

# THE BURY GOVERNOR

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

## **Message from the BGA Chair**

Firstly, a warm welcome back to the new academic year, which has already seen governor representation on a number of SEN Review committees that have been commissioned by the LA. This was indeed timely, especially with the publication of the report of the CQC/Ofsted Joint Inspection at the end of July. Bury is required to submit a written statement of action to Ofsted in response to the significant weaknesses identified in the report by the end of October.

At the Summer term BGA meeting, topically following on from BBC's *Three Girls* - retelling the Rochdale child sex abuse case in 2012; we were pleased to have present members of Bury Phoenix Team - DI Richard Hunt and DS Vicky Shaw, discussing the work they do to support vulnerable children, and the associated MASH unit (Multi Agency Support Hub) based at Bury Police station.

There followed a brief update on the system leadership model that was introduced by Klare Rufo at our Autumn 2016 meeting. A question from the floor was how were the clusters decided? Basically - an even spread within each cluster of good and schools requiring support, together with capacity for improvement; and capacity of the leadership to have the experience to lead the self improvement. So, not just a pie-cutting of the borough geographically. Apparently, there was some resistance initially because of some established smaller local cluster groups, which is believed to have now been resolved. Governors are now represented not only on the Strategic Board, but also on the more practical Education Improvement Board. Again, I cannot emphasise enough that this is a two-way process in which we will need to maintain everyone's involvement through our BGA meetings so we can get updates from the board and feedback to the system - please can you make sure someone attends from your school to support your cluster.

The next BGA meeting will also be the AGM, including a presentation from Claire Leman (Inspiring Governance, the new service replacing SGOSS), so if you need help finding new governors - please come along.

Please also note the new date for the meeting is 2 November 2017, 7pm - 9pm at the Peel Room, Town Hall, Bury.

See you soon

Richard Ainsworth  
Chair, Bury Governor Association

## The School-Led System Update

Welcome back to the start of what should prove to be an exciting year of change here in Bury, with the initiation of the school-led system. As you will be aware, every school, academy and specialist provision has been placed into one of four primary clusters, or one of three secondary clusters, each comprising a mixture of setting types (community, academy, specialism and denomination) and a range of Ofsted categories. The rationale for this being that each of the clusters will contain a range of skills, experiences and talents that can be used to provide mutually beneficial support for the schools within each of the clusters and ensure all good practice is shared across all clusters.

During the Spring term, the Headteachers met with the other Heads in their cluster in a meeting led by Klare Rufo, Assistant Director for Learning and Culture, who explained the vision for what Bury was hoping to achieve with the school-led system, what the role of the clusters would be and what the role of the cluster lead would be. Subsequently to this, Headteachers that expressed an interest in leading their cluster and who met the selection criteria, attended a meeting where the role was explained to them in greater detail. For Primary schools, Cluster A will be led by Peter Hudson and Tracey Bevan, Cluster B will be led by Chris Ashley and Steve Ollis, Cluster C will be led by Phil Barlow and Tessa Townsend, and Cluster D (The Beacon Alliance) will be led by Liz Connolly and Paul Lord. For secondary schools, Cluster A will be led by Simon Smith, Cluster B by Chris Bell and Brian Duffy, and Cluster C by Brian Roadnight. The LA School Improvement Officers will quality assure and support the work of the clusters in the first instance, with Wendy Jackson working with all three secondary clusters and primary Cluster A, and myself working with primary Clusters B, C and D.

<b>Cluster A</b> Peter Hudson and Tracey Bevan	<b>Cluster B</b> Chris Ashley & Steve Ollis	<b>Cluster C</b> Phil Barlow & Tessa Townsend	<b>Cluster D</b> (The Beacon Alliance) Liz Connolly & Paul Lord
Chesham East Ward Gorsefield Guardian Angels RC Higher Lane Holcombe Brook Holly Mount RC Holy Trinity CE Our Lady of Lourdes RC Sedgley Park St. Andrew's CE, Ramsbottom St. Margaret's CE St. Mary's CE, Hawkshaw St. Mary's RC, Radcliffe St. Thomas's CE Summerseat Methodist Sunny Bank	Chapelfield Christ Church Ainsworth CE Emmanuel Holcombe CE Fairfield Hollins Grundy Hoyle Nursery Millwood Mersey Drive Park View Peel Brow Radcliffe Hall CE/ Methodist St. John with St. Mark CE St. Mary's CE, Prestwich St. Peter's CE The Ark Tottington Unsworth Wesley Methodist Yesoiday Hatorah	Chantlers Christ Church CE, Walshaw Elton Greenhill Greenmount Hazlehurst Lowercroft Old Hall Our Lady of Grace RC Radcliffe Springside St. Bernadette's RC St. John's CE St. Joseph's RC St. Luke's CE St. Michael's RC St. Stephen's CE	All Saints Bury & Whitefield Jewish Butterstile Cams Lane Heaton Park Ribble Drive St. Andrew's CE, Radcliffe St. Hilda's CE St. Joseph & St. Bede RC St. Marie's RC St. Paul's CE Whitefield Woodbank

The work of the clusters will be guided and reviewed by the Bury Strategic Education Board (BSEB), which is composed of representatives from Early Years, Bury Association of Primary Headteachers, Bury Association of Secondary Headteachers, Post 16, Bury Primary Learning Collaborative, Bury Secondary Collaborative, Teaching Schools, Special and Alternative Provision, Bury Governors Association, the Church of England and Roman Catholic Dioceses and Children and Young People in Care, chaired in the first instance by Klare Rufo. This board met during the Spring term to discuss and understand their role, to approve the selection criteria for Cluster Leads, and to ratify the categorisation criteria for schools causing concern to be used by the clusters in the 2017/18 academic year. The BSEB will meet on a half-termly basis throughout the school year.

In addition, there is the Primary Improvement Board and the Secondary Improvement Board, whose roles are to drive education improvements in the Primary and Secondary sectors. These boards comprise of the Assistant Director for Learning and Culture, LA School Improvement Officers and the Cluster Leads.

These boards will work closely with the BSEB to inform and deliver the strategic vision for education in Bury, inform Bury Education CPD of the support and development needs of the clusters, and share good practice in support of the school-led model and schools causing concern.

The BSEB, Improvement Boards and Clusters will also be supported and assisted by Bury Education CPD, which comprises of representatives from the Teaching Schools, the Chair of the BPLC, the Chair of the BSLC, The Strategic Lead for Schools, School Improvement Officers, and one or more National Leaders of Governance. This board will meet three times during the 2017/18 academic year and will focus on responding to the CPD and support needs from the rest of the system.

With all of the boards in place, their membership decided and their roles defined the school-led system is ready to go. The initial meetings for clusters are scheduled for the week beginning 18 September and the other boards will all have their first meetings during this month as well. One of the first tasks of the year will be to identify any schools in each cluster that are causing concern using the criteria agreed by the BSEB, Cluster Leads will then consider what resources, skills and experience are in their cluster that will be able to provide support for these schools, from which support plans will be written. These plans will be approved, supported, monitored and reviewed by each of the boards introduced above, with the aim of providing timely and impactful support for those in need of it. There is a clear recognition that all schools have something to offer the system and just because careful analysis of pupil outcomes are used to categorise schools does not mean these schools would have nothing to offer the system, as they may well have good practice in other areas of school life to be shared.

For the system to be effective it relies upon the support provided by Governors in identifying good practice in their schools, holding their leaders to account for the standards at their schools and being open to and flexible with the need for excellent practice in your schools to be shared for the benefit of all children in

Bury. Governors can also become directly involved in the system and Janet Butterworth NLG says that if Governors are interested in being involved in system leadership and supporting other schools in the Bury area in areas which they have been able to offer expertise in their own schools, please contact [Janetbutterworth@talk21.com](mailto:Janetbutterworth@talk21.com).

With your support the school-led system model can provide an effective method for sharing the best practice in Bury and ensuring that every child and young person can be the best that they can be.

Steve Tilley, School Improvement Officer  
[s.tilley@bury.gov.uk](mailto:s.tilley@bury.gov.uk)

## Dates for your Diary

Chairs of Governors' Briefings:	12/09/17	09/01/18	19/04/18	6:45pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governors' Association meetings:	02/11/17	06/03/18	14/06/18	7:00 pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governor Development Group—board meetings:	14/09/17 GM Fire & Rescue Service Training Centre			12.30 pm

**Bury Governor Development Group**  
 Chair—Mark Granby  
[mark@thegranbys.co.uk](mailto:mark@thegranbys.co.uk)

## Children's Trust network

Planning is underway for a Children's Trust network event on 17 November from 8.45am – 1.15pm in the Elizabethan Suite, Bury. This has been timed to take place during Anti-bullying week and adopting this year's Anti-bullying theme - "All Different All Equal". The event will be a great opportunity to get a better understanding of bullying and how to address it from the perspective of children and young people. More information and application forms for the event will be sent out before the end of September but you may want to note this in your diaries now. For more information, contact Lindsay Dennis, Children's Trust Development Officer, 0161 253 7346 or e-mail [ChildrensTrust@bury.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensTrust@bury.gov.uk)

### For Training Courses

Please visit:

[www.burygd.gov.uk](http://www.burygd.gov.uk)

To book a course or for further information:

email: [training@bplc.org.uk](mailto:training@bplc.org.uk)

phone: 0161 6034628.

## DTC Seedfield

At the time of writing, it is with some sadness that I confirm the closure of the Development and Training Centre. However, I can now verify that future courses will be run from GMFRS Training and Safety Centre, Hinds Lane, Bury, BL8 2GN. This is a new centre that has excellent facilities and will provide governors with every chance to participate in training in the future. All courses will be advertised on the website <http://burygd.co.uk/> and there are a number of courses advertised for the autumn term, ranging from induction to preparation for Ofsted.

There is also an opportunity to participate in training through Learning Link. This site is a huge resource containing courses and information that can provide an invaluable resource for governors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the governors of Bury for their support and to wish you all the luck in the future with the challenges that will come your way.

Sandra Whalley  
DTC Manager

## **An Update from the Bury Governor Development Board**

The article from Sandra Whalley confirms the sad news that the DTC closed at the end of August. To quote Joni Mitchell, "you don't know what you've got 'til it's gone", and before talking about future plans I think it is right to reflect on the excellent service that we have received from Sandra and the team at the DTC. We have been incredibly lucky in Bury to have had such an excellent facility, where governors from different schools could come together to receive first rate training and development. It will be a very hard act to follow and the BGD Board should rightly, through this newsletter, record our thanks for everyone at the DTC who have supported us so well over the years.

However, change is constant and the Board have had to work rapidly to ensure that CPD for governors in Bury remains available and accessible. We have formed a partnership with the Bury Primary Learning Collaborative who are in the process of forming their own charitable company to provide CPD for school staff and we feel that this is a positive development. As Sandra has outlined, the new base for training is the state of the art GMFRS Training Centre in Bury and there are already a number of key courses scheduled and places can be booked through email: [training@bplc.org.uk](mailto:training@bplc.org.uk) or by calling: 0161 6034628.

I would encourage all governing bodies to undertake skills audits to identify both strengths and areas for development and then use the BGD courses or the NGA Learning Link to plug gaps. The NGA have released some new skills audits, for Trusts and single governing bodies. They can be found on their website [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).

The Local Authority are also playing a continued role in ensuring that effective CPD for staff and governors remains a feature in the new landscape. The BGD Board have a place at the table in the meeting structure and we will ensure that the vital work that governors do in Bury schools is supported effectively.

May I take this opportunity to wish you all well at the start of this new academic year and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at BGD training events.

Mark Granby

BGD Chair

**Keep Up To Date And Informed:**  
[www.bury-governor.com](http://www.bury-governor.com)



**National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 1,2,3,4 (Evening)**

Tuesday 19th September 2017 and Tuesday 26th September 2017

**National Induction Programme for Governors - Modules 1,2,3,4**

Saturday 23rd September 2017

**Now you are Chair - What Next?**

Tuesday 3rd October 2017

**Understanding Performance Related Pay**

Wednesday 4th October 2017

**Health and Safety Core Competency**

Thursday 5th October 2017

**Health and Safety Core Competency**

Wednesday 11th October 2017

**Expectations of Governors and Governing Boards**

Thursday 12th October 2017

**Efficient Financial Management**

Tuesday 31st October 2017

**Disadvantaged Pupils (Using Pupil Premium)**

Thursday 7th November 2017

**Conflict Resolution**

Wednesday 8th November 2017

**Forming or Joining a Multi Academy Trust**

Wednesday 15th November 2017

**Preparation for Ofsted**

Tuesday 21st November 2017

A full list of training courses can be found at: [www.burygd.gov.uk](http://www.burygd.gov.uk)

To book a course - by email: [training@bplc.org.uk](mailto:training@bplc.org.uk)

- or by calling: 0161 6034628

**Bury Governor Association**

Chair—Richard Ainsworth

[richard@fintek.co.uk](mailto:richard@fintek.co.uk)



There are places available on the following courses:

**Managing Allegations, Wednesday 4 October**

9:30am-12:30pm @ Bury Football Club

**CSE Awareness Raising, Friday 6 October**

9:15am-12:30pm @Bury Football Club

A full list of courses can be found at:

[www.buryscbglobal.net/AvailableCoursesList.asp](http://www.buryscbglobal.net/AvailableCoursesList.asp)

**To book a course:** - Log on to the training website and select New Account to create an account. Each person requiring training must have their own account. If you already have an account and have forgotten your login details, please contact June Short at [j.short@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.short@bury.gov.uk)

**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](mailto:Governors.Support@bury.gov.uk)

Or visit our website:

[www.bury.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.bury.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)