

THE BURY GOVERNOR

The Joint LA, BGA and BGD Governors' Newsletter
Summer Term 2018

Message from the BGA Chair Richard Ainsworth

Dear all,

It was only a few weeks ago that we had our Joint BGA/BGD Conference, following the SEND/SEMH focus since the Autumn term BGA meeting, **Karen Dalton** and **Chris Harrison** did a great joint presentation, which was subsequently sent to all governors as we felt it would be beneficial – not just to those who attended. It was a great morning, thank you again to those who came.

The main thing for me to take away from the conference was getting in early with any interventions and listening to the parents, as the solution may not be an expensive one. We have all heard there is a push for reduced exclusions in Bury, as the end result for the child is usually not a good one. There is never a *one size fits all*, and getting to fit a plan around the child is much better than trying to fit a child to a set of 'solutions' that have been 'used before'. Bury is actually very good at tailoring the EHC Plan where needed, and is a local exemplar helping other local authorities, so it's not all doom and gloom from the work after the Ofsted/CQC inspection last summer.

We all should know that governors

- Set the vision and ethos and strategic direction
 - Hold the school leaders to account for the education provided, and
 - Financial oversight
- for our school.

The NGA is pushing for a fourth core function to be added in the new DfE's Governance Handbook – diversity. It's not just enough for governors to be included from parents, staff and the community, these governors contribute as *individuals* and they don't *represent* their group, but they must act on behalf of the only stake holders not represented on the board – the **pupils**. This diversity creates a range of viewpoints, all in the best interests of the whole school community.

A discussion we can revisit another day, but very timely - as we're always on the lookout for new executive members.

As a reminder, the BGA Meeting that was postponed from 1st March due to the bad weather, has been rescheduled. Attending will be **Alan Beedie** (Bury Teaching School Alliance) speaking on the 3 strands of the **Strategic School Improvement Fund** Project, followed by **Claire Wedderman - Inspiring Governance** (Regional Manager, North).

If you don't regularly attend BGA events, this promises to be an information packed evening - please come along:

Wednesday, 16 May, 2018
7.00pm, Peel Room Town Hall

Message from the BGD Chair Mark Granby

The summer term is traditionally the term where governing boards spend time thinking about their effectiveness and their structure. There are a number of guidance documents available that will support boards as they reflect on their performance. The Department for Education released the 'competency framework for governance' last year to be considered with the Governance handbook, published at the same time. The All Party Parliamentary Group on Education, Governance and Leadership produced the document 'Twenty Questions – Key questions every governing board should ask itself' – published by the NGA. Both of these documents provide food for thought when we reflect on the impact we are having in our respective schools.

The Bury Governance Development Board is similarly reflecting on the impact our work is having on the system in Bury. We have had to manage a significant amount of change following the closure of the DTC and the loss of the staff who have traditionally supported the work we do on behalf of Bury governors. Our partnership with the Bury Primary Learning Collaborative (now the Bury Education and Support Training Trust) has enabled us to continue to deliver training for governors and after some understandable teething difficulties there is now a good programme on offer for governors and we have ensured that SEND training is available to allow governors to fulfil their key role in improving the service we provide to children with educational needs or disabilities in Bury schools. We soon hope to be in a position to be able to maintain records of governor training attendance that we can supply to schools.

Safeguarding is another key area of responsibility for governing boards and we are anticipating updated versions of Working Together to Safeguard Children and Keeping Children Safe in Education and we will ensure that our training offer reflects any changes in these key documents.

The NGA has also released two new guidance documents for governing boards. One is 'The right people around the table' giving guidance on recruiting and retaining governors and trustees; the other is 'Being Strategic: A guide for governing boards' providing updated advice on strategic planning. They have also been successful in securing funding to deliver leadership training for chairs, clerks and trust boards. Details of these new opportunities are available on the NGA website, but the indications are that the programmes should come at no or minimal cost to governing boards. At a time of considerable change in the education landscape it is more important than ever that we all focus on developing our leadership skills – especially our governing board chairs.

When you undertake your governor skills audits this should identify areas where you either need to recruit or undertake training to fill skill gaps. Please continue to let the Board know about any topics you would like us to commission training on – you can do this through recording them in the minutes of your governing board meetings or by sending a message to governor services.

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers

New statutory guidance about careers provision in schools was published in early January. The role and responsibilities of governors are set out in the guidance:

Paragraph 6: The governing body should provide clear advice and guidance to the head teacher on which he/she can base a strategy for careers education and guidance which meets the school's legal requirements, is developed in line with the Gatsby Benchmarks and informed by the requirements set out in this document. Every school should have a member of their governing body who takes a strategic interest in careers education and guidance and encourages employer engagement.

Paragraph 7: The governing body must make sure that arrangements are in place to allow a range of education and training providers to access all pupils in years 8-13 to inform them about approved technical education qualifications and apprenticeships, and that a policy statement setting out these arrangements is published. This should be part of a broader approach to ensuring that young people are aware of the full range of academic and technical routes available to them at each transition point.



Ofsted have updated their inspectors on the new guidance so that it will continue to be part of their inspection framework. This may be helpful to you.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/687607/School_inspection_update_-_edition_13.pdf

If you require any further advice on this matter, please contact Vilma O'Shea, 14-19 Transition Manager, v.oshea@bury.gov.uk

Bury Careers Event

The next central Bury Careers Event is to be held on **Wednesday 26 September** at Bury Town Hall. This follows on from the success of previous years when over 600 young people accompanied by their parents flooded into the event, eager to find out about the range of opportunities open to them after Year 11.

Parents of Years 10 and 11 children will receive letters nearer the time to invite them to attend, as direct mailing of parents seems to work well. Present at the event will be representatives from apprenticeship and traineeship providers, colleges, employers and universities, so covering all the potential pathways. For further information please contact Roger Pakeman, 14-19 Adviser, r.pakeman@bury.gov.uk

Dates for your Diary

Chairs of Governors' Briefings:	19/04/18 IS CANCELLED	11/09/18	10/01/19	6:45pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governors' Association meetings:	16/05/18	14/06/18	15/11/18	7:00 pm Peel Room Town Hall
BGA Meeting 16/05/18, speakers will be Alan Beedie (Strategic School Improvement Fund) and Claire Ledderman (Inspiring Governance)				
Bury Governor Development Group—board meetings:	16/05/18			12:30pm

Bury Governance Development Group

Chair—Mark Granby
mark@thegranbys.co.uk

For Training Courses

To book a course or for further information:

Email: training@bplc.org.uk

Telephone: 0161 603 4628

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@burv.aov.uk

Keep Up To Date And Informed:

www.bury-governor.com

Bury Governor Association

Chair—Richard Ainsworth

richard@fintek.co.uk

GOVERNOR TRAINING

Governor Training Summer Term 2018			
DATE	TIME	TITLE	CODE
18/04/18	6PM – 9PM	National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 1 & 2	GV06SU18A
25/04/18	6PM – 9PM	National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 3 & 4	GV06SU18B
26/04/18	2.30PM – 4.30PM	SEN Link Governor Training	GV06SP18
26/04/18	6PM – 8PM	SEN Link Governor Training	GV07SP18
08/05/18	1.30PM – 3.30PM	Dyslexia Awareness for Governors	GV01SU18
08/05/18	1PM – 4PM	National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 1 & 2	GV07SU18A
15/05/18	1PM – 4PM	National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 3 & 4	GV07SU18B
13/06/18	2.30PM – 4.30PM	SEN Link Governor Training	GV02SU18
13/06/18	6PM – 8PM	SEN Link Governor Training	GV03SU18
20/06/18	6PM – 8.30PM	Developing the Role of the Chair (Level 2 course) Session 1	GV08SU18A
27/06/18	6PM – 8.30PM	Developing the Role of the Chair (Level 2 course) Session 2	GV08SU18B
Courses under Development Summer Term 2018			
TBC		E-Safety	GV16SP18
TBC		Link Governor Training	GV17SP18
TBC		Monitoring Teaching & Learning	GV18SP18
TBC		Understanding School Budgets	GV09SU18
TBC		Financial Management & Benchmarking	GV10SU18
<p>To register an interest in courses under development or to suggest topics or request training to be repeated, please email training@bplc.co.uk or call 0161 603 4628. Courses will be updated on the BGD website as soon as they are finalised and flyers circulated via Governor Services.</p>			