

THE BURY GOVERNOR

The Joint LA, BGA and BGD Governors' Newsletter
Spring Term 2017

Message from the BGA Chair

At the time of writing this we're in the final couple of weeks before the Christmas term, and I'm sure thoughts are more about end of term parties, nativities and what presents we've forgotten, but the governance landscape is still moving at a rapid pace.

At our recent Autumn BGA meeting, we were pleased to reintroduce **Klare Rufo** (Assistant Director - Learning and Culture Children) who presented for the first part of the evening on the proposed LA's continued support for schools after the removal of School Improvement Partners later this year. This **System Leadership** model is presented in better detail through Klare's presentation on the BGA website (in the News section), but in essence is whole borough cluster support with a **Strategic Board** representing all stakeholders. The board has already met, but this is a 2-way process in which we will maintain everyone's involvement through our BGA meetings; so we can feedback to the system - please make sure someone attends from your school.

After the presentation, we had a brief floor discussion about what governors thought of the System Leadership model, and were heartened that generally there was majority support for what Klare was proposing. Let's see how it fleshes out in action - but the BGA will disseminate as much information as possible to governors to help them make informed decisions.

Although the immediate threat of academisation by 2022 has been removed, there is still Government appetite to ensure all schools will be academies, just the end date has been removed. The reasons to be an academy must be well thought through, and it is essential that all stakeholders are consulted. Again, the BGA meetings are open forums for questions amongst ourselves, and a great place to find out more about what could be the biggest of steps forward for our schools.

There followed our AGM, and I'm pleased to say that numbers at our meetings are slowly increasing, indeed one attendee commented that he was pleasantly surprised on the content of the evening and will be returning, or ensuring his school has representation at these termly meetings. Remember, it is *your* association, so the more that get involved, hopefully the better it gets!

Members of the executive attended the NGA Annual Conference in Manchester last month, and key note speaker Sir David Carter (NSC) echoed Klare Rufo that System Leadership is a key tool in delivering a world class education.

Finally, we've organised a joint **Spring Conference** with Bury Governance Development, we have **Sir John Jones** at the recently refurbished facility at Bury FC, put **25th March, 2017** in your diaries. He is inspirational in his delivery on improving the education of our pupils through the creativity of leadership. I'm

going to put my neck out there and say this is going to be a great day – don't miss it and book early! Can be booked through the BGD website soon, or ring the DTC direct : 0161 253 6934, alternatively email Elma on elmahoyle247@yahoo.co.uk to confirm your place.

The next BGA meeting will be :

2nd March, 2017
7 - 9 pm Peel Room, Town Hall

Season's Greeting and see you soon?

Richard Ainsworth
Chair, Bury Governor Association

Dates for your Diary

Chairs of Governors' Briefings:	10/01/17	19/04/17	12/09/17	6:45pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governors' Association meetings:	02/03/17	15/06/17	14/11/17	7:00 pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governor Development Group—board meetings:	14/03/17	13/06/17		12:30pm DTC Seedfield

Bury Governor Development Group
Chair—Mark Granby
mark@thegrانبys.co.uk

An Update from the Bury Governor Development Board

Happy New Year to everyone involved in school governance in Bury from the Bury Governance Development Board. As we reflect on the Autumn Term and the hustle and bustle of nativity plays and carol concerts I hope we can all share a resolution to become more effective in our key role as governors.

Last term saw the launch of the new Bury Governance Development website and we are really pleased with the functionality and feel of it. It can be found on www.burygd.co.uk and as well as giving the details of forthcoming courses and the facility to book places on-line it also provides a link to the Governor E-Learning (GEL) site. The Board renewed the contract for GEL as we felt it was important to provide governors with the opportunity to undertake development training on-line given that we know many of you a very busy and struggle to find time to attend the BGD courses. The GEL training is useful and gives learning resources and requires governors to take a knowledge check prior to receiving their certificate of course completion. I found the Safeguarding course as a useful way to get an overview of governors' roles in this key area of responsibility.

Many of you will be aware of Klare Rufo's work in developing the school-led system here in Bury. The Board are keen to support this work by flagging and developing system leaders in governance. Bury currently has two National Leaders of Governance (myself and Janet Butterworth –chair at Greenhill Primary) but governors can also access NLG support from regional cohort. Details of NLGs can be found via the DfE website. Janet is also working on developing a cohort of Local Leaders of Governance. These will be governors with a specific area of expertise who can support governors in other schools. If you are interested in this role, please contact Janet via her email (janetbutterworth@talk21.com). We are also looking for new governors to join the BGD Board. It is not a huge commitment, usually one meeting per term. More details, including the terms of reference, can be found on the BGD website in the 'about us' page.

2017 will see a growing number of Bury schools convert to become academies and the Board are keen to ensure that governors can access training to prepare them for the changes that lie ahead. We arranged a number of courses on Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs) that were delivered by Mark Blois (an NLG and a specialist in education law) and these were well attended and well received. We will look to put on more sessions with different trainers over the coming months.

We also anticipate the release of the revised Governance Handbook early in the Spring Term, this will give more information about the roles of members and trustees in MATs. The guidance will be accompanied by the release of a new competency framework for governance that has been developed under the leadership of Sir David Carter, the National Schools Commissioner. The

framework will be made up of 16 competencies underpinned by a foundation of principles and personal attributes and grouped according to six features of effective governance that will be set out in the Governance Handbook. The Board will ensure that the training and development we offer in Bury complements the competency framework. In September the DfE published a revised version of statutory guidance on the constitution of governing bodies in maintained schools. This document stresses the importance of governing bodies ensuring they possess the appropriate mix of skills and focus on their continuing training and development. We are very fortunate in Bury to have access to good quality training and I would urge colleagues to make use of the excellent facilities available.

With all the changes taking place around us it is sometimes easy to overlook our overarching priority – to provide the children of Bury the very best start in their lives through the receipt of world class education delivered by inspiring and outstanding teachers. The Board are therefore delighted that our annual conference will be a joint event with the Bury Governance Association and the guest speaker will be Sir John Jones who talks passionately about inspirational teaching. The conference is on Saturday 25th March at Bury Football Club and places can be reserved through the BGD website.

As ever, if there are specific areas that you feel you would like Bury Governance Development to provide a focus on, please contact Sandra Whalley at the DTC via educationtc@bury.gov.uk.

With best wishes for the Spring Term.

Mark Granby
Chair Bury Governance Development Board
mark@thegranbys.co.uk

For Training Courses

Please visit:

www.burygd.gov.uk

To book a course or for further information:

Email: educationdtdc@bury.gov.uk

Telephone: 0161 2536931

School Work Experience

Background

Work experience placements are permitted by law only for pupils during Key Stage 4 (in their last two years of compulsory education) and beyond. School work experience is not compulsory but it can be a valuable experience that many pupils enjoy, as well as giving them a real taste of the world of work, raise their confidence and maturity and, for some, help them in their career decision-making.

The law and regulations around school work experience have become confusing; schools and local authorities have been left with a less than clear picture about what their responsibilities are. Three years ago, driven by the lack of clarity and the situation exacerbated by incidents on work experience, Bury Council developed a policy which is a 'belt and braces' approach because attention to health and safety of the pupil is of such paramount importance particularly due to their inexperience of the workplace.

The responsibilities:

Host employer: learners on work experience placements with an employer are regarded in health and safety law as their employees. Placement providers (host employer) have the main responsibility for controlling the risks to the health and safety of the pupil.

School: the school where the learner is on roll (and thus the head teacher) retains a duty of care during the placement.

The Education employer: Education employers have duties under health and safety law both to their employees, such as teachers, and to others affected by their work activity, such as pupils. Source: The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974. The Local Authority is the employer for Maintained schools, Voluntary controlled, special schools and PLC.

For Foundation, Voluntary aided and Academy schools, the Governing body or trustees would be regarded as the employer and thus responsible.

Bury Council's policy for work experience

- A school should adhere to the standards as set out in Bury Council's Policy and Guidance for School Work Experience which sets out the responsibilities and good practice that we would expect a school to follow so that we can ensure the safety and well-being of pupils on work experience, plus that they get the most benefit from it.
- Any organisation that is health and safety checking placements will need to submit a portfolio of evidence to the Council which demonstrates how it meets the *Bury Standard for Work Experience Suppliers*.
- If a school chooses to conduct its own health and safety checks of placements, then it would need to meet the same standard as an external supplier and submit a portfolio of evidence.
- Currently there are two approved external suppliers: The Education Training Partnership and Bury Employment Support and Training (BEST).

The updated policy, guidance and associated documents can be accessed at <http://intranet/index.aspx?articleid=13146>

For further information contact:

Vilma O'Shea, 14-19 Transition Manager, Children, Young People and Culture,
Tel: 0161 253 5983; v.oshea@bury.gov.uk

Bury Governor Association

Chair—Richard Ainsworth
richard@fintek.co.uk

Keep Up To Date And Informed:

www.bury-governor.com

Governor Helpline

If you need help with governance issues, please contact the Governor Support Team either by phone or email on:

0161 253 5688 OR 0161 253 5617

Governors.Support@bury.gov.uk

Or visit our website:

www.bury.gov.uk/schoolgovernors

DATE	TITLE	TIMES	CODE	ACTIVITY LEADER
11/01/17	Governor and Governing Body Self-Evaluation	6.30pm - 9.00pm	GV01SP17	Geraldine Bradbury
12/01/17	National Induction Programme For Governors - Modules 1 & 2	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV10SP17	Dave Eccles
14/01/17	Preventing Extremism Workshop (VENUE: RIBBLE DRIVE PRIMARY)	9.00am - 12.00pm	GV13SP17	Tan Ahmed
17/01/17	The Leadership Development Programme for Governors & Chairs of Governors SESSION 2	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV14AU17	Edge Hill
19/01/17	National Induction Programme For Governors - Modules 3 & 4	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV11SP17	Dave Eccles
28/01/17	National Induction Programme Modules 1 to 4	9.00am - 4.00pm	GV12SP17	Dave Eccles
07/02/17	Developing Parental and Community Partnerships	7.00pm - 9.00pm	GV04SP17	Jim Holian
08/02/17	Effective Committees - Fit for the Modern Day	9.30am - 12.00pm	GV02SP17	Kate Lewis
08/02/17	Bullying in its various forms	6.30pm - 8.30pm	GV05SP17	Lesley Davidson
09/02/17	Conflict Resolution	9.00am - 12.00pm	HS02SP17	H&S Solutions
09/02/17	Substance Misuse and Safeguarding in Schools	1.00pm - 4.00pm	GV07SP17	Rhyse Cathcart
09/02/17	Child Sexual Exploitation Briefing Session	12.00pm - 1.00pm	GV08SP17	Rebecca Sutton
15/02/17	The Leadership Development Programme for Governors & Chairs of Governors SESSION 3	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV14AU17	Edge Hill
16/02/17	Safeguarding Training For Schools & Governors	9.00am - 12.45pm	CH01SP17A	Pauline Baker
01/03/17	Preparation for OfSTED	6.30pm - 9.00pm	GV06SP17	John Hesketh
07/03/17	School Websites - Best Practice	12.30pm - 3.00pm	GV09SP17	Kate Lewis
08/03/17	Succession Planning for Governing Bodies	12.30pm - 3.00pm	GV03SP17	Diane King
08/03/16	Health & Safety Core Competency for Governors - Do You Know What Your Health & Safety Responsibilities are as a Governing Body?	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV16SP16	Lorraine McCrory
08/03/17	Understanding Performance Related Pay	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV18SP17	John Hesketh
09/03/17	SEND Update for Governors	1.00pm - 3.00pm	GV15SP17	Lesley Harris
09/03/17	SEND Update for Governors	6.00pm - 8.00pm	GV15SP17A	Lesley Harris
16/03/17	Safeguarding Training For Schools & Governors	9.15am - 12.30pm	CH01SP17	Rachel Buckler
21/03/17	The Leadership Development Programme for Governors & Chairs of Governors SESSION 4	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV14AU17	Edge Hill
22/03/17	Supporting and Challenging the Headteacher	1.00pm - 3.00pm	GV14SP17	Jim Holian
22/03/17	Supporting and Challenging the Headteacher	7.00pm - 9.00pm	GV14SP17A	Jim Holian
23/03/17	Performance Management Training for Governors - Head Teacher PM and Whole School	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV17SP17	Dave Eccles & John Walsh
26/04/17	National Induction Programme For Governors - Modules 1 & 2	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV01SU17	Dave Eccles
03/05/17	National Induction Programme For Governors - Modules 3 & 4	6.00pm - 9.00pm	GV02SU17	Dave Eccles
20/05/17	National Induction Programme For Governors - Modules 1 to 4	9.00am - 4.00pm	GV03SU17	Dave Eccles
24/05/16	Safeguarding Training For Schools & Governors	9.00am - 12.45pm	CH02SU17	Pauline Baker