



The Summer term is well and truly under way and the focus of this newsletter is very much around the Local Government Reorganisation and ensuring governors have access to the latest updates from Cumbria County Council.

Local Government Reorganisation

From 1 April 2023 local government in Cumbria will change. The current six district councils and Cumbria County Council will be replaced by two new unitary authorities.

There will be one new council covering the current area of Allerdale, Carlisle and Copeland, the council's name will be Cumberland Council.

A second new council will provide services to those in the current areas of Barrow, Eden and South Lakeland, the council's name will be Westmorland and Furness Council.

All those involved in leading this project are committed to ensuring that local people are kept fully informed and engaged in this process as we move towards April 2023. Cumbria County Council have launched a Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) website which provides a wealth of information, such as information on the background to LGR and two new councils for Cumbria.

The website explains the transition programme that will move us from seven councils to two new unitary councils. It doesn't set out the priorities or operating models for the two new councils as they will be decided by the newly elected councils.

Take a look at the new **LGR website** and in particular the short video '**What Does LGR Mean For Me?**'. This website will hold all the latest public information on that work and the next steps, so please return regularly for updates.

This newsletter includes the **PowerPoint** of the recent information session held for governors, along with the **Children's Programme Board Report**.

NGA Learning Link

As shared in issue 5 newsletter, the Governor Support Team (GST) are delighted to inform that Cumbria County Council have provided all governors and trustees a further 12 months subscription to the National Governance Association Learning Link (NGA LL) until 18 April 2023. Governors/trustees already registered will not need to re-register for NGA LL as they can continue to log in using their existing email addresses and passwords.

In conjunction with NGA, GST will host two orientation sessions for clerks to explain how to register, access and how to get the best possible use of the NGA LL platform for your boards.

The orientation session will take place, via Microsoft Teams on:

Monday 23rd May 10am – 11am
Monday 23rd May 6pm – 7pm

Please book through the School Development booking form [here](#).

National Governance Association Learning Link Survey

Many thanks to everyone who took the time to complete our survey. Your responses evidenced the value you place on training and in recognition of this, Cumbria County Council made a significant financial investment into governor training for another 12 months. A brief summary of the results of the survey can be found later in the term on the **GST website**.

The White Paper and Green Paper

On 28 March 2022 the Government published the '**Opportunity for all Strong schools with great teachers for your child**' White Paper. The White Paper sets out proposed reforms to the education system focussed on providing an excellent teacher for every child, delivering high standards of curriculum, behaviour and attendance, targeted support for every child that needs it and; a stronger and fairer school system.

To explain the key points of the White Paper, The National Governance Association (NGA) have produced a **White Paper Summary** and a webinar '**What The White Paper Means for Governance**', which explores:

- Key policy announcements included in Opportunity for All white paper
- What the reforms potentially mean for governing boards and the sector
- What the white paper tells us about a fully trust based system

On 29 March the Government published the **SEND Review: Right support, right place, right time**, a consultation on the special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) and alternative provision system in England. The consultation sets out proposed reforms to the SEND and alternative provision (AP) system that seek to address three key challenges:

- Poor outcomes for children and young people with SEN or in alternative provision
- Navigating the SEND system and alternative provision is not a positive experience for children, young people, and their families and;
- Despite unprecedented investment, the system is not delivering value for money for children, young people and families.

The NGA have produced a **Green Paper Summary** with an overview of the proposals.



Behaviour and Exclusion Guidance

The DfE has consulted on proposed revisions to the Behaviour in Schools guidance and Suspension and Permanent Exclusion guidance. This is with a view to publishing clearer, more consistent guidance to support schools to create positive behaviour cultures and ensure suspensions and permanent exclusions are conducted in a lawful, reasonable and procedurally fair way.

Revised **Suspension and Permanent Exclusion** guidance provides greater clarity to headteachers, independent review panels and governing boards on their responsibilities when considering suspensions and permanent exclusions.

NGA **Learning Link module, How to run an effective exclusion panel** supports governors, trustees and governance professionals in fulfilling their roles effectively at each stage of the process and also provides useful examples of questions to ask and templates to use.

Training

This term we are recommending the following NGA modules:

- The Role of the Send Governor
- Looked After Children
- Pupil Premium

In addition, there are a suite of modules around panels – from selecting the right panel to conducting effective panel meetings. This suite includes:

- Panel Work: an introduction
- How to: run an effective admissions appeal panel
- How to: run an effective HR review panel
- How to: run an effective exclusion panel
- How to: run an effective complaints review panel

Each module can be found under the Pupil Success and Wellbeing and Clerking collections on NGA LL.

Governing Board Self Evaluation 20 Questions

Self-evaluation is a fundamental feature of good governance. Following on from our item last term around conducting a Governing Board self-evaluation, NGA has revised the hugely popular '**questions governing boards should ask themselves**' to support boards self-evaluate and improve their practice. The 20 questions for single school governing boards, 21 questions for MAT boards have been updated and 16 questions for academy committees (LGBs) added.



Share your views in the NGA annual school governance survey

School governors, trustees and local governing body members/local academy committee members are encouraged to share your experience of volunteering, views on topical education policy and governing board's practice in the National Governance Association (NGA) annual governance survey.

Whatever your role on the governing board, however long you have been involved in governance, the NGA welcome the contribution of all governance volunteers. Your answers will shape campaigns on issues that matter to you, amplify the voice of school governance across the education sector, and improve the support on offer to governing boards.

Please share the survey with others on your governing board and your wider networks. Depending on the answers you give, the survey will take around 20 minutes to complete. The survey is open until Monday 30 May at 9am and can be accessed [here](#).

Recruitment

To support boards in recruitment, the GST encourages all boards to sign up to **Inspiring Governance** and **Governors For Schools** to register vacancies. If you are an academy, you may find the **Academy Ambassadors** website useful.

To assist the GST, it would be very helpful if you could update Jane Lees and Faith Matthews with any changes to chairs and clerks contact details, to ensure all boards receive our communications.

Contact

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

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

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

