



## LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

**Committee Meeting:** Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2024 at 10 am

**Venue:** Belle Vale Primary School, Besford Road, Liverpool L25 2RY.

---

### 1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

#### 1.1 Welcome, Apologies & Speaker:

**Present:** Michael Morris, David Blythe, Dave Cadwallader, Dave Owens, Marlene Taylor, Joyce Smith, Michelle Hayward, Sharon Pearson

**Apologies:** Richard Lovegrove, Avril O’Brian, Maureen McDaid, Peter Devaney, Barbara Murray.

Sharon Pearson was welcomed and introduced to the committee members who shared details of the schools with which they were associated. It was explained SP had attended the recent LGF Conference and wished to become involved with the organisation.

#### 1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No changes to previous information were declared.

#### 1.3 Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the previous meeting held on 22 October 2024 had already been agreed upon by email and posted on the LGF website.

#### 1.4 Matters Arising

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING	
1. Provide an update on the “X” account	AO’B
2. Progress the LGF induction guide to printers and try to ensure it is available for launch at the conference on 16 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024	MM & DC
3. Contact the headteacher associations regarding the launch and use of the LGF induction guide.	MM & DB

1. See 2.5 X (Previously Twitter) Account
2. The Handbook has been printed and was available at the LGF Conference held on 16/11/24.

3. Handbook Distribution. DB reported that LGF had been in contact with LASH (Liverpool Association of Secondary Headteachers) and the Liverpool Primary Heads Association (LPHA) regarding attending a meeting to launch the Induction Handbook but still had to approach ALSSH (Liverpool Association of Special School Headteachers). DB confirmed that LGF had been invited to attend the next LPHA meeting but is still awaiting confirmation from LASH. It was noted both associations are to meet on 23/1/25 at the same site, St Margarets Clitheroe Centre (formerly LACE). The time is to be confirmed. The meetings are to be attended by two LGF members, MM and/ or DB, DC. DC confirmed that there are approximately 120 Primary Schools, 30 secondary schools and 12 Special Schools in Liverpool at present. MH offered to contact the chair of LASH, Micheal Sutton, regarding a response.

DC asked if copies of the Handbook were to be given out at the meeting to headteachers who do not subscribe to LGF. DB/DO are to provide MM with a list identifying which schools have /have not subscribed to LGF prior to the Headteacher Association Meetings to be held on 23/1/25. DC is to provide MM with a list of all Liverpool schools and their categories.

## **2.0 LGF MATTERS AND EVENTS**

### **2.1 Finance**

DO advised that the Lloyds Bank account balance on 26/11/24 was £6,888.42. Some items of expenditure are still outstanding. DO reported that he had been informed that the LGF account is being moved from Treasurers Account to Community Account. The new account will incur a cost of £4.25 per month going forward from 25/1/25. There will be no charge for BACS or for auto-checking in cheques. As this is in line with other banks it was agreed to remain with Lloyds Bank.

It was noted cost of the recent LGF Conference is expected to be £500/600, the invoice for room hire and hospitality is still awaited. The Forrest Governance invoice has been paid.

MM asked members to consider what purpose LGF current funds could be used for. A discussion took place.

DB suggested governor training provided by a specialist or a Spring Conference. MM commented that bringing in a specialist speaker, such as a firm of solicitors to provide training may prove expensive if the uptake is not sufficient and so may be best suited to a conference setting where a larger audience could be guaranteed.

DC suggested providing training via a webinar as this could potentially reach more governors. The recording of a webinar, to be available for governors who could not attend the initial training was suggested. This would have to be investigated.

Suggestions for training included HR, Grievances, Discipline and Staff Attendance. It was noted that LGF members cannot assist other schools on Exclusion or Admission panels.

It was suggested that a training webinar/conference could be held once a term and could include an evening session and a Saturday morning session to be more accessible to governors. It was suggested that a live training webinar be held in the Spring Term (March) to gauge uptake before committing to further training. Ideally a recording of the webinar and slides would also be available (at a reduced cost) after the event.

DC commented that the discussion had moved away from providing training for LGF members to assist them and add credibility in their support of other schools to providing training to empower governing boards to act for themselves.

It was agreed to investigate training on HR Panels for LGF members. DC/MM to approach Rainbow/All Saints Trusts regarding the provision of training/advice. It is hoped that training will be arranged for the LGF February meeting and agreed that the facilitator will be paid for their service.

It was noted that the training provided by Rainbow/All Saints Trusts may only relate to MATs. It was therefore important to check if it would cover Maintained Schools.

It was agreed to defer the issue of a webinar for Liverpool School Governors until the LGF meeting to be held on 4/2/25.

## **2.2 Feedback from Events**

LGF Conference- DB was thanked for his efforts in organising the event and producing the Report that had been circulated prior to the meeting.

Governors felt the Conference had gone well and the new venue was ideal but said that attendance could have been better. The training provided by Forrest Governance was excellent and there was a positive feeling in the room.

MM wondered if the location of conference venues had a bearing on attendance e.g. holding a conference in a different area such as North Liverpool may improve attendance.

Invoices have been sent to attendees from other authorities. In future directions to the venue and a contact number will be included in the information sent to attendees. Future conferences are to appear more prominently on the LGF website and will continue to be advertised on GovernorHub.

Governor Forums- MM is to contact Gill Donohoe regarding an update on neighbouring Governor Forums

### **2.3 Future Events**

Dates for future LGF meetings has been sent out by DB prior to the meeting. Venues are still to be confirmed, MM to approach Corinthian School for the meeting to be held on 4/2/25 and St Margarets for 20/5/25, DB is to approach Hope School for the 25/3/25 meeting. MH is to approach St Julies for the 1/7/25 meeting.

### **2.4 Website**

DB reported that the website is up to date. The Governor Induction Handbook is to be added to the website with directions on the homepage directing users to it.

DB is to approach Peter Hartley regarding updating/refreshing the LGF website.

### **2.5 X (Previously Twitter) Account**

MM asked if the committee were ready to make a decision regarding LGF's continued use of X as a means of communication or to change to another medium. MM said many schools and other organisations want to disassociate with X but he was conscious of the current followers LGF have on the account and did not want to lose this point of contact. A discussion took place where the following points were raised:

MH asked about the impact of the information LGF upload to X had and wondered if using Educate (magazine) would be a more effective way of sharing information. It was noted that there would be a cost involved in using Educate.

MM and DC commented that the ethical implications of using X must be considered.

DC remarked that consideration must be given to which, if any, media LGF adopt if they decide to discontinue the X account.

DC suggested LGF members should canvas their own schools to see if they are using/will continue to use X.

MM suggested that AO'B should be specifically invited to attend the next LGF meeting where she would have the opportunity to voice her opinion and clarify the pros and cons of LGF having a X account.

After the next meeting, a tweet is to be sent to current followers stating that LGF are considering cancelling the X account and asking for their response. The response, if any, will have an influence on whether to cancel the account or not.

### **2.6 Others**

Not applicable

### 3.0 FEEDBACK FROM REPRESENTATIVES

#### 3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

Schools Forum Sub-committee - As a result of there being no outstanding items the meeting planned for November was cancelled. The next meeting will be held in January – date to be confirmed.

DO reported that at the last meeting historical commitments had been examined. It was decided that there needed to be a 20% reduction in funding overall for School Improvement – universal offer, Primary Language Centres – MFL and Commissioned Services. The following areas had their funding reduced by 30%: Historic teacher’s pensions and Contribution to capital team. A reduction of 30% for BSF/PSI team is to be considered at sub-group level.

An increase of 5% for Child and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMHs) is to be considered at the sub-group.

#### 3.2 Liverpool Learning Partnership

The AGM took place last month. An Interim CEO is now in place who is looking at the foundation documents of LLP to see how they can best fulfil their mission/expectations.

#### 3.3 Liverpool Safeguarding Children’s Partnership (LSCP)

It is not up and running at present.

#### 3.4 Other

Not applicable

### 4.0 OTHER ITEMS

Not applicable

#### Date of next meeting:

4/2/25 – Corinthian Primary School, Inigo Road, Liverpool L13 6SH

25/3/25 – St Margaret Clitherow Centre, Croxteth Drive, Liverpool, L17 1AA  
(formerly known as LACE)

20/5/25 – St Margaret’s C of E Academy, Aigburth Road, Liverpool L17 6AB

1/7/25 - St Julie’s Catholic High School, 7 Speke Road, Liverpool L25 7TN

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS FROM MEETING	
List of Liverpool schools to be shared with MM before 23/1/25	DC
AO'B to be contacted regarding attending the 4/2/25 LGF meeting	DB
Michael Sutton to be contacted re the invitation to the LASH meeting	MH
List of schools who subscribe to LGF to be shared with MM	DB/DO
Rainbow/All Saints Trusts to be approached regarding HR Training	MM/DC
Gill Donohoe is to be contacted regarding neighbouring Governor Forums update	MM
P Hartley to be contacted regarding the 'refreshed' LGF website	DB