



## Liverpool Governance Forum

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### **LGF ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE ACADEMIC YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2024**

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#### **INTRODUCTION:**

The prime purpose of this report is to provide Liverpool school governors, academy trustees, and our partners with a succinct overview of our key activities and the progress we have made during the 2023/24 academic year.

Governors and trustees have an important role in the education and support of our children and the LGF was established in 1996 to coordinate and represent the views of Liverpool's Governors and Trustees on the various high-level strategic education committees which operate in the city.

LGF works closely with several key partners, which include the three Liverpool Headteachers' Associations, Liverpool Learning Partnership, Liverpool Local Authority, School Improvement Liverpool, and the National Governance Association.

The range of committees on which LGF members serve is listed in Appendix A, together with the name of the member and the committees on which he/she currently represents the LGF.

More detailed information on our work and activity is available on our website: [www.livgovforum.org.uk](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk)

We are always looking for new members to contribute to our work. They present excellent opportunities to have an input into education policy and further develop your personal and transferable skills. We do hope, therefore, that some of you will give this matter your serious consideration and make contact with us.

#### **OVERVIEW COMMENTS BY MICHAEL MORRIS, LGF CHAIR:**

I have much pleasure in welcoming you to this tenth formal LGF Annual Review, which is also my third report as the LGF Chair.

It was another interesting and challenging academic year for the LGF committee with high demands from both schools and governors for our support. Once again we received numerous requests from across Liverpool city schools to sit as independent governors on various panels.

In view of the particular demands to sit as independent panel members for school complaints, we decided to undertake some refresher training. This was delivered by the specialist provider Forrest Governance. It was well received by the committee who felt it ensured they were fully up-to-date with current practice and equipped them to meet their statutory obligations. I am confident we have an experienced and well-trained team to meet school requests in the future.

Another project we have been working hard on due to requests for general information is producing a generic induction booklet for new governors/local academy governors. It will be a comprehensive guide for those new to governance which we aim to have available for launch at our proposed November conference.

With the demands on our services, we were not able to deliver a conference during the reporting year. However, we plan to address this with a conference on **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2024**. Please do make a note of the date and further details will be issued shortly.

On behalf of the LGF, I would like to take the opportunity to offer our congratulations to all those schools and partners involved in the Hearts programme on being awarded the prestigious **"Pearson National Teaching Gold Award in the category: Impact through Partnership"**. (NB: *The Hearts programme is a framework that has been developed to support Liverpool schools to become attachment and trauma-responsive informed. The project is led by Hope School in conjunction with Liverpool Virtual School. Initially, 10 schools were engaged in this Hearts project, which has now grown to 32 Liverpool schools, and a further 16 will be joining in September. The LGF Honorary Secretary is Chair of Governors at Hope School*).

It would be remiss of me if I did not record my thanks to my fellow hard-working committee colleagues for their commitment and dedication to representing Liverpool governors/trustees over the last academic year. As a result, they have ensured governors/trustees had an input into the important educational decision-making on behalf of Liverpool Schools.

Finally, special thanks to Dave Owens, for taking on the important role of LGF Honorary Treasurer, and Paula Anderson for the prompt and effective secretarial service she provides, coupled with her general support which is greatly appreciated.

### MEETINGS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

As usual, we held seven LGF committee meetings during the academic year. We would like to record our thanks to all the schools who hosted the meetings and for their kind hospitality.

MONTH	SCHOOL VENUE
<b>September</b>	St Margaret's C of E Academy <i>Guest speaker: Cliff Barton reflecting on his time as a teacher, educational administrator, school governor, and long-time LGF committee member.</i>
<b>November</b>	Mosspsits Community Primary School
<b>December</b>	Hope School <i>Guest speaker: Lisa Dorrity, LA Lead on Early Years and Ethical Leadership in Education.</i>
<b>January</b>	Kensington Primary School <i>Guest speaker: Elaine Rees, consultation on the future development of LLP.</i>
<b>March</b>	Hope School
<b>May</b>	Hope School <i>The meeting was held in the school's new learning centre which is open to hire.</i>
<b>July</b>	St Julie's Catholic High School <i>Training event by Forrest Governance: Serving as an independent member on a school complaints panel.</i>

### PUBLICATIONS:

School Improvement Liverpool continued to publish three further issues of **"Governance Digest"** during the academic year, which also contained articles submitted by LGF members.

These important information documents contain a wealth of advice and guidance on current governance practice, ensuring governors and trustees are kept up to date on a wide range of topics.

We do recommend governors and trustees access and make full use of the documents, which can be accessed at: [www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk](http://www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk)

We would also like to record our thanks to SIL for their ongoing support, in particular, Dave Cadwallader, Governance Lead for his specialist knowledge and guidance, which is very much appreciated.

### **FUTURE MEETING VENUES:**

For the 2024/25 academic year, we are aiming to deliver a similar programme of meetings and events in schools across the city.

If you would like your school to host one of our meetings, then please let us know by contacting David Blythe, LGF Honorary Secretary at: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk). We make a small donation to the host school towards the cost of room hire and refreshments.

*NB: The autumn term venues have been confirmed below and we are now looking for school venues for our 2025 January, March, May, and July, meetings.*

### **DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:**

The dates for our 2024/25 Autumn Term meetings are:

- 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2024 at Hope School, 251 Hartsbourne Avenue, Liverpool L25 2RY
- 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 at Corinthian Community School, Inigo Road, Liverpool L13 6SH
- 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2024 at Belle Vale Community Primary School, Besford Road, Liverpool L25 2RX

All meetings are on **Tuesdays from 10 am until approximately 12 noon**, except for our meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024 which starts with our AGM from 10 am to 10:30 am. This is then followed by our Committee Meeting from 10:30 am until 12:30 pm. Further details regarding our meetings and venues are shown on our website.

Our meetings are open to all Liverpool governors and if you would like to attend, please email David Blythe, LGF Honorary Secretary at: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk)

As mentioned in the Chair's comments, the next LGF conference is being planned for **Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November, 2024** from 9 am until 12:15. The topic will be **'Handling School Complaints'** and we will also launch our **'Governors Induction booklet'**. The venue is still to be confirmed but, in the meantime, please do make a note of the date.

### **FUNDING AND FINANCE:**

LGF is funded by subscriptions from the majority of Liverpool schools; primary, special, and secondary at a nominal charge of £25 per school. This is collected on our behalf through the three Headteacher Associations, which is much appreciated. This enables us to play a full and active role in improving educational standards in Liverpool.

As academisation continues to grow, some academy schools are unfortunately no longer contributing or engaging with us. We, therefore, hope that local academy trustees will reappraise the situation, particularly as we continue to receive requests for our support.

To ensure financial control and accountability, we have a "**Finance and Operating Manual**" which sets out important parameters and is regularly reviewed and updated as required. The accounts are also independently audited.

A summary of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2024 is as follows:

<b>SUMMARY OF 2022/23 FINANCIAL STATEMENT</b>	<b>£</b>
Income received during the 2023/24 academic year	4150
Expenditure during the reporting year	1755
Closing bank balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2024	7465
<i>NB: A full statement of accounts will be available at the LGF AGM on 22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2024</i>	

The bank account balance is a little higher than normal due to late income being received in the academic year 2022/23. However, it places us in a strong position to fully deliver our 2024/25 programme.

### **FAREWELL:**

Hayley Igbokwe has reigned as an LFG committee member due to the pressure of work and we record our thanks for her contribution over the last couple of years.

Two strong supporters of the LGF will be missing from the Liverpool Educational scene in the future. James McDonald has resigned as a Headteacher and the important role as Chair of the Liverpool Schools Forum for ventures new. Elaine Rees has retired as Chief Executive of Liverpool Learning Partnership, although I'm sure we will continue to see Elaine occasionally as she will be continuing her role as school governor.

We offer both James and Elaine our best wishes for the future and thank them for their support over many years.

### **FEEDBACK:**

We aim to have an open and transparent operation and hope that you have found this succinct LGF Annual Review interesting and informative. However, we do welcome and appreciate feedback, which will inform the committee to make improvements to their future reporting and to focus on any matters you specifically want us to cover. Please email David Blythe, LGF Honorary Secretary at: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk)

*(NB: Appendix A follows below.)*

## APPENDIX A

### 2023/24 OVERVIEW OF LGF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The table below details the LGF committee members and the various educational bodies they represent on behalf of the LGF.

The aim of the LGF committee meetings is to coordinate its activities, obtain feedback from members who have attended the various strategic educational committee meetings, formulate policy and progress development plans. Minutes of committee meetings and other relevant information are promptly published on the LGF website: [www.livgovforum.org.uk](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk)

LGF sub-committees are established when required, to focus and drive forward special projects e.g. the LGF Conferences.

<b>LGF COMMITTEE / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>	
<b>NAME &amp; SCHOOL</b>	<b>COMMITTEE MEMBERS &amp; REPRESENTATION</b>
Joe Hartley	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Honorary President</li> </ul>
Michael Morris <i>(St Margaret's C of E Academy &amp; Corinthian Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board Member, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>LCC, Priority 4, Educational Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
Maureen McDaid <i>(Kensington Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
David Blythe <i>(Honorary Secretary)</i> <i>(Hope)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Danielle Azanuwha <i>(The Beacon C of E Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership</li> </ul>
Dave Cadwallader <i>(Rainbow Educational MAT, Smithdown Primary, Corinthian Primary &amp; Clifford Holroyde)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides advice and guidance to the LGF committee and acts as the liaison with School Improvement Liverpool</li> </ul>
Andy Chadwick <i>(Ranworth Square Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> <li>All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Michelle Hayward <i>(King David High)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Richard Lovegrove <i>(Springwood Heath Primary &amp; Faith Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee member</li> </ul>
Avril O'Brien <i>(St Paul &amp; St Timothy Catholic Infant)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>LCC Race Equality Taskforce</li> </ul>
Dave Owens <i>(Mosspits Lane Primary &amp; Ernest Cookson)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> <li>All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Ian Smith <i>(Middlefield Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Committee member</li> </ul>
Marlene Taylor <i>(Lawrence Community Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
<b>NAME &amp; SCHOOL</b>	<b>ASSOCIATE MEMBERS/OTHER</b>
Peter Devaney <i>(St Patricks Catholic Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate &amp; Independent panel governor</li> </ul>
Cllr Barbara Murray <i>(Childwall Valley Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate</li> </ul>
Mark Rea <i>(Ernest Cookson &amp; Longmoor Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate &amp; Independent panel governor</li> </ul>
Joyce Smith <i>(Mosspits Lane Primary)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Associate</li> </ul>
Paula Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Meeting Secretary</li> </ul>