

Education and Skills Director's Report to Governors

SPRING 2018

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***DEVELOPING THE
EFFECTIVENESS OF
YOUR GOVERNING
BODY***

For more information
please contact Sarah
Beaumont, Governor
Services Manager and
Lead GAO
Tel: 020 8359 7622

Summary

I would like to update governors on the current position in relation to the Barnet 'schools budget'.

Following the consultation on the council's budget proposals in November, the Schools Forum agreed the proposal for additional de-delegation of funding for the school improvement service but rejected the other two proposals (charging maintained schools for services previously funded from the Education Services Grant and transferring 0.5% of the schools block to the high needs block). The council's Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee subsequently decided to refer these two proposals to the Secretary of State for Education, whilst at the same time pressing for additional funding for schools.

The Leader of the Council then wrote to the Secretary of State requesting support for the proposals whilst also urging him to increase national funding for schools, in particular for pupils with special educational needs. At the same time, the Chairman of Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee wrote to local MPs explaining the council's proposals and asking them to support the council in urging the Government to increase funding for schools from the next financial year.

I am pleased to report that, just before the Christmas break, the Secretary of State announced the allocation of an additional £250m of High Needs funding for local authorities 'on top of existing High Needs allocations', with half to be paid in 2018-19 and the rest in 2019-20. The allocation for Barnet is £0.964m in each year for 2018-19 and 2019-20. Taking account of this injection of additional funding, the council has withdrawn its application to the Secretary of State to approve the transfer of 0.5% of the Schools Block (about £1.26m) to the High Needs Block in 2019-20. This means in effect that there is now £1.26m more for distribution through the local school funding formula than would have been the case had the transfer to the High Needs block taken place.

The council has not yet had a response to its request that the Secretary of State approve the proposal to fund £1m of services, previously funded from the Education Services Grant, from the budget shares of maintained primary and secondary schools. We expect to hear about that later this month.

A report on school funding is being submitted to the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee and the Schools Forum next week. The main purpose is to agree the school funding formula for 2019-20. As agreed last year, we will continue to phase in the National Funding Formula. For 2019-20 this will provide a Minimum Funding Guarantee of 0%, which means that no primary or secondary school will receive less money per pupil in 2019-20 than they did in 2018-19, while any schools gaining from the introduction of the National Funding Formula will have their gains capped at +0.5% per pupil. For maintained schools this is the case before any additional charges to their budgets, as a result of increased de-delegation or for services previously funded from the Education Services Grant.

Governors' Role For information Contact

To note the above information.

All Governors

Ian Harrison, Education and Skills Director
London Borough of Barnet with Cambridge Education, North London Business Park,
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Update on fifth Ofsted monitoring visit of Barnet children's services

Summary

OFSTED undertook a Monitoring Visit on 27 and 28 November 2018. During this visit, inspectors reviewed the progress made in the areas of help and protection, including:

- The effectiveness of the multi-agency safeguarding hub (MASH) in responding to concerns for children including the application and understanding of thresholds for statutory intervention and early help.
- The quality of practice pertaining to strategy discussions, section 47 enquiries, and assessments that lead to child protection and child in need work and planning.
- The quality of case recording, management oversight and supervision. This to include the use and effectiveness of performance management and quality assurance information.

Inspectors found "*strong practice in the MASH*". They identified that there was an established team of professionals who "*work together well to respond to the risks and needs of children. Thresholds are well understood, and decisions are timely and well informed so that children are appropriately safeguarded*". They also found that "*the duty and assessment teams have a more stable workforce, and this is helping to further embed practice improvements including a stronger child centred approach*".

OFSTED concluded that "*In the cases considered during this visit, children were kept safe from immediate risks, with timely action in place to protect them*" and that "*children and their families are now receiving more timely and effective help and support*".

However, there is more to do as they found and we agree that "*children's assessments and plans are not always of good quality, or sufficiently focussed to achieve sustainable change or improved outcomes for children and their families*".

In summary OFSTED found that "*social work practice considered during this visit has further consolidated and improved since the previous visit to the 'front door'. This has led to stronger work with children and their families. Inspectors saw more work of a reasonable standard of practice; risks for children are reduced, they are making progress and there is stronger and better engagement with them and their families. This concurs with the local authority's own understanding of their performance. Senior leaders are fully aware of the areas of practice they still need to improve to ensure that all practice is of a good standard.*".

The findings are encouraging and enable us to continue to build our services to children to be even stronger.

The next Monitoring Visit will be held on 14 and 15 February 2019 and will consider our work with care leavers and children with disability. It is likely to be our last monitoring visit with a re-inspection of all our children's social care services taking place before June 2019.

Governors' Role For information Contact

To note the above information.

All Governors

**Chris Munday, Strategic Director for Children and Young People,
London Borough of Barnet, North London Business Park, Oakleigh Road South,
London N11 1NP**

Tel: 020 8359 7099

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Summary Thank you to those Governing Bodies that submitted their annual Governance Self-evaluation Audit by the December 2018 deadline.

Many Governing Boards in Barnet now conduct an annual self-evaluation of their own effectiveness, which they use to drive improvement in the quality and impact of governance. The Barnet Governance Self-Evaluation Audit is also used by the local authority to gather data, which has helped build up a picture of the effectiveness of governance, (set out in the Director's Report Summer 2018) and also identify themes, trends and training requirements.

If submitted by the deadline, feedback will be provided to you. If your school subscribes to the Governance Advice Officer (GAO) Service, you may ask your GAO for more detailed feedback and discuss training and support required.

Further training can be arranged by Governor Services and the Barnet Partnership for School Improvement (BPSI). BPSI hours can be used for some of this training.

Maintained schools that have not already submitted their Audits may do so by Thursday 31 January 2019 and still receive feedback. Please complete and return the 2018/19 Governance Self-evaluation Audit to Sarah Beaumont at sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk. We would also welcome responses from academies and free schools.

Governors' Role All maintained schools to complete and return this Audit to Sarah Beaumont at sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk by Thursday 31 January 2019. All Free Schools and Academies to respond at their discretion.

For action by All Governors

Contact Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager and Lead GAO,
School Improvement, Education and Skills,
London Borough of Barnet with Cambridge Education, North London Business
Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.
Tel: 0208 359 7622
Email: sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk

Summary

Following the decision made by the Children, Education & Safeguarding Committee on 12 September 2018, the process for Local Authority (LA) Governor nominations has now changed, with the intention to improve the selection and appointment process of appropriately skilled Governors.

It has been agreed to delegate authority to nominate LA Governors to the Strategic Director for Children and Young People, following recommendation made by a Panel. The Panel comprises Cllr John Hart (Chair) and Cllr Pauline Coakley Webb. The new LA Governor nomination and appointment process runs as follows:

- (1) The Panel make nominations based on evaluation of the skills of the candidate
- (2) The nominations are reported to the Council via a Chief Officer Decision by the Strategic Director for Children and Young People
- (3) Nominations will be reported to the appropriate Clerk to the Governing Body stating that, under the School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2012, the decision to appoint lies with the Governing Body
- (4) The Governing Body should consider the nomination as an agenda item at the next full Governing Body meeting
- (5) The Clerk should advise the Governor Services Manager of the decision
- (6) The Clerk should advise the Governor Services Manager of any LA Governor resignation or term of office expiry in order to ensure that nominations can be considered in a timely way.

Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager, will be supporting the panel, so will be your future contact with regard to LA Governor vacancies, nominations and appointments.

Please ensure that information is shared with the Governor Services Manager regarding your LA Governor position, including name of your LA Governor and term of office, or if you currently have a LA Governor vacancy. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to ask.

Governors' Role

To note the above information.

For action by

All Governors and Clerks to note the above information

Contact

**Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager and Lead GAO,
School Improvement, Education and Skills,
London Borough of Barnet with Cambridge Education, North London Business
Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.
Tel: 0208 359 7622
Email: sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk**

Summary

It seems like ages since we were running training and hosting meetings at our old training facility BESTHub. We had to give the building up in March but even before that we were trying to find an affordable future venue that could meet our needs. Thanks to our close relationships with our schools the management team at Claremont school approached us with a possible solution. We have been working closely with the Elliott Foundation and after arranging some building work we are expecting to begin training courses at our new training facility in January.

We will be moving in to approximately half of the old Infant building. The space consists of three reasonable sized training rooms; one conference area (the old Infant hall) which should have a capacity of about 70-80; and a couple of small meeting rooms. There is also a reception area to allow us to greet visitors. The venue has its own pedestrian access and will be able to host courses during the day up to 6pm.

We wondered what to call it: BESTHub; New BESTHub; or something entirely new. We wanted to acknowledge the school in the name so we put the options to our headteachers and they agreed it should be called 'PDC@Claremont'. Many councils have had to close their Professional Development Centres so it is a reminder that Barnet still views professional development as a crucial aspect of school improvement.

We hope to have an official opening in January by which time the building should be buzzing with sessions.

Governors' Role

To note the information above

For action by

All Governors

Contact

**Richard Griggs, Traded Services Operations Director, Traded Services
London Borough of Barnet with Cambridge Education, North London Business
Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP
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Information and communication channels, discussion forums, and support networks for Governors

Summary

The Local Authority has a duty to promote and support high standards of governance, and this is this is undertaken in a variety of ways.

Information and Communication

Free regular information and communication is offered through the Director's termly report to all governors, the Director's termly briefings for Chairs and Vice-Chairs, formal consultations on specific issues, and via direct mailings to Chairs and relevant governors. Please regularly update us with information on your Governing Board and contact details of the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure that you remain informed.

School Improvement Service School Support

Headteachers and senior leadership teams of maintained schools receive support from our School Improvement Team via a Learning Network Inspector. This includes school support on performance, achievement, and target-setting, support during an Ofsted Inspection, and support to Governing Boards when recruiting a Headteacher.

Governance Advice Officer Support

Enhanced information and support is available to governors of all schools subscribing to our Governance Advice Officer (GAO) package, which provides strategic support, a termly GAO briefing to offer strategic advice and guidance on governance matters, a termly GAO newsletter, a termly GAO briefing for your Clerk, and specialist support on processes such as governor elections, handling complaints, and organising and undertaking panel hearings.

Governor Training

All governors are expected to undertake any training or development activity needed to fill skills gaps to contribute to the effective governance of their school. All schools may subscribe to our Governor Support and Development Training Programme, which offers a comprehensive range of courses tailored to reflect current issues and changing requirements to help governors improve their effectiveness. This includes access to e-learning.

Schools are invited to request tailored Governor training for their Governing Board, which can be shared with collaborating schools.

Governor Discussion Forums

As part of our Governor Support and Development Training Programme, we have established a number of specialist termly governor discussion forums:

For Safeguarding: Our termly Safeguarding Discussion Forums offer Governors opportunity to talk through statutory requirements and expectations, roles and responsibilities, and local solutions and practices. We also invite delegates to suggest questions for discussion in advance.

The next Safeguarding Discussion Forum is on **Tuesday 19 March 2019** at 7 – 9pm at Copthall School. You may register using the online flier:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900010&p_style_id=120

For Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND): Our termly SEND Discussion Forums offer Governors opportunity to talk through statutory requirements and

expectations, roles and responsibilities, and share practice. We also invite delegates to suggest questions for discussion in advance.

Our next SEND Discussion Forum is on **Monday 25 February 2019** at 7 – 9pm at Hendon Town Hall.

The session will focus on aspects of the role of the SEND Governor and a school visit agenda.

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900006&p_style_id=120

For Chairs and Vice-Chairs: Our termly Chairs' and Vice Chairs' Discussion Forums offer Chairs and Vice-Chairs opportunity to meet and share practice and ideas.

Our next Chairs' and Vice-Chairs' Discussion Forum is on **Tuesday 29 January 2019** at 7 – 9pm at Foulds School.

The session will focus on the balance between being strategic and operational.

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900073&p_style_id=120

On Tuesday 11 June 2019, the forum will focus on effective relationships between Chair and Headteacher (please invite your Headteacher to attend with you).

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900074&p_style_id=120

For Clerks: Our Governance Advice Officer (GAO) service includes a termly Clerks' Briefing. This provides your Clerk with a termly opportunity to attend training and benefit from support on agenda-setting and minute-taking at your meetings. There will also be reference to the Clerks' Competency framework and a chance to learn and share good practice.

Our next Termly GAO Clerks' Briefing is on **Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 8 – 10am** at Watling Park School.

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900033&p_style_id=120

New for the next financial year, we are offering a special rate to schools that subscribe to both the GAO Service and the Governor Support and Development Training package, which equates to a price reduction for the same combined subscription in this current year.

Governors' Role

- To note the information above
- To regularly update us about changes to your Governing Board and contact details of the Chair and Vice-Chair to ensure that you receive information
- consider subscribing to our Governor Support and Development Training package and GAO Service
- To enquire about bespoke governor training when needed
- To advise Governors to access our specialist discussion forums, relevant to their areas of specialism

For information

All Governors

Contact

**Sarah Beaumont, Governor Services Manager and Lead GAO
School Improvement, Education and Skills,
London Borough of Barnet with Cambridge Education, North London
Business Park, Oakleigh Road South, London N11 1NP.
Tel: 0208 359 7622
Email: sarah.beaumont@barnet.gov.uk**

Governor Services: Governance Advice Officer (GAO) support in the spring term

Summary

GAO Briefing for Governors

You are cordially invited to attend our next termly GAO briefing, which will take place on **Thursday 7 February 2019 at 7 – 9pm, whether or not your school subscribes to the GAO service.** This is following the decision to combine the GAO briefing with the Spring Term Director's Briefing to Chairs and Vice-Chairs, and is therefore open to all schools.

As always, the GAO briefing will contain regular standard items on themes including policies, school website compliance, shared experiences from Governor colleagues on recent OfSTED inspections, an overview of the termly Governor Support and Development programme, items for additional focus and useful supporting documentation.

The agenda will include:

Policies: Pupil Behaviour – challenging and supporting the school

How to have a compliant and effective Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Policy

Is your SEND information report compliant?

Accessibility Planning

Supporting pupils with medical conditions

Website: What SEND information must be on the website?

Is your curriculum information compliant?

Ofsted inspection: Local Authority overview and shared experiences of inspection

Support and Development: Training programme overview

Additional Focus: Strategic budget setting – ensuring you get value for money, and Recruitment priorities?

You may access more information and register to attend via the following link:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1718/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=171820197&p_style_id=120

GAO Briefing for Clerks

The next termly GAO Briefing for Clerks of subscribing schools is on **Tuesday 26 February 2019 at 8 – 10am** at Watling Park School.

You may register using the online flyer:

http://cpd10g.cyberdrome.co.uk/pls/cpd1819/gen_cpd_pubview?p_cr_id=181900033&p_style_id=120

GAO Termly newsletter

The GAO termly newsletter, exclusively for Governors of schools subscribing to the GAO service, contains articles on a variety of governance matters with a local Barnet flavour.

The Spring Term edition includes articles on:

- Agenda items for the spring term
- Ongoing support for your Clerk
- Finance: Adjustments to School Funding Allocations
- Finance: Schools Financial Value Standard
- Finance: Special combined price rate to help you access governor support

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- Safeguarding: School Security DfE Consultation
 - Safeguarding: Controlling access to school premises
 - Safeguarding: Health and Safety Updates
 - Safeguarding: Safer Internet Day and e-safety
 - Safeguarding: Governor Discussion Forums for Safeguarding
 - Strategic Leadership and Governance: New process for LA Governor nominations
 - Strategic Leadership and Governance: Self-evaluation Audit
 - Strategic Leadership and Governance: Schools Causing Concern Statutory Guidance
 - Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND): Governor Discussion Forums for SEND
 - Mental Health and Behaviour in schools
 - GAO briefing agenda
 - Sources of support

**Governors’
Role**

Don’t miss out! If your school subscribes to the GAO service, please ensure that your Governors are gaining the benefit from the features on offer. If your school would like to subscribe to the GAO service, please contact Sarah Beaumont.

Please attend the GAO Briefing on Thursday 7 February 2019 at 7 – 9pm, at Cophall School, Pursley Road, Mill Hill, London, NW7 2EP

**For action by
Contact**

All Governors
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