

Leicestershire School Governors' Conference 2008

## Leading schools where **EVERY** child **DOES** matter

Saturday 22 November 2008 Brockington College, Enderby



# Welcome & Programme

Welcome to Brockington College, Enderby and the Leicestershire School Governors' Conference 2008 – Leading schools where EVERY child DOES matter.

We would like to thank you for giving up your precious time to attend our conference and hope that you will gain a great deal from the day. It will be an opportunity to meet old friends, make new ones, be motivated and hopefully learn something new.

Some of you will have travelled some distance to be here, others will have sacrificed various other events or family time. We are sure that the broad and inspiring programme will make it worth the effort.

We hope you enjoy the day and you continue with your valuable contribution to Leicestershire's schools and colleges.

Special thanks go to all those involved in organising the conference, from the initial planning stage through to the event day. We couldn't have done it without you.

## Governor Development Service

### Programme for the Day

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|--------------|---|
| <b>9.15</b>  | Registration and refreshments   |
| <b>9.45</b>  | Welcome   |
| <b>10.15</b> | Every Child Matters in Curriculum<br>Mick Waters, Director of Curriculum, Qualifications & Curriculum Authority |
| <b>11.00</b> | Refreshment break   |
| <b>11.30</b> | Facilitated workshops   |
| <b>12.15</b> | Lunch and opportunity to look at exhibitors' stands   |
| <b>13.15</b> | Out of the Ordinary – The Grangeton Story<br>Richard Gerver, Headteacher, Grange Primary School, Long Eaton     |
| <b>14.00</b> | Facilitated workshops   |
| <b>14.45</b> | Question time and closing remarks   |
| <b>15.00</b> | Close and refreshments  |

# Brockington College

Brockington College is a Church of England Voluntary Aided 11-14 High School with Specialist Technology Status. We are one of two main feeder high schools for Lutterworth College.

We moved into our wonderful new school in November 2007. The award winning building is designed to offer a modern, spacious and welcoming environment for learning in the 21st Century.

The crescent-shaped building has a central courtyard atrium where students and staff can meet, eat and socialise. The teaching rooms have high specification ICT and interactive facilities with a total of over four hundred computers in the building.

Brockington is a high-achieving, vibrant community that celebrates success and endeavour. In both our recent Section 5 and 48 Ofsted inspections in Summer 2008 the school was deemed to be "good with outstanding features".

We have an extensive and varied extra curricular programme and work in other areas is externally validated through the Career Mark, Sports Mark and the Eco Award.

# Guest Speakers

**Mick Waters** Director of Curriculum, Qualifications & Curriculum Authority

**Richard Gerver** Headteacher, Grange Primary School, Long Eaton



**Mick Waters**

The role of Director of Curriculum at QCA enables Mick to work with all partners to develop a world class curriculum that offers all young people the chance to enjoy success at school and in later adult life.

This involves exploring what really matters in learning and supporting new developments, linked to the five outcomes for children.

Before joining QCA, Mick was Chief Education Officer for the City of Manchester. In a challenging education environment schools worked hard to break the cycle of urban deprivation, promoting a wide and rich curriculum and encouraging all learners to achieve as much as possible.

Key agendas included the development of joint children's services, the 14-19 strategy, the employment and skills dimension and configuring all this around Building Schools for the Future.

Previously Mick worked in Birmingham Local Education Authority. He drove forward a school improvement agenda which saw increasing achievements and increasingly successful schools seeking new horizons in educational development.

Mick has experience of headship in two schools and of working in teacher training. He was also part of an Education Development Unit which worked on a contract basis with LEAs and other agencies across the UK and worldwide.



**Richard Gerver**

Richard works as a consultant on creativity, leadership and education and has been described as 'One of the most inspirational leaders of his generation.'

Richard is a former actor who gained his reputation leading a school on the brink of failure to global recognition within five years. As a result he won a highly prestigious National Teaching Award in 2005. He has worked as a policy consultant to the Government and a variety of its agencies including the QCA and the National College of School Leadership.

Richard's work transcends education and is now having a major impact on organisations around the world including; UNESCO, The British Council, Skanska, The Welsh Government and The National Federation of Enterprise Agencies.

Now the Director of two companies: IC-ED and Ninja Kids, Richard works to share his unique vision of leading people in the 21st century and promoting creativity and innovation across all sectors and through all forms of media but his passion lies as a speaker.

He deals with the issues that face us all in our lives today and the lives of our children tomorrow: Creativity, Risk, Innovation, Leadership, Technology and Wellbeing.

# Workshops

You will have been allocated a workshop session for the morning and one for the afternoon. Here's a reminder of the workshops that are taking place.

## **SEAL of Approval? – Developing the Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning**

Paul Heery, School Development Adviser

Developing social and emotional aspects of learning is one of the most important tasks for schools. How well is your school doing this and how can you support it to implement the SEAL programme?

## **Special School Governors' Guide to the Data Jungle**

Jackie Hibbert, School Development Adviser

There is an increasing amount of data for Special School Governors to cope with in their monitoring role, particularly with the expected launch of Special School RAISEonline. In this workshop, we aim to provide a fun approach to mapping a route through the data jungle for governors, to help with their monitoring role.

## **Successful Recruitment Matters**

Pat McGraw, School Development Adviser

The workshop provides an opportunity for governors to understand how they can play a part in growing future leaders. Early "talent spotting" and training can ensure not only that posts are filled but that schools recruit the candidates who possess the skills and attributes to successfully take the school from "good to great".

## **Pupil Voice (Primary)**

Sue Lees, Headteacher, Sketchley Hill Primary School

Opportunities for pupils to express their views and opinions are important if we value their place in society. We must listen to them if we are to foster independent thinkers and responsible young people of the future.

## **Supporting Children in Care - A Practical Guide**

Dave Henderson, Service Manager – Education of Children in Care

The workshop will cover:

What does 'in care' mean?

What are the barriers to education for Children in Care?

The role of the Designated Teacher

A 'checklist' for designated governors for Children in Care.

## **Philosophy for Children**

Pupils of Richmond Primary School

Does engaging pupils in learning beyond the literal, encouraging the asking of thought provoking questions and suggesting answers that are "out of the box" appeal to you? Then come along and learn about this enriching programme from the pupils of Richmond Primary School.

# Workshops

## **The Importance of Outdoor Learning in Primary Schools**

Bill Griffiths, Headteacher, Eastfield Primary School

The National Curriculum can be delivered with significant use of the outdoor environment. Come along and see how the whole Every Child Matters agenda can be enhanced with the use of a few pots and grow-bags or, more ambitiously, a smallholding.

## **Every Child Matters – Including the Most Able**

Julie Kennedy, Gifted & Talented Consultant

The purpose of this workshop is to update governors on the most current information relating to the Gifted and Talented agenda, to focus on what this means for your school and your role within the school, and to think about how the national agenda translates into classroom practice.

## **Get it Right from the Start**

Sue Rath, School Development Adviser

The Early Years Foundation Stage becomes statutory in September 2008. This session will help governors to understand how the Early Years Foundation Stage supports high quality learning for reception age children.

## **Pupil Voice – Can it Really Make a Difference? (Secondary)**

Students from Beauchamp College

Beauchamp College has two student governors and a group of over 50 on the School Council. They've run the whole interview process to appoint a 6th Form Manager and the Council is split into proactive teams. Come and be inspired by some of the Beauchamp students explaining what they do, how they do it, and what a difference they make to life in the college.

## **Oh, to go to School on a Summer's Day - Changes to the Secondary Curriculum**

Christine Connearn, School Development Adviser

This workshop will look at the proposed changes to the curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4 that are designed to engage, motivate, stretch and challenge all young people whatever their needs and aspirations.

# Exhibitors

We have an exciting range of exhibitors for you to view during the morning and lunchtime breaks. We have provided contact details here in case you are unable to see all of the exhibits or you would like further information after the conference.

## Bridges ISA Programme

The Bridges programme is responsible for supporting Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland with their implementation of some of the technical and cultural changes described in Every Child Matters and further provided by the Children Act 2004 which includes ContactPoint (national children's index), the Common Assessment Framework and lead professional practitioner process.

All schools will be implementing new practices and processes referred to above to ensure that children with additional needs are identified and supported earlier, using CAF as the joint assessment and action plan.

Bridges also currently provides an online service directory to support children, families and practitioners.

For more information visit:

[www.leics.gov.uk/index/social\\_services/children\\_young\\_people/bridges\\_programme.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/children_young_people/bridges_programme.htm)

Or contact James Lynch, Bridges ISA Service Manager: [jlynch@leics.gov.uk](mailto:jlynch@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 305 8729

## Connexions

Connexions Leicester Shire provides information and advice to 13-19 year olds in Leicester and Leicestershire to help them make a smooth transition to adulthood and working life. Information and advice is available on a wide range of issues including jobs and careers, housing, benefits, drugs, relationships, rights, learning and money.

Personal Advisers are central to the service. They offer specialist information, advice and guidance and act as brokers to further specialist services in the area.

Young people are able to access the Connexions Service whilst at school/college or at one of seven Connexions centres located throughout the city and county.

Connexions Leicester Shire also provides publications and software for use by schools/colleges, as well as support to develop the career education and personal development curriculum

It is important that students and school/college staff are aware of, and take up, the services provided by Connexions Leicester Shire. Governors' support with this is welcomed.

For more information visit:  
[www.connexions-leics.org](http://www.connexions-leics.org)

Or contact Bill Edwards: [bedwards@connexions-leics.org](mailto:bedwards@connexions-leics.org)

## Corporate Parenting – Supporting Children in Care, Leicestershire County Council

We know that children and young people who are looked after (in care) have very different lives from others who live with their own families. It can be very difficult for children to live away from their families and they might miss out on things as a result. Corporate Parenting expresses the notion that Leicestershire County Council has a particular role in ensuring that those in its care do not miss out and are provided with opportunities so that they can fulfil their potential.

Governors can discover what 'in care' means and what the barriers to education are for Children in Care; what the role is of the Designated Teacher and how governors can support them; the availability of training for governors.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/social\\_services/children\\_young\\_people/children\\_looked\\_after/lac\\_services\\_for/corporate\\_parenting.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/social_services/children_young_people/children_looked_after/lac_services_for/corporate_parenting.htm)

Or contact Dave Henderson, Service Manager, Education of Children in Care: [davidghenderson@leics.gov.uk](mailto:davidghenderson@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 305 5731

# Exhibitors

## Eco Schools, Leicestershire County Council

The Eco Schools programme is a Europe-wide award scheme that works to decrease the impact that schools have on the environment. The programme enables environmental education to be integrated into the running of the whole school in a flexible and straightforward way.

Eco Schools takes a 'whole school' approach towards implementing environmental education and improvements within schools. It works by involving the pupils, teachers, non-teaching staff and governors with members of the local community (parents, local authorities, the media and local businesses). The scheme encourages teamwork to create a shared understanding of how a school can be run to decrease its impact on the environment.

In total there are 130 schools already registered on the Eco Schools programme in Leicestershire and 25 of those schools have a Green Flag to show they have achieved eco schools status.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/eco\\_schools/what\\_is\\_eco\\_schools.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/environment/eco_schools/what_is_eco_schools.htm)

Or contact Rachel Sweetland, Environmental Action Assistant: [rsweetland@leics.gov.uk](mailto:rsweetland@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 305 7332

## Fairtrade Schools' Accreditation Scheme

The Fairtrade Foundation launched a new, national accreditation scheme for Fairtrade Schools in the autumn of 2007. The aim of the scheme is to raise awareness about Fairtrade within the broader context of trade justice and the need for sustainable development in the South. It is designed to promote an understanding of some aspects of development and encourage young people to use their power as consumers and active citizens to contribute to a fairer and more sustainable world.

The Fairtrade Schools Scheme offers opportunities for students to participate and take responsibility for their decisions. Their enthusiasm to get involved can have a positive influence on the whole school community. The Scheme links with other initiatives such as Eco Schools and Sustainable Schools. It also contributes to the Every Child Matters agenda.

For more information visit:  
[www.thebigquestioncompany.org/fairtrade.shtml](http://www.thebigquestioncompany.org/fairtrade.shtml)

Or contact Clare Carr: [clare@thebigquestioncompany.org](mailto:clare@thebigquestioncompany.org) Tel: 0116 270 3628

## Farming and Countryside Education (FACE)

FACE is a charity supported by over 70 member organisations, all of whom have a commitment to educational work associated with food, farming and the countryside.

FACE supports teachers by providing easy access to teaching resources, lists of farms to visit, health and safety information and much more via our web site.

FACE also provides curriculum development projects, teacher's seminars and support through its team of Regional Education Co-ordinators.

FACE supports farmers and countryside managers by providing workshops and seminars, an accreditation system for countryside visits and links between farms and schools.

All of FACE's work is underpinned by ongoing independent research and evaluation.

For more information visit:  
[www.face-online.org.uk](http://www.face-online.org.uk)

Or contact Bobbie Harvey, East Midlands Education Co-ordinator: [bobbie@face-online.org.uk](mailto:bobbie@face-online.org.uk) Tel: 01298 872884

# Exhibitors

## Forest Schools, Leicestershire County Council

Forest Schools is a unique outdoor provision which delivers key areas of national and local policy as it relates to children and young people's personal, social and emotional development.

Governors will be informed about this provision with opportunities to explore the possibilities of implementing this within their own settings.

For more information contact Paul Moseley, Ranger, Beacon Hill Country Park: [pmoseley@leics.gov.uk](mailto:pmoseley@leics.gov.uk)  
Tel: 01509 890048

## Leicestershire Education Business Company (LEBC)

LEBC inspires and motivates young people by developing partnerships between schools, business and the wider community. A range of activities are on offer giving a focus to young people about work, through work and for work. Schools and colleges are linked with the support of volunteers from the world of business and the wider community, which help prepare young people for the exciting challenges ahead in their working life. This partnership enhances the skills set for both the volunteer and the young people involved.

Governors can find out more about the work of the LEBC and how their school/college could benefit from this link, be it primary or secondary. They can discuss the opportunities we offer either across literacy, science and related subjects, work experience, Enterprise and Employability, Young Apprenticeships etc. Governors will also have the opportunity themselves to volunteer to support these activities.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics-ebc.org.uk](http://www.leics-ebc.org.uk)

Or contact LEBC: [contactus@leics-ebc.org.uk](mailto:contactus@leics-ebc.org.uk)  
Tel: 0116 240 7000

## Leicestershire Outdoor and Residential Learning Service, Leicestershire County Council

Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service provides unrivalled opportunities for outdoor learning, adventurous activities and INSET through its Outdoor and Residential Learning Service.

A broad range of adventurous, humanities based or team building activities and training, linked to the National Curriculum, can be offered at either one of our centres or on your own site.

We have centres at:

- Beaumanor Hall and Park, Woodhouse, Leicestershire
- Quorn Hall, Quorn, Leicestershire
- Aberglaslyn Hall, Snowdonia National Park, North Wales

Outdoor and Residential Learning Service staff will plan programmes according to individual needs and visit schools/colleges to discuss the services offered. Meetings can also be arranged for group leaders to view our facilities and meet the staff.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/community\\_activities/outdoorlearn.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/community_activities/outdoorlearn.htm)

Or contact Andrea Smith, Customer Care Manager:  
[asmith@leics.gov.uk](mailto:asmith@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 01509 890119

## Leicestershire Youth Offending Service

The Leicestershire Youth Offending Service was established in 2000 in response to the Crime and Disorder Act 1998. Its primary aim is to prevent offending by young people. The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 recognised that if youth crime was to be tackled effectively it needed organisations to work together by pooling experience, staff and resources. The Youth Offending Service includes staff seconded from Children and Young People's Services, Connexions, Health,

# Exhibitors

Probation and the Police. The Youth Offending Service works with young people who are at risk of offending and those who have offended.

Prevention, early intervention and suitable access together with appropriate, sustainable educational provision are critical in the prevention and reduction of crime.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/yjsc/youthjustice.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/yjsc/youthjustice.htm)

Or contact Wendy Poynton, Head of Youth Offending Service: [wpoynton@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wpoynton@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 260 6000

## Library Services for Education, Leicestershire County Council

We are the schools' library service for Leicestershire, Leicester City and Rutland, dedicated to providing curriculum and leisure reading support for school libraries, school staff and pupils, through the provision of library resources, advisory work and training.

We are a traded service and would like governors to recognise both the cost effectiveness of purchasing a subscription to our services over purchasing their own resources, and the effectiveness of good school libraries as a vehicle for both raising standards and improving pupils personal, learning and thinking skills.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/libraries/library\\_services/lse](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/community/libraries/library_services/lse)

Or contact Deb Siviter, Manager, Library Services for Education: [dsiviter@leics.gov.uk](mailto:dsiviter@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 267 8016

## Management Information Unit, Leicestershire County Council

The Management Information Unit includes the LEAMIS team, the Information and Data team and the EMBC Support team. LEAMIS provides support for schools' management

information systems (SIMS); the Information and Data team is responsible for maintaining data on schools and pupils at the LA; and the EMBC Support team works with schools on ICT applications in learning and teaching.

These teams provide support to schools for teaching, learning and administrative purposes, not only to meet their statutory obligations, but also to enable them to capture and make use of information about the school and its pupils to support planning and development.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/support\\_for\\_schools/leamis.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/support_for_schools/leamis.htm)

[www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/support\\_for\\_schools/embc.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/support_for_schools/embc.htm)

Or contact Sharon Barker, MIS Manager:  
[smbarker@leics.gov.uk](mailto:smbarker@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 305 6464

## RSPCA Education

The RSPCA aims to promote kindness and prevent cruelty to animals. The Society's free education service plays a leading role by supporting teachers to develop informed, responsible and active citizens and helping schools to become more animal friendly.

We offer free web-based resources and free teacher training showing how animal welfare links with the programmes of study for citizenship and science. We also work with school councils raising awareness of animals and animal welfare issues.

Animal welfare and active citizenship can complement all outcomes of the "Every Child Matters" program of study.

For more information visit:  
[www.rspca.org.uk](http://www.rspca.org.uk)

Or contact Rachel Toach, Education Adviser for Leicestershire & Northamptonshire:  
[RTOACH@rspca.org.uk](mailto:RTOACH@rspca.org.uk) Tel: 07715 540398

# Exhibitors

## Specialist Teaching Service, Leicestershire County Council

The Specialist Teaching Service is part of the Leicestershire Children and Young People's Service. Each year, the Specialist Teaching Service staff provide support for over 1500 children with special educational needs (SEN), their families, early years settings and schools.

Support includes assessment of needs, advice on the educational management of individual children, help in preparing individual education plans, provision of educational advice as part of the statutory assessment process, support to Annual Review of SEN Statements and provision of materials and resources.

We can clarify the good practice that governors should be looking for and helping schools to develop in relation to including pupils with a wide range of special educational needs.

For more information visit:  
[www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/special\\_education\\_needs/specialist\\_teaching\\_service.htm](http://www.leics.gov.uk/index/education/special_education_needs/specialist_teaching_service.htm)

Or contact Susan O'Brien, Leader, Learning Support Team: [sts@leics.gov.uk](mailto:sts@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 01530 513600

## Strategic Initiatives Group of Services: Beyond the classroom

The Strategic Initiatives group of services work to meet the needs of children, young people and families across Leicestershire, beyond the classroom and outside of the "normal" school day. The services within this group support the agenda to raise standards and improve attainment through formal and informal learning, which enable schools in Leicestershire to provide a breadth of innovative and high quality experiences leading to good outcomes for children, young people and families.

This group includes professionals working across youth work, early learning and childcare, extended services and children's centres, adult learning, family support, music and performing arts, sports, outdoor and residential activities, study support, healthy schools and school food.

For more information contact:

Rob Wade, Extended Services on 0116 305 7600 or [rwade@leics.gov.uk](mailto:rwade@leics.gov.uk)

Michelle Foulds, Early Learning and Childcare Service on 0116 305 6552 or [mfoulds@leics.gov.uk](mailto:mfoulds@leics.gov.uk)

Mark Cast, Youth Service Manager on 0116 305 6335 or [mcast@leics.gov.uk](mailto:mcast@leics.gov.uk)

Osyth Dolton, Arts in Education on 0116 270 0850 or [odolton@leics.gov.uk](mailto:odolton@leics.gov.uk)

Wendy Philp, School Food on 0116 305 5770 or [wphilp@leics.gov.uk](mailto:wphilp@leics.gov.uk)

Peter Sapsford, Adult Learning on 0116 305 6563 or [psapsford@leics.gov.uk](mailto:psapsford@leics.gov.uk)

Jane Roberts, Healthy Schools on 01530 278125 or [jbroberts@leics.gov.uk](mailto:jbroberts@leics.gov.uk)

Heather Rawling, Study Support Development Officer on 0116 245 2441 or [hrawling@leics.gov.uk](mailto:hrawling@leics.gov.uk)

Alan Jacobs, Residential and Outdoor Education on 01509 890119 or [hall@beaumanor.rmplc.co.uk](mailto:hall@beaumanor.rmplc.co.uk)

# Exhibitors

## The Country Trust

The Country Trust is an educational charity that takes primary school children on day/week long excursions to the working countryside i.e. farms, nature reserves and rural estates, with the aim of bridging the gap between urban and rural communities by showing the children, teachers and parents where their food comes from, habitat hunts, forestry, farm animals and machinery, stables, environmental issues, etc.

The recent DCSF consultation document on 'Education Outside of the Classroom' stated in its Manifesto that 'We believe every child and young person should experience the world outside the classroom as an integral part of their learning and development, complementing learning in the classroom'.

The Country Trust would like to think that we have been helping to achieve those aims for the past 30 years by taking classes out to farms for which there is no charge to the school, as the children come as private invited guests. Additionally, the Country Trust will assist with the cost of coach hire if the school is unable to raise the full amount.

For more information visit:  
[www.countrytrust.org.uk](http://www.countrytrust.org.uk)

Or contact Gill Oliver, Regional Manager – Midlands [go@countrytrust.org.uk](mailto:go@countrytrust.org.uk) Tel: 01455 213174

## The Jitty, Leicestershire Youth Service

The Jitty is a national award winning website, managed by 40 young people and the Leicestershire Youth Service, aimed at providing information that can enable young people to make informed decisions at key points in their lives. They also have the opportunity to act as peer mentors, artists, photographers, writers and researchers. The Jitty also works very closely with the County Youth Council for Leicestershire.

Some of our work is aimed at providing resources for young people to help with issues of Internet Safety, as well as providing some training to our volunteers on how to deliver presentations etc.

Visit:  
[www.thejitty.com](http://www.thejitty.com)

For more information contact James Hunter, Web Development Youth Worker:  
[jhunter@leics.gov.uk](mailto:jhunter@leics.gov.uk) Tel: 0116 305 6391

## Thinking Aloud

Thinking Aloud offers training in Philosophy for Children (P4C) - a Socratic approach to teaching and learning. Teachers trained in P4C learn how to 'draw understanding out' of their children as opposed to 'putting information in'. As a consequence, children become enabled to explore their 'big questions' together, in a caring and collaborative way whilst building upon one another's ideas.

Governors are in a position to understand both strengths and weaknesses of 'their' schools. In their significant and influential position they are well placed to recognise opportunities that may be of benefit to their schools, and to influence the uptake of such opportunities. Governors recognise the benefits, to children's/young people's education, of having their school staff trained to facilitate P4C sessions with their learners. Thinking Aloud can offer that training.

For more information contact Lezley Finch, Thinking Aloud:  
[lezleyfinch@yahoo.com](mailto:lezleyfinch@yahoo.com) Tel: 0116 279 5006

# Schools' (Funding) Forum and Governors

It is with thanks to the Schools' (Funding) Forum that we have been able to bring you this conference.

## What is the Schools' (Funding) Forum?

The Schools' (Funding) Forum is the body within the County Council that considers all matters relating to the Schools' Budget. This includes both the distribution of funding to schools and also services centrally retained and managed by the Council such as Early Years Education and Provision for Excluded Pupils.

## Who are members of the Schools' (Funding) Forum?

Membership consists of schools' members which represent primary, secondary and special schools with membership split across governors and headteachers. Non-schools' members are representatives from the County Council, Diocesan representatives, early years providers and the Leicestershire 13 – 19 Partnership.

The Forum is serviced and advised by Local Authority officers. Unions have a non voting presence but they can make comments to Forum in its debates.

## What does the Funding Forum do?

The Forum meets to consider the formulae by which money devolved by the Government is distributed to the various phases of education within the county. It also reviews the use of that money and the funding centrally retained by the County Council. It also considers many other funding related areas that impact upon the distribution of monies.

## How can I as a governor make a difference?

Forum's decisions have a profound effect on the education of the children in our county. Forum is very concerned that its work and discussions should have a wide understanding by headteachers and governors. To that end it is proposed to create a separate website which will carry the minutes of the meetings and will indicate agendas and topics to be

discussed. The site will enable comments on various topics to be made and possibly considered at the meetings. This information is currently presented through the CYP Finance Services website area of EIS.

## Can I become a member of Forum?

Governor membership of forum is determined by a process overseen by the Association of Leicestershire Governors (ALG). Headteacher membership is overseen by Leicestershire Primary Heads (LPH), Leicestershire Secondary Heads (LSH) and Leicestershire Special School Heads (LSSH). Representatives are also nominated from the voluntary, private and independent sector, the diocese, the Leicestershire 13-19 Partnership and County Council.

In regard to governor members, ALG circulate a request for nominations to all school/college governing bodies. Elections are then held with candidates giving a short electoral address in support of their candidature. Membership of the Forum will be for a period of 3 years.

## What is the commitment?

Membership of the Forum involves at least 3 full meetings per year which will be held during working hours. It is important that members take sufficient time to read reports issued in advance of meetings in order that there can be an informed debate on the issues. There will also be a number of working party/subcommittee meetings as required.

Members of Forum will be required to undergo induction training as school finance and local authority finance is a complex area and knowledge is needed to be able to take reasoned views. Forum members serve to represent the views of the body that elected them so there is also a time commitment in respect of communication with that group.

# Governor Development Service (GDS)

GDS are here to support Leicestershire school governors.

We aim to:

- identify governors' needs and provide access to high quality training, advice and information to give them the confidence, skills and knowledge to offer leadership and direction to their schools/colleges;
- support governing bodies through efficient administration of governor appointments;
- support governing bodies in schools causing concern and those moving from good to great.

## Contact Details

Name	Title	Email	Telephone
Ruth Stretton	Service Manager	rstretton@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6495
Helen Stockill	Assistant Service Manager	hstockill@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6503
Rajni Kachhela	Office Manager – Information and Advice	rkachhela@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6518
Bhavna Tailor	Administrative Officer – Recruitment and Retention	batailor@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6435
Helen Hayes	Administrative Officer – Training and Development	hhayes@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6430
Clare Kimberley	Management Support Assistant	ckimberley@leics.gov.uk	0116 305 6517