

GST

Newsletter

June 2021



We wanted to start this newsletter with a heartfelt thank you to governors, trustees and members for all your hard work, in particular over the past year, stepping up and playing a vital role in the continuing success of our schools in Cumbria. We very much appreciate the time and valuable contribution that school governors make to children's education, opportunities and futures. Ultimately, the dedication and hard work invested into our schools has a significant impact and undoubtedly contributes to achieving best outcomes for all pupils.

The Governor Support Team (GST) are part of the Learning Improvement Service (LIS), along with Early Years, SEND/Inclusion, primary, secondary and post-16 education, the Virtual School and other services. Together we work in partnership with providers and services to seek the best outcomes for all children and young people across Cumbria.

Through GST newsletters we hope to provide the latest information, as well as offering tips and advice to support your board in delivering your statutory responsibilities in relation to governance. Newsletters will be circulated via clerks and chairs to be shared with all board members.

National Governance Association (NGA): e-learning for school governors, trustees, chairs and clerks

Recently, GST were delighted to share the news that all governors and trustees of Cumbrian schools will be provided with unlimited access to the NGA Learning Link e-learning **free of charge** until 18 April 2022.

This significant financial investment into governor training, shows the commitment of LIS in serving schools in the county. This is in addition to the LIS core school improvement programme. In recognition of the challenges boards have recently faced, we hope this supports boards and schools' recovery plans going forward, in carrying out their roles and responsibilities.

How to access

In conjunction with NGA, GST have run three orientation sessions to explain how to register and access the package. If you would like to access the slides or a recording of the presentation, either contact your clerk or email **GST@cumbria.gov.uk** with your request.

If you are having any difficulties accessing the Learning Link package, you can visit: <https://nga.vc-enable.co.uk/Register> to register or contact Learning Link support direct on **0121 237 4600**.

Learning Link overview

The Learning Link e-learning package provides the following:

- Over 50 e-learning modules, divided into 10 collections
- CPD accreditation for all core modules
- A certificate of achievement with every module
- A selection of bitesize modules
- Secure access 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Multi-device access – on desktops, tablets and smartphones
- Tracked learning – revisit content, take a break or pick up where you left off
- A dedicated support service.



The Learning Link modules provide an additional resource to your governing board. For example, the suite of modules, Structures, Roles and Responsibilities may help new governors understand the school structure and what is expected of them as a governor or trustee, as part of their induction programme.

To access a full list of modules/resources available via Learning Link visit: [www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/d10f0985-06a7-4a52-af34-f6ee83a22405/NGA-Learning-Link-module-list-\(FEB-2021\).pdf](http://www.nga.org.uk/getmedia/d10f0985-06a7-4a52-af34-f6ee83a22405/NGA-Learning-Link-module-list-(FEB-2021).pdf).

GST encourages all governors, members and trustees to take advantage of this offer to enhance their knowledge and ultimately drive school improvement, to provide the best outcomes for all pupils in Cumbria. We hope this offer demonstrates how much we value your contribution.

SEND

Cumbria County Council has a wealth of support for SEND parents and professionals working in and with schools. The Learning Improvement Service works with schools to help improve provision for all young people in school across all ages. Lesley Nixon is the Senior Adviser for Carlisle and Eden, with a county-wide responsibility to work in partnership with colleagues to implement the Cumbria SEND improvement programme (contact via email Lesley.Nixon@cumbria.gov.uk).

Lesley believes that the role of the SEND governor in a school is crucial: it provides challenge and support that should place the education of SEND pupils at the forefront of the school community. The challenge is always to improve outcomes for SEND pupils and this focus will help to improve quality first teaching for all students in every classroom. School SEND governors have a golden opportunity to complete high quality training via the NGA e-learning module and we hope that you will engage with and complete the module.

In future editions, Lesley will work with GST to provide SEND specific information in the newsletters to help and support you in your role as a SEND governor and to provide context for all members of the governing body to consider when supporting your school.

Contact

GST continues to offer advice, support, and guidance, specific to your boards needs and can be contacted as follows:

Jane Lees (Barrow and South Lakes) E: jane.lees@cumbria.gov.uk M: 07768 027 244

Faith Matthews (part-time), (Carlisle and Allerdale) E: faith.matthews@cumbria.gov.uk M: 07384 825 941

Kellie Fricker (part-time), (Copeland and Eden) E: kellie.fricker@cumbria.gov.uk M: 07867 441 926

There is also a wealth of information on the Governor Support Team website;

www.cumbria.gov.uk/childrensservices/schoolsandlearning/governorservices/govcontact.asp

As a team, we would like to take the opportunity again to thank all the governors and trustees who have continued to support our schools and communities particularly during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Lindsey Slater – GST Manager. E: lindsey.slater@cumbria.gov.uk