People website for Governors to access.

The briefing closed at 21.05 pm.