

The

# Leicestershire Governor



Leicestershire  
County Council



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## Meet our new Service Manager, Ian Knight

I am pleased to introduce myself as the newly appointed manager of the Governor Development Service. I have been in post since the beginning of August, finding my feet working with the experienced and dedicated GDS team.



I was born in Melton Mowbray and educated at primary and secondary schools in Ashby de la Zouch. At Liverpool University I obtained a law degree and qualified as a solicitor in 1978 after studying at The College of Law in Chester and training with a firm in Loughborough. I was employed by a large Leicestershire solicitors' practice, managing their Hinckley office and becoming a partner in 1980. On occasions I worked for the firm in Leicester, Market Harborough and Lutterworth.

For the last 24 years I have lived in West Leicester with my wife and three children. I was elected as a parent governor in 1991 at the primary school attended by our children. More recently I have been a City Council appointed governor at the school and Chair of Governors for the last seven years.

My interests are sport and music. I played rugby and cricket for local teams and have been a Leicester Tigers season ticket holder for many years. I was a member of the Leicestershire Schools Orchestra in the sixties and sing bass with a choir with more enthusiasm than talent.

I am vice chair of Menphys, the Leicestershire charity supporting disabled children and their families, and have particularly enjoyed helping to arrange the annual sponsored walk and the Catholic Schools' Carol Concert. I am also a trustee and clerk of a charity supporting the poor and aged in West Leicester.

I believe that the aim of everyone engaged in education should be to provide a safe, happy and challenging learning environment which imparts knowledge and respect and enhances the life chances of all children. I look forward to GDS continuing to provide governors with information, guidance and support which when linked with your enthusiasm as volunteers and your diverse talents will achieve that goal.

## New arrangements for school inspections

Ofsted has reviewed its maintained school inspection arrangements. The new Ofsted schedule has been piloted in schools, including schools in Leicestershire, during the academic year 2008/09 and will be implemented in September 2009.

Ofsted believes inspections need to be tailored more to a school's needs. For instance, schools judged satisfactory or inadequate in their last inspection will be inspected within three years. Satisfactory schools that are not improving will receive a one-day monitoring visit between their regular inspections, generally within 12 to 18 months.

Schools judged good or outstanding will be inspected less frequently, approximately every five years. In the intervening years a 'health check' report will be published which will not involve an inspection visit. However, if areas of concern are flagged up, Ofsted will consider whether they need to inspect.

Inadequate schools will receive monitoring visits as is already the case.

Ofsted proposes to involve senior managers in schools more consistently in the inspection process. Some inspections will include a specific focus, for instance, looked-after children. They will also take more account of the views of parents when deciding when a school needs inspecting.

### Impact on governors

One of the significant changes in the new framework impacts on governors. Inspectors will make a judgement on:

*The effectiveness of the governing body in challenging and supporting the school so that weaknesses are tackled decisively and statutory responsibilities met.*

Inspectors will evaluate:

- ◆ how effectively governors help to shape the direction of the school;
  - ◆ how rigorously governors and supervisory boards challenge and support leaders and managers, holding them to account for tackling weaknesses and further improving outcomes for all pupils;
  - ◆ how well governors, supervisory boards and any joint committee(s) fulfil their statutory responsibilities.
- Inspectors will take account of:
- ◆ the extent to which the school's self-evaluation indicates compliance with statutory requirements;
  - ◆ the rigour of the governing body's procedures to ensure the health, safety and well-being of staff and pupils;
  - ◆ how effectively governors fulfil their duties to promote community cohesion and inclusive practice relating to special educational needs, race equality, disability and gender equality;
  - ◆ how knowledgeable governors are of the work of the school, including its strengths and weaknesses, through their monitoring and evaluation of the school's performance;
  - ◆ how engaged governors are in actively setting priorities for improvement and how robustly they monitor and evaluate the impact of any improvement plans;
  - ◆ how effectively the governing body ensures its skills and expertise are matched to the needs of the school and how effectively these are used to improve outcomes for pupils;
  - ◆ the extent to which the governing body understands the school's performance data and has an accurate picture of how well all the pupils are achieving compared with those in other schools, as well as how different groups of pupils within the school are performing;
  - ◆ how governors ensure that school targets are both achievable and sufficiently challenging to lead to and sustain improvement;
  - ◆ governors' understanding of barriers to learning, including attendance and behaviour issues, and what the school is doing to overcome them;
  - ◆ how effectively and confidently governors develop and use their skills and knowledge to hold leaders to account for improvement by robustly challenging underperformance;
  - ◆ how systematically governors consult and gather the views of users and stakeholders and how these views are taken into account in future planning.

## New arrangements for school inspections (continued)

Inspectors will make a judgement on the quality of governance based on the following grade descriptors:

<b>Outstanding (1)</b>	Governors make an exceptional contribution to the work and direction of the school. They have high levels of insight, are extremely well organised and thorough in their approach. They are vigorous in ensuring that all pupils and staff are safe. In discharging their statutory responsibilities, they have very robust systems for evaluating the effectiveness of their implementation, keeping the work of the school under review and acting upon their findings. Governors are innovative, flexible and adapt to new ideas quickly, supporting the work of the staff in improving outcomes for all pupils. They are confident in providing high levels of professional challenge to hold the school to account. Governors engage very effectively with parents, pupils and the staff as a whole and are well informed about users' views of the school. They use these views to inform strategic priorities for development.
<b>Good (2)</b>	The governing body has the capacity to meet the school's needs and is influential in determining the strategic direction of the school. Governors are rigorous in ensuring that pupils and staff are safe and discharge their statutory duties effectively. They are fully and systematically involved in evaluating the school. Their relationships with staff are constructive and they show determination in challenging and supporting the school in tackling weaknesses and so bringing about necessary improvements. Governors have clear systems for seeking the views of parents and pupils and mechanisms for acting on these.
<b>Satisfactory (3)</b>	Governors discharge their statutory responsibilities and ensure that pupils and staff are safe. They are well organised, are visible in the school community, and support staff and pupils. Most governors know the strengths and weaknesses of the school and understand the challenges it faces and are directly involved in setting appropriate priorities for improvement. The governing body holds the school to account for tackling important weaknesses. Governors engage often with parents and pupils and respond quickly to their views and any significant concerns they may have.
<b>Inadequate (4)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ The governing body has too little impact on the direction and work of the school.</li><li>or</li><li>◆ The governing body does not challenge the school to address weaknesses and bring about improvement.</li><li>or</li><li>◆ The governing body's negligence in failing to meet its statutory requirements places the pupils' achievement or well-being at risk.</li></ul>

Further support on the changes to the Ofsted framework will be available at the LA Meetings with Chairs of Governors, the details of which are on page 11.

More information on the framework for inspecting schools in England from September 2009 can be found at:

[www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Ofsted-home/Forms-and-guidance)

# Report from the Chair of the Association of Leicestershire Governors (ALG)

ASSOCIATION OF  
LEICESTERSHIRE  
GOVERNORS

**G**  
governing  
*our future*  
better together

The past academic year has seen some changes in the Association of Leicestershire Governors, not least of which is our renewed affiliation to the National Governors' Association giving Leicestershire governors a voice nationally as well as locally.

We also have a new Chair, though our Executive Committee is much depleted (not the Chair's fault I assure you).

I believe that governors overall do not realise the many tasks which this small committee carries out on behalf of Leicestershire governors. To address this, the following list of some of the positions which committee members either hold or have been responsible for filling, should be part remedy:

- Schools Funding Forum;
- Unit Costs Review Group;
- Leicestershire Children & Young Peoples Board;
- Multi Agency Forum;
- Work Force Agreement Monitoring Group;
- F40 Group (fighting government for better funding for Leicestershire – bottom of the heap again as reported in the Times in May);
- Local Authority Anti-Bullying Strategy Group;
- Voluntary & Community Services Executive Forum;
- School Admissions Appeal Panel;

## ➤ Common Assessment Framework Group.

The list is by no means exhaustive; we also attend conferences and do report on these though unfortunately our reports have not always been published.

ALG has recently organised ballots for governor representation on the Schools' Funding Forum, no mean task this year when four vacancies arose at about the same time. A sincere thank you to those who put themselves forward for nomination and to all those who voted. The response was overwhelming – to know that so many governors are actively taking part bodes well for the future of governance in Leicestershire.

We are looking at ways in which we can raise the profile of ALG and communicate with the 3000+ Leicestershire governors. There is the possibility of setting up a micro website; another way would be for one member of every governing body to be on an email address list. By these means we could distribute information more regularly and widely.

We also have plans for a closer association with the LA which we hope they will take on board.

We would welcome some new members to the Executive Committee which meets once a term. Reduction in our numbers may lead to loss of

viability and loss of an authoritative voice to speak on behalf of Leicestershire governors nationally to government and locally to our LA officers.

Governors are encouraged to contact ALG committee members and over the years we have successfully taken up concerns with relevant LA officers. Our relationship with the Governor Development Service is flourishing and we look forward to working with the new manager.

Much to celebrate, much still to do, join us in our worthwhile work for the children of Leicestershire.

## Sylvia Bosworth Chair ALG

✉ [sylviabosworth@aol.com](mailto:sylviabosworth@aol.com)

☎ 0116 2431877

## Conference Report

Sylvia Bosworth attended the Children's Services Network Conference in June 2009 on Governance for 21st Century Schools.

Unfortunately, there is insufficient space in this issue of the Leicestershire Governor to publish her report. However, if you would like details of the day, please contact Sylvia direct (details above).

## Quality matters - GDS commitment to governors

Governor Development Service is committed to the continual quality improvement of the training provision we offer to governors. This commitment is delivered in a number of ways.

We believe that effective training starts with good planning and preparation: we can talk you through the content and structure of our published courses, offering clear and practical advice, allowing you to make an informed choice.

Every course is systematically evaluated by us, based on your feedback. We do this through the use of evaluation forms and personal or verbal responses, in which we obtain the views of governors. This provides us with invaluable feedback that enables us to improve the quality of future courses.

When we develop new courses we invite governors to be part of the development pilot so that we can ensure the courses are 'right first time'.

We use highly experienced trainers who have a wealth of knowledge of the types of challenges and issues you face. Our trainers take part in termly development meetings which enable them to share best practise, new developments and update their skills. In addition, we have introduced external quality assurance of trainers.

We understand that the quality of the venue can have an impact on your learning

experience. We aim to use schools /colleges wherever possible and we have a meticulous programme of visits to new and existing venues to ensure they can meet our requirements.

Your feedback is always welcome because our philosophy is if we know about it we can do something about it. We recognise that there is

always scope for learning, development and improvement.

If you wish to draw our attention to something, you can either call us (telephone numbers are on the back page), email us at [governors@leics.gov.uk](mailto:governors@leics.gov.uk) or write to us at Governor Development Services, Children & Young People's Service, Room G30, County Hall, Glenfield, Leicester LE3 8RF.

## Chairs' Mentoring Pilot Scheme: supporting new or less experienced chairs of governors

If you are an experienced chair of governors, would you like to take on a new role which will not only help improve our schools, but is also personally rewarding?

GDS is piloting a Chairs' Mentoring Scheme which could put your skills and experience to good use.

Too often the skills and knowledge of experienced governors are not fully appreciated or utilised, but the mentoring scheme can change that. We need people who are knowledgeable, willing and ready to act as mentors and provide support when called upon.

Are you a chair of governors who is new to the role? Are you facing new situations or challenges where you would find support from another chair useful? The Chairs' Mentoring Scheme may be the support you are looking for.

We wrote to all chairs of

governors at the beginning of July providing the following information:

- ◆ covering letter
- ◆ information for mentors
- ◆ information for mentees
- ◆ code of conduct for Chairs' Mentoring Scheme
- ◆ Chairs' Mentor Expression of Interest form

If you have not received the information and are interested in being involved in the pilot scheme as a mentor or would like support from a mentor, please contact:

Rajni Kachhela

☎ 0116 305 6518

✉ [rajni.kachhela@leics.gov.uk](mailto:rajni.kachhela@leics.gov.uk)



## Course Attendance - A plea!

It's fantastic that so many of our courses are fully subscribed because it means that more governors are able to benefit from the range of training available.

However, we are experiencing an increasing number of governors who are cancelling their place on a course at short notice or not turning up at all.

This denies other governors a place on the course and has obvious cost implications of running courses that are under-subscribed.

We ask that you provide us with a **minimum of two weeks notice** if you need to cancel your place on a course. This will enable us time to offer your place to other governors.

## A huge thank you from your Local Authority



The Local Authority, in particular your Governor Development Service, greatly appreciates the work and commitment of governors in schools and colleges throughout Leicestershire. In recognition of this we would like to hold an evening reception for some of our long-serving governors.

If you have been, or know of anyone who has been, a governor in Leicestershire for 20 years or more (not necessarily at the same school) we would like to hear from you with

the following information:

- ✓ name and address of governor
- ✓ school(s)/college(s) where you/they have been a governor
- ✓ dates of service (unfortunately our records only go back to 1988)



Please forward this information to Clare Kimberley:

☎ 0116 305 6517

✉ [clare.kimberley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:clare.kimberley@leics.gov.uk)

***We look forward to receiving your nominations.***

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## Nipping HR issues in the bud

While clearly the majority of staff in schools are dedicated and hard working, most schools will experience some staffing issues from time to time. These may include taking too much time off, under performing, difficult working relations with colleagues or inappropriate conduct.

At a time when pressures for service delivery and hitting targets are increasing, we overwhelmingly find that staffing issues are most difficult to resolve when action is not taken at the earliest opportunity.

There are a number of key policies and procedures e.g. Capability, Disciplinary and Attendance Management, for

governors to follow which are agreed with the Trade Unions and designed to help you to manage and resolve staffing issues within the framework of employment legislation. These and other HR policies can be accessed via EIS through your school/college or from Human Resources.

As a governing body, we would recommend that you adopt the latest versions of these policies and procedures and follow these when addressing your staffing issues. The Trade Unions will certainly 'challenge' you if you are not following the appropriate procedure.

As mentioned above, when

action is taken early it saves time in getting staff back to work and performing, helps to reinforce an achieving culture within the school and helps manage school budgets.

Once a procedure is started it is much easier to slow it down in sensitive cases, as appropriate, than it is to start a case later and try to speed up the process when budgetary and other concerns start to cause pressure.

If you or your senior leadership team need advice on specific cases or want to get advice about HR policies please contact HR via the Employee Service Centre on 0116 305 8815.

## One to One Tuition Programme: Governor Update

The DCSF has provided funding for the national roll-out of One to One tuition for the next academic year (September 2009 to July 2010).

Further funding will be available for the academic year 2010/11 and it is likely that this will be double the amount provided this year.

School governing bodies have an important role to play in the utilisation of these funds to help pupils that receive tuition gain the most from it. They are also involved in ensuring that the school targets and uses the funding where it is likely to have most impact.

### Why One to One tuition?

At the Labour Party Conference in 2007, Gordon Brown stated that he wanted all pupils in the maintained sector to receive similar provision to pupils in the private sector in terms of one to one tuition. He saw this as a key element of providing personalisation of learning and addressing areas of learning that some pupils found difficult.

He pledged to provide funding for 300,000 pupils to receive one to one tuition in English and 300,000 pupils to receive one to one tuition in maths by 2011.

### What is the role of the governing body in managing this programme?

There are no additional responsibilities placed on governing bodies other than the normal monitoring and evaluation. For example, the governor with curriculum responsibility should consider the impact on pupil outcomes and other curriculum areas; the finance governors should ensure the funds are used for the purpose identified, etc.

### Questions

Governors will, no doubt, have a number of questions regarding One to One tuition, such as:

- ◆ How much tuition is involved?
- ◆ When can the tuition take place?
- ◆ What if we cannot use our full allocation?
- ◆ What can we do if we want more places?
- ◆ Can we use the funding for group work or for other work in our school?
- ◆ How much do we get for tuition?
- ◆ Who is eligible to tutor pupils?

- ◆ How does my school get the funds?
- ◆ What is an ITP and why is it necessary?
- ◆ What safeguards are in place?
- ◆ How are pupils selected for tuition?
- ◆ What are the work load implications?

Answers to these questions and more can be found on the GDS website ([www.leics.gov.uk/education/support\\_for\\_schools/governors.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/education/support_for_schools/governors.htm)) by clicking on the link for One to One Tuition in the Updates section.

If you would like further information on One to One tuition:

- ✓ Log on to:  
[www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/schoolstandards/mgppilot/onetoone/](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/teachingandlearning/schoolstandards/mgppilot/onetoone/)
- ✓ ask your school for the DCSF document "Developing one-to-one tuition: Guidance for Local Authorities and schools". Alternatively you can download this from [www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications](http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications) and by searching for DCSF-01607-2009
- ✓ search for 'one to one' on EIS (Electronic Information Service), accessed through schools and colleges. Ask your headteacher, principal or school administrator for assistance. This will take you to the LA documentation, which includes a guide produced by HR detailing issues related to the appointment and payment of tutors.
- ✓ contact Trevor Pedley, One to One Programme Manager:  
☎ 0116 305 8068  
✉ [trevor.pedley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:trevor.pedley@leics.gov.uk)

## A Guide to the Law for School Governors

The DCSF published a new version of the Guide to the Law in April 2009. Schools should have copies of the CD-ROM but you can access or download either a PDF or Word version of it from [www.governornet.co.uk](http://www.governornet.co.uk)



department for  
**children, schools and families**

## 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools – White Paper

The White Paper – Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21<sup>st</sup> century schools system – was published on 30 June 2009 and can be downloaded from [www.dcsf.gov.uk](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk).

The paper focuses on the fact that the attainment gap between the most disadvantaged and advantaged is not narrowing quickly enough and this gap is still wider than in many other countries. In order to continue to narrow the gap, schools will need to work increasingly in partnership with other schools, and other agencies.

It recognises that the school workforce (teaching and support staff) need to have access to, and make use of, training and development opportunities. Teachers will be reassessed every five years under the 'licence to teach' to ensure their skills and knowledge are still fit for the job. Learning support staff will have to have qualifications at Level 3.

A School Report Card will replace the School Profile. It will provide information on a wider range of school outcomes, including wellbeing and parents' and pupils' views. A separate prospectus has been published for this and is available to download from the DCSF website.

The implications for governance is that the key responsibility of the governing body is to hold the leadership of the school to account for the effectiveness of its service to the community. The role of school governors will be strengthened by:

- ♦ enshrining in law governing bodies' fundamental duties to children, young people and the wider community;
  - ♦ SIPs will be required to provide information and advice to the governing body about the school's performance so that governors are more able to challenge and support school leaders;
  - ♦ improving governor training and there will be an expectation for all chairs of governors to undergo specific training for that role;
  - ♦ focusing initial training for governors on central tasks – providing effective challenge and support, holding to account, making effective use of data and information to manage performance and ensuring value for money;
  - ♦ training governors, where appropriate, in overseeing more than one school and managing co-located services;
  - ♦ introducing greater flexibility into the rules about the composition of governing bodies.
- The NGA has produced a briefing paper for its members on the White Paper and is available from the website [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)
- We will keep governors informed as details of the White Paper are confirmed.

### Calling all Parent Governors

#### Election of Parent Governor Representatives to serve on Local Authority Committee dealing with children and young people

The Government states that Parent Governor Representatives should be elected by parent governors to serve on the Local Authority committee dealing with children and young people's matters. Leicestershire County Council has two such representatives elected and appointed to the Scrutiny Committee on Children and Young People's Services.

The parent governors' terms of office came to an end in May 2009. One of the vacancies has successfully been filled by the required process. Congratulations to Mrs Lesley Summerland. However, this means there is still a vacancy to be filled.

If you are a parent governor and this is something you might be interested in please contact Wendy Hammond on 0116 305 6362 or email her at [wendy.hammond@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wendy.hammond@leics.gov.uk). An information document on the role of Parent Governor Representatives who serve on a Local Authority Committee dealing with Children and Young People will be sent together with a nomination form.

Completed nomination forms **must** be returned to Wendy Hammond by **30 September 2009** at the latest. It is hoped that the successful applicant will be appointed by Christmas 2009.

## Ofsted Chief Inspector honours schools in Hinckley area

Mr Tony Smith, of Dorothy Goodman Special School, Hinckley, and Mrs Brenda Carson, of Saint Martin's Catholic High School, Stoke Golding, have been honoured by Ofsted in a celebratory event recognising outstanding schools in England. The event was held in Cutlers Hall, Sheffield, on Friday 20 March 2009.



*From left to right: Tony Smith, Christine Gilbert, Brenda Carson*

Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education, Children's Services and Skills, praised Dorothy Goodman Special School and Saint Martin's Catholic High School, alongside other top

schools, in the annual list of outstanding providers published by Ofsted.

Schools on the list provide an excellent quality of education across the full range of their work and attain high levels of student achievement across an often diverse and complex range of circumstances.

Hosting the celebration, Ofsted's Chief Inspector recognised the determination, ambition and commitment it takes to become an outstanding school.

Addressing 300 headteachers in Sheffield, the Chief Inspector said, "I wholeheartedly congratulate the headteachers, staff, governors and students of all outstanding schools on their success and hard work in delivering such an excellent standard of education. Outstanding schools have leaders of vision, courage and conviction, and the ability to create and inspire their staff, their students and the communities they serve. I hope that these outstanding schools are a beacon to others; an example of what can be achieved with aspiration and determination."

Schools that appear on the Outstanding Providers list 2007/08 received commemorative certificates and are authorised to use an exclusive "outstanding provider" logo.

### Outstanding Leicestershire Schools in 2008/09

Congratulations to the following schools which were categorised as outstanding following their Ofsted inspections in the academic year 2008/09:

- Bishop Ellis Catholic Primary School
- Brocks Hill Primary School
- Bushloe High School
- Gilmorton Chandler C of E Primary School
- Lady Jane Grey Primary School
- Saint Francis Catholic Primary School
- Saint Peter's Catholic Primary School
- Sir John Moore C of E Primary School
- St Mary's C of E Primary School, Bitteswell
- St Michael & All Angels C of E Primary School
- The Martin High School
- Welland Park Community College

### Implementation of "Rarely Cover"

The National Agreement 'Raising Standards and Tackling Workload' signed in January 2003 established the principle of 'rarely cover' for all teachers, including heads.

Cover supervision occurs where no active teaching takes place, is supervisory in nature and lasts for short periods of time. The use of teachers for a supervisory role is not deemed to be appropriate and should from 1 September 2009 only occur rarely.

Rarely cover means to only undertake a supervisory role in unforeseen circumstances, for example when sudden severe weather or an outbreak of illness leads to unexpected teaching staff absences.

Schools are expected to have a robust system of absence management in place to ensure that teachers cover rarely. Governors will wish to be assured that a system is in place.

Further advice can be found on EIS (Electronic Information Service), accessed through schools and colleges, by searching for 'rarely cover' with a date of 15 May 2009.

Alternatively, contact Roger King, Remodelling Adviser:

☎ 0116 305 8028

✉ roger.king@leics.gov.uk

## Governor Mark - recognising high quality school governance

Governor Mark is a challenging award. Not only does a governing body need to show that it follows good procedures and fulfils statutory duties, but there is a high value placed on evidence of impact - the difference the governing body makes to a school.

Sometimes governors work hard and make a real difference, but no proper record is ever made of this. Governor Mark helps to sharpen practice as well as create the framework through which governor support and challenge can be shown through real evidence.

The current arrangement for governing bodies to achieve the Governor Mark is called Routeway One. To qualify for this the governing body must have evidence that either the school was graded *good* or *outstanding* by the last Ofsted inspection or, if it is more than two years since the last inspection, the school CVA data (Contextual Value Added found in the RAISEonline report) reaches the national mean of 100 minus the confidence limit (1000 in secondary schools).

Governor Mark has been opened up to all schools, not just good or outstanding schools. This is known as Routeway Two. Where a school is graded *satisfactory* or *inadequate* by Ofsted this does not automatically mean that governance is weak. Because there is a need for a more developmental approach to using the Mark, Routeway Two involves a commitment to two assessment visits. The first will be an assessment following a normal application in the same way as Routeway One. One outcome from the assessment will be to identify aspects of governing body impact that need to be strengthened. There may be aspects of the application e.g. one of the impact statements, that will need to be re-submitted. A subsequent assessment will take place some months later following which Governor Mark can be awarded.

It is possible that a school following Routeway Two can achieve Governor Mark on the basis of the first visit, and they may not need to incur the expense of the second.

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## Schools' Funding Forum

A big thank you to all those who took part in the recent ballot for new governor representation on the Funding Forum. The successful candidates are:

Primary school representative	Ann Gibson
High school representatives	Russell Andrews John Herbert
Upper school representative	John Bassford

**Sylvia Bosworth**  
Chair ALG

## Clerks' Column

### Clerks' briefings

In response to an issue raised at the summer term Clerks' Briefing day time meeting, the times of the following briefings have changed:

Date: **Weds 9 Sept 2009**

Venue: Salvation Army Conference Centre

**New time: 10.00 - 11.30am**

Date: **Weds 13 Jan 2010**

Venue: Kibworth Grammar School Hall

**New time: 10.00 - 11.30am**

### Briefing papers

Autumn Term 2009 briefing papers have been posted to all Chairs of Governors and Clerks to Governors.

Appendix 1 gives suggestions for the Autumn Term Governing Body Meeting agenda.

### CRB checks for governors

The regulations relating to CRB checks change with effect from 19 October 2009. Governors appointed or re-appointed after this date will require an enhanced CRB check.

Further information is contained in the Autumn Term briefing papers.

## LA Meetings with Chairs of Governors

“A wonderful opportunity to listen to several relevant updates in a single session”, a view expressed by one Leicestershire governor after attending the Local Authority Meetings with Chairs of Governors in the summer term.

These meetings provide a valuable opportunity to receive updates and information on a range of topics and new initiatives direct from the LA. As a feature of each meeting there is also a chance to take part in an interactive session focusing on a key area for governors. The new Ofsted framework will

be a feature of the autumn term meetings.

One of the other benefits, widely reported, of attending the meetings is having the opportunity to network with other governors and LA representatives.

Tony Mulhearn, Assistant Director for Universal Services skilfully manages the meetings which are presented in an open, friendly and informative style.

Over 100 schools were represented in the summer term meetings. Ask if your school was one of them. If it wasn't then why not come along in the

autumn term and judge for yourself how valuable you feel these sessions are in enabling your governing body to fulfil its roles.

What's more, these meetings are **FREE** and there is at least one place available for every governing body.

If you wish to attend one of the meetings listed below, please pre-book (see GDS contact details on the back page) to ensure that fire regulations at venues are met and that sufficient handouts are available on the day.

Tues 15 Sept .....	10.00 - 11.45 am .....	Hinckley United Football Club
Tues 15 Sept .....	7.00 - 8.45 pm .....	Sherrier C of E Primary School, Lutterworth
Thur 17 Sept .....	10.00 - 11.45 am .....	Baumanor Hall, Woodhouse
Thurs 17 Sept.....	7.00 - 8.45 pm .....	Broom Leys School, Coalville

## Governors' training - developing your capacity as a group

Has your governing body ever trained as a group? Studies show that everyone learns differently and that learning with others can be a stimulating and rewarding event as ideas, opinions and experiences are shared, thereby bringing the subject matter to life.

Modern Governor, the online e-learning programme of bite sized learning just for school governors, continues to develop with existing courses being refreshed and more courses coming soon.

The courses cover a wide range of topics aimed at provoking discussion and rehearsing scenarios. The courses can be

taken as a group by a governing body or individually by a governor on their own.

Because the courses are online they are always available, which means that governors can fit the training round their schedules, not the other way around.

Current courses available are:

- ◆ My role as a governor
- ◆ Children welfare basics
- ◆ Community cohesion
- ◆ Admissions and pupil discipline
- ◆ Preparing for Ofsted
- ◆ Becoming a school governor
- ◆ Health and safety
- ◆ Some governor's questions

answered

- ◆ Understanding school finance
- ◆ Charing governing body meetings
- ◆ School recruitment and practices
- ◆ Equality and diversity

Visit Modern Governor to view a short synopsis and print off a leaflet describing each course.

Courses due for release this year include Charing Meetings, Marketing Your School, Introduction to 'Governor Mark', The New Governance Framework and Accountability.

(continued overleaf)

## Governors' training (continued from page 11)

GDS have extended the subscription to Modern Governor to May 2010, allowing Leicestershire governors free access to this e-learning service.

If you haven't already registered, visit [www.moderngovernor.com](http://www.moderngovernor.com), enter your email address in the user name box on the top right hand corner of the screen, enter a memorable password and click log in, then follow the instructions on the next page.

If you have any queries about Modern Governor please call 0845 543 6033 or email [support@learningpool.com](mailto:support@learningpool.com)

## In-School Governor Training

If your school / college has subscribed to the GDS Service Level Agreement for 2009/10 and has not yet booked the two hour in-school training session please contact Helen Hayes to make arrangements.

Helen's contact details are:

☎ 0116 305 4530

✉ [helen.hayes@leics.gov.uk](mailto:helen.hayes@leics.gov.uk)

If you wish to have an in-school training session it must be taken by 31 March 2010 and needs to be booked by 31 December 2009.

## Contributions to your newsletter

If you wish to submit an article for consideration for the next issue, please contact Clare Kimberley on 0116 305 6517 or email your article to [clare.kimberley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:clare.kimberley@leics.gov.uk)

**We would particularly like to hear from you if your school/ college or governing body is celebrating a success or achievement.**

Copy deadline for the Spring Term 2010 issue is **30 October 2009**.

The views expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the editor or of the Local Authority.

## GDS team

Support and assistance is just a phone call away. The Governor Development Service team is available to help with your questions from 9.00 am - 5.00 pm (4.30 pm on Fridays).

**Ian Knight**, Service Manager ..... 0116 305 6495

**Helen Stockill**, Assistant Service Manager ..... 0116 305 6503

**Rajni Kachhela**, Office Manager ..... 0116 305 6518

**Clare Kimberley**, Management Support Assistant ..... 0116 305 6517

**Helen Hayes**, Training & Development ..... 0116 305 6430

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This newsletter is available in large print or via email, please contact Governor Development Service by telephoning 0116 305 6517 or emailing [governors@leics.gov.uk](mailto:governors@leics.gov.uk)

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