

THE BURY GOVERNOR

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

Dear all

Welcome to 2018.

We look back at 2017 as a year of many challenges and significant change.

For me, the change is evident, as I write this as the Interim Assistant Director (Learning) following the departure of Klare Rufo. I am sure you will all join me in wishing Klare well in her new role working with schools across Liverpool.

As we look forward to the New Year, it is clear that there are just as many challenges ahead and change is an ever present, but working together I am convinced that we can make a real difference.

Coming in to an interim role, it is not my intention to simply maintain the status quo until more permanent arrangements are put in place. Whether it be the changing educational landscape, changes to funding (and the inevitable cuts to funding), the need to respond to the Ofsted/CQC inspection of SEND, or the wider transformation of services envisaged through the integration of health and care services across GM, there are many things that will impact on the local authority, schools, and on Governing Bodies, that require an immediate response. I intend to drive the Department's response to these at pace.

Looking first at the developing schools led system, the key components of the system are now in place. The Strategic Education Board which brings together all stakeholders is providing governance to the system, whilst the primary and secondary improvement boards and the clusters are beginning to establish their respective roles in understanding strengths and weaknesses across schools, providing challenge where needed, and identifying and brokering appropriate support. Steve Tilley talks a little more about the arrangements below.

Turning next to SEND. The Ofsted/CQC inspection was a wake-up call, identifying a number of areas where improvements could and should be made. The subsequent SEN review that was carried out during the summer and autumn enabled all stakeholders to reach a common understanding of current arrangements, and where these might be improved. Over the coming months we will be working with schools and other partners to develop new arrangements in response.

In parallel, the Council must also respond to the drive towards greater integration with Health, which is a key element of GM devolution. From a Children's Services and schools perspective, this integration will be seen through the lens of early help, with greater emphasis on providing the right services, from the right place, at the right time. A significant amount of work is being undertaken to understand the current model of service delivery and how these services might be reconfigured to ensure greater impact. Much of this

'Transformation' work will be undertaken in parallel to the development of arrangements in respect of SEN, and the two programmes will be clearly aligned.

Throughout all of this, we cannot forget the many direct challenges faced by schools, whether it be changes to the curriculum, to assessment arrangements, or to funding arrangements. The latter coming at the same time as significant funding pressures, invariably leading to increased costs.

All in all, 2018 will be an interesting year.

Paul Cooke
Interim Assistant Director

Dates for your Diary

Chairs of Governors' Briefings:	09/01/18	19/04/18	11/09/18	6:45pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governors' Association meetings:	01/03/18	14/06/18	15/11/18	7:00 pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governor Development Group—board meetings:	Venue to be confirmed 14/03/18			12.00 pm for 12.30pm start

Message from the BGA Chair

It seems only a couple of weeks since we started the new academic year, and here we are welcoming 2018 – which promises to be a busy year:

- the re-structuring of the Governor Development Board within the Governor Association will be explained better by Mark Granby in his article further down the newsletter
- following Karen Dolton's presentation at our BGA meeting (more detail below), we have been promised governor representation on the SEND action plan working parties, and we're awaiting to see their structure before we decide how best governors should be involved – I'm hoping for more information at the Spring BGA meeting, so look out for your reminders
- we are working on the Joint Spring Conference (BGA and BGD), more details to follow as soon as we have secured our speakers.

At the Autumn term BGA meeting, Karen Dolton (interim Executive Director of Children, Young People and Culture) presented on the SEND Written Statement of Action that the LA had to present in reaction to the outcomes of the joint Ofsted & CQC inspection in Bury from 12th–16th June 2017, to judge the effectiveness of the local area in implementing the SEND Reforms. The results of the inspection weren't great – but the action plan includes addressing the 8 areas of weakness, and we were assured governor involvement. We were due Clare Leman from Inspiring Governance (DfE / NGA) explaining how a free, centrally run service for finding skilled and enthusiastic governors for our schools would benefit Bury schools, but car trouble prevented her getting to us on time. So, we hope to reschedule later in the year. The final part of our BGA meeting was the AGM, and I am pleased to accept being your Chair for another year - we are always eager to include more governors to our executive, so if you want more information please ask.

It is with sadness that Klare Rufo has moved on at the end of 2017, especially after her hard work in getting the School Led System started in Bury with the Education Strategy Board, but the direction of travel and the inclusion of governors will remain unchanged. With senior posts within the LA to be filled by permanent positions early in 2018, this should give some stability to any long terms plans for education in Bury. We will, of course, invite new senior leaders to present at the BGA when appropriate.

Having pushed for our place at the table, I cannot emphasize too strongly that this is a process in which we will need to maintain everyone's involvement through our BGA meetings in getting your opinions into the system - please make sure someone attends from your school to support your cluster and pupils.

The next BGA meeting will be 1st March 2018 (7.00pm – 9.00pm)
Peel Room, Town Hall

See you soon

Richard Ainsworth
Chair, Bury Governor Association

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

The New Year Update

With the chimes of Big Ben fading as we move into this New Year (wishing you all a very happy one, by the way), it seemed a good time to round up the 'headlines' about some of the activities and projects taking place within the Local Authority.

Firstly, as you may be aware over the course of the Summer the Bury Teaching School Alliance, in partnership with the LA, was successful in submitting a Strategic School Improvement Fund bid, entitled 'Reducing barriers to accessing learning for disadvantaged pupils in Bury schools and beyond'. Schools were asked to commit to be either, or both, recipients or providers for one, or more, of the three strands that made up the bid. These were:

- **Strand 1** - Removing **literacy** barriers to accessing learning for disadvantaged pupils in Bury primary schools. This will look at improving early language development, structured approaches to teaching phonics, developing reading and comprehension skills and for improving transition strategies at the end of EYFS and Key Stage 1. With key desired outcomes being that standards of reading improve at Key Stage 1 and 2.
- **Strand 2** – Removing barriers to accessing learning for disadvantaged pupils in Bury primary and secondary school through effective pupil premium strategies and effective use of support staff. This will make use of 'learning 3s' to develop pupil premium per review, to trial and review making effective use of support staff, and research evidence and best practice. With the key desired outcome being that pupil premium strategies are sharper in matching approaches to addressing barriers.
- **Strand 3** – removing barriers to accessing learning for disadvantaged pupils in Bury secondary schools through improving transition in literacy. This will look at developing a tool to map reading comprehension skills progression to support transition between Key Stage 2 and 3 (particularly for disadvantaged pupils), developing systems for Year 7 staff to spend time in feeder primary schools, and developing systems for sharing pupils work to gain an understanding of the expectations in KS2 and 3 literacy. With the desired key outcome being that there is an increased understanding of curricular expectations and what primary pupils can do that leads to improved planning for progression at the start of secondary school.

Many schools and trusts have joined the bid as providers, these include; Christ Church CE Primary (Teaching School and applicant), Elms Bank Specialist Arts College (Teaching School), St. Monica's RC High School (Teaching School), St. Thomas' CE Primary, Higher Lane Primary, Bury College Education Trust, Alliance for Learning, Loreto Teaching Schools Alliance, Forward as One Church of England Multi Academy Trust and St. Philip's RC, with the vast majority of

primary and secondary schools involved as participants. Representatives from forty-seven schools attended the initial briefing session and a part-time Project Leader appointed in the form of Alan Beedie (a former Bury Headteacher) from January 2018.

The school-led system has also began its work over the Autumn term. Clusters have met formally, shared successes and needs with each other, and completed a skills audit to identify the strengths of each school and the potential support they can offer to the system. The Strategic Education Board, CPD Board, and the Primary and Secondary Improvement Boards have also met, with each having successful meetings with a clear wish to make sure the system continues to develop and work for all schools. Cluster Leads have met with schools in need of support within their clusters and produced support plans drawing upon and sharing successful practice in their clusters and the wider system. The School Improvement Service has continued to work with Cluster Leads, supporting the transition and developing our role in quality assurance of the system.

Elsewhere, in response to the Greater Manchester Summit on School Readiness and, the Mayor, Andy Burnham's commitment to improving school-readiness across the region, the Early Years Advisor and School Improvement Service has started work with a couple of schools looking at what makes for effective transition between early years providers and schools, how systems can be improved, and how to develop professional relationships and understanding between schools and early years providers. The aim of this work is to have a set of 'good practice' guidelines developed ready to be shared with all schools at the beginning of the 2018/19 schools year.

As I am sure you will agree, there is plenty going on and 2018 promises to be a busy and hopefully successful one, and as always Governors have a key part to play in supporting your school's leaders in their participation in the various projects and initiatives and in holding them to account for the impact that they will bring.

I hope you have a happy and successful 2018.

Steve Tilley, School Improvement Officer.
s.tilley@bury.gov.uk

For Training Courses

Please visit:

www.burygd.gov.uk

To book a course or for further information:

email: training@bplc.org.uk

phone: 0161 6034628.

Children's Trust network

Corporate Parenting is a statutory responsibility upon the council and relevant partners to act in the best interests and promote the health and wellbeing and life opportunities of looked after children and care leavers.

Bury's Corporate Parenting Strategy 2017-2020 sets out how the Council, Health services and partners will carry out their corporate parenting responsibility. The 2017-2020 Strategy was launched on 29 November 2017 in the Town Hall and Councillors signed Promises to looked after children and care leavers.

The Corporate Parenting Strategy sets out 4 strategic objectives:

- Ensure children and young people in care receive a good education and achieve the best educational outcomes
- Provide good opportunities to maintain and improve emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people in care and care leavers
- Improve education, employment and training for care leavers
- Promote the role of corporate parent across the council and amongst partners

The Virtual School Governing Body is responsible for ensuring improved educational outcomes and is accountable to the Corporate Parenting Board.

It is important that school governors are good corporate parents to children and young people in care in their school. To help with this, the Corporate Parenting Training Offer outlines a number of training opportunities that they can take up. This includes specific training for designated governors for children and young people in care. In addition, **all** school governors are encouraged to take up Total Respect training. We are lucky in Bury to have this fantastic training by care-experienced young people. This unique training will help you to understand what it is like to be a looked after child and how best to support them.

For information about Total Respect Training, e-mail m.nichols@bury.gov.uk

For more information about the Virtual School Governing Body, e-mail the Virtual School headteacher c.atherden@bury.gov.uk

For a copy of the Corporate Parenting Strategy and the Training Offer, e-mail l.j.dennis@bury.gov.uk

An Update from the Bury Governor Development Board

The Autumn Term was certainly a period of transition for BGD as we commenced delivering sessions from the GMFRS Training Centre and set up our working relationship with the Bury Primary Learning Collaborative who have commenced taking on many of the responsibilities for the coordination of governor training from the previous staff at the DTC.

There have been mixed opinions about the venue and sadly we have not had as many places filled on courses as we would have liked. We have had to rely heavily on the BGD website to market courses and we are reflecting on how we can improve visibility on the courses we provide.

The other key development, as outlined in Richard's article, is that we have now merged with the Bury Governor Association. The BGD Board felt it was important given the recent changes that that we were accountable to a wider number of governors and by joining with the BGA we feel this can be achieved. In effect, the BGD will be a committee of the BGA Executive making us accountable to the wider BGA membership. It will still be possible for schools to be members of the BGD and not the BGA and vice versa – but we have agreed that by buying into both services a £50 discount will be given to your school. The details of the membership should appear on the Bury Traded Services website very soon.

There will be a focus on SEND, Safeguarding and School Data for the Spring Term and the BGD website should be updated with details of the courses in the very near future. We will continue to ensure that the providers of the training are of the highest quality. Don't forget that Bury schools buying into the BGD package also have free access to the NGA Learning Link on-line training site – which covers a wide range of topics and is really worthwhile looking at.

I hope you all had a relaxing Christmas break as we now look forward to improving our schools through effective governance in 2018.

Kind regards

Mark Granby
BGD Chair

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



National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 1 and 2
Wednesday 24th January 2018

National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 3 and 4
Wednesday 31st January 2018

Effective Committees - Fit For the Modern Day
Tuesday 6th February 2018

Safeguarding Training for Schools and Governors
Thursday 8th February 2018

School Web Sites - Best Practice
Thursday 15th February 2018

SEN Link Governor Training
Thursday 1st March 2018

National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 1 and 2
Wednesday 7th March 2018

National Induction Programme for Governors Modules 3 and 4
Thursday 15th March 2018

Autism Awareness for Governors
Monday 12th March 2018

Health & Safety Responsibilities for Governors
Tuesday 13th March 2018

Dyslexia Awareness for Governors
Tuesday 8th May 2018

SEN Link Governor Training
Wednesday 13th June 2018

A full list of training courses can be found at: www.burygd.gov.uk
To book a course - by email: training@bplc.org.uk
- or by calling: 0161 6034628

Bury Governor Association

Chair—Richard Ainsworth

richard@fintek.co.uk

Keep Up To Date And Informed:

www.bury-governor.com



There are places available on the following courses:

Child Sexual Exploitation Recognition and Response, Wednesday 14 March 2018
9:15am-12:30pm @ Bury Business Lodge

Managing Allegations, Friday 2 February 2018
9:30am-12:30pm @ Bury Business Lodge

Managing Allegations, Monday 14 May 2018
1:00pm-4:00pm @ New Kershaw Centre

Managing Allegations, Thursday 11 October 2018
9:30am-12:30pm @ New Kershaw Centre

A full list of courses can be found at:

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