

Governance Monthly Bulletin- May 2018

For All Governors, Clerks & School Leaders



Welcome to the May Monthly Bulletin. Our bulletin has been produced with the aim of keeping governors, clerks and school leaders informed of the latest educational developments as they happen. The most effective way of using this briefing is to have it as an agenda item as part of your Governing Board and Committee meetings.

[Update to the Exemplar Child Protection Policy by the Safeguarding Team \(March 18\)](#) – please note that this has now been amended with the following wording which is applicable to Governors:

http://www.kelsi.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0020/66008/Child-Protection-Exemplar-Policy-for-schools.pdf

“The Governing Body will ensure that the Head Teacher and other senior staff responsible for recruitment complete accredited Safer Recruitment Training in line with government requirements. Best practice would also suggest that at least one member of the Governing Body would also complete Safer Recruitment Training to ensure a trained panel member is available for Headteacher recruitment.”

To access NSPCC online safer recruitment training which costs £30 per Governor for a 4 hour course please [click here](#). **Have you got someone on the GB who has undertaken training in case of HT recruitment?**

[DfE Future Talent Fund - New £23 million fund to support the brightest pupils from disadvantaged backgrounds](#)

Last Friday, the Department for Education (DfE) announced [further details about its “future talent fund”](#).

The fund is intended to test new strategies for helping the most talented disadvantaged pupils maintain their high performance. It is a response to the significant disparity in outcomes between the most able students at the end of key stage two who are entitled to free school meals, and those who are not.

In the autumn, applications for the funding itself will open. State-funded schools, multi-academy trusts, independent schools, universities, charities and research organisations will all be eligible, although the projects themselves must be delivered in non-selective, state-funded secondary schools.

This is the latest addition in a series of schemes announced by the DfE intended to support disadvantaged pupils and raise standards, with this particular scheme looking to “encourage evidence-led interventions, including those that could be funded by schools using their Pupil Premium funding. **Has your board evaluated their PP spend?**

[Inspiring Governance’s new campaign encourages employers to support school governance](#)

Having the right people around the table is one of the eight elements of effective governance. To get volunteers that bring a wide range of valuable professional skills and experience interested in becoming a governor/ trustee, Inspiring Governance has launched a new campaign asking employers to support their staff to govern in schools.

Many serving governors/ trustees say that having support from their employer to govern, including time off work, is really valuable in helping with the demands of school governance. This campaign seeks to educate employers about the benefits to them, their staff and young people of supporting school governance. By working with employers to get their staff involved in governance, and setting up governance schemes to support them, we aim to advance the recognition of these benefits and increase consideration for both existing and new volunteers from employers.

As part of the campaign, please watch [this short film](#) with employers to highlight the benefits to organisations of getting involved in school governance and explaining why schools need to recruit skilled volunteers. If you, your employer or someone in your network would be interested in encouraging and supporting people to volunteer, we would appreciate it if you would share this information with them to start a relationship that benefits schools, business and the local community. Governor Services at KCC are working in partnership with Inspiring Governance so please support this and together we can hopefully improve our vacancies across the county. **Have you as a Board looked at the Inspiring Governance platform - <https://www.inspiringgovernance.org/>**

[Share your governance experiences of engaging with parents](#)

Engaging with stakeholders – including parents – is vital part of governance. Governing boards have a responsibility to engage with and respond to their local community. NGA is looking to change the wording in the Governance Handbook to reflect this. In partnership with Parentkind, the NGA have updated their guidance for governing boards on parental engagement and would really value your input. You can do this by emailing kirstie.ebbs@nga.org.uk to share your experiences. The updated guidance will be launched at the NGA’s summer conference on 9 June, which will include a workshop on parental engagement. **When was the last time your Board carried out a parent questionnaire, and what have you done since the last one?**

[Data Protection Toolkit for Schools](#)

This week, the Department for Education (DfE) released a [data protection toolkit](#) for schools. The new toolkit has been developed to support and guide schools in their efforts to prepare for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which comes into force next month. The toolkit provides guidance to both senior leader and those governing. The guidance particularly focuses on providing assistance with developing adequate data protection policies and procedures, as well as processes for managing information and other data related activities. **Have your Governors all got a school based email account?**

[Department for Transport consultation on community transport](#)

The Department for Transport are currently [consulting](#) on changes to the use of permits for community transport operators. The changes will amend legislation and guidance about who can operate public service vehicles without a commercial operator’s licence. Currently organisations can obtain a not-for-profit licence whereas the proposed changes will mean that they will need to obtain a commercial operator’s licence which will bring with it increased costs. As some Community Transport organisations also

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provide school transport for pupils with SEND, an increase in their costs may result in higher costs for the schools they currently service. Governing boards may therefore want to make their Headteacher and School Business Manager aware of the potential changes. ***Is this on your next Agenda?***

School Budgets

On 9th May, the DfE released a School resource management Toolkit – Top 10 planning checks for Governors. Please see here: https://www.gov.uk/guidance/school-resource-management-top-10-planning-checks-for-governors?utm_source=c5764b11-7008-4963-9a6f-be23d23da7d2&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=immediate

Is this on your Finance Committee Agenda so that governors can explore these questions to help schools manage their resources and money efficiently?

The Professional Clerk

The new development programme for Clerks of all school and academy governance boards has been launched and is being delivered in Kent. The course attracts DfE support funding which for eligible schools & clerks, could see a cost reduction from the full price of £400 to £50. Please be aware that for both of the currently advertised courses (Canterbury & Gravesend), places and support funding are limited; we would suggest booking a place as soon as you are able.

Course content, dates, time, venues, support funding and booking information can be found at

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/educationandlearning/governors/services/professionalclerk> ***Is this part of your Clerk's Performance Management?***

Website – your shop window to the world (5a - Compliance)

Following the successful launch of this new session, Governor services are looking for schools that can host the next session in a computer suite. It will need to be suitable to seat up to 20 governors on adult size chairs, be willing to host in the evening and have sufficient parking for attendees. The facilitated session involves completing a website audit on your school and checking governor information on GIAS. Governors will then review and feedback on another school as if they are a potential parent looking to send their child to the school.

Below are some of the comments received following the trial session: *Interactive- doing a practical activity rather than just sitting and listening. Lots of networking and open discussions between schools. Having the dedicated time to look at schools website and ask relevant questions School website reviewed by somebody unconnected to school was very helpful.*

We are hoping to arrange a date in the next academic year in North/West and South/East. Please contact the CPD team at kentcpdonline@kent.gov.uk if you are willing to host a session in your area. ***When did you last check your***

Website?

NGA Governance Survey – closes 11th June

The survey is open to all governors, trustees, and academy committee members of state-funded schools in England, so please forward this email to others on your governing board. Clerks, please pass the word onto your contacts.

Findings from the survey are invaluable to NGA's work lobbying the government on key governance issues such as the current funding crisis. They're also used to inform our guidance, advice, and training to support great school governance. To find out more about the impact of last year's survey, [click here!](#) A full report of the findings is also available [here](#). Thank you for adding your voice to that of thousands of governors and trustees across the country.

GDPR update from Matt Dunkley, Corporate Director

Please see the latest e-bulletin on KELSIs regarding important updates on GDPR <http://www.kelsi.org.uk/news-and-events/directors-update/11-may-2018-weekly-update>

School funding: have your say

School funding has once again been in the news this week, with a survey of 1,500 headteachers finding that 80% had to cut numbers of teaching assistants and support staff while 60% had removed teaching posts due to financial pressures. The NGA and Tes' annual school governance survey includes a section of questions on finances. The responses will be a crucial source of intelligence as we campaign for more funding for the core schools budget: click here

<http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/NGATesSurvey2018> to take the survey (open until Monday 11 June).

New duty on asbestos reporting

Governing boards and trusts must ensure that their schools complete an Asbestos Management Assurance Process by 31 May, and must guarantee that the school or trust complies with legislation on asbestos management. Guidance on the process is available from the DfE, including how to submit the assurance to the portal provided,

www.gov.uk/government/publications/asbestos-management-assurance-process-amap-user-guide.

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