



## *Leading Governance Forward*

E-mail: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk) [www.livgovforum.org.uk/](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk/) Twitter: [@LpoolGovForum](https://twitter.com/LpoolGovForum)

---

## **LGF ANNUAL REVIEW FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31<sup>ST</sup> AUGUST 2021**

---

### **FORWARD:**

Governors and trustees have an important role in the education and support of our children and the LGF was established in 1996 to coordinate and represent the views of Liverpool's Governors and Trustees on the various strategic education committees which operate in the city.

The range of committees is listed in Appendix A, together with the name of the committee member and the committees on which he/she represents LGF.

LGF works closely with a number of key partners, which includes the three Liverpool Headteachers' Associations, Liverpool Learning Partnership, Liverpool Local Authority, School Improvement Liverpool and the National Governance Association. However, more detailed information on our work and activity is available on our website.

### **OPENING COMMENTS BY KATHY DESMOND LGF CHAIR:**

I have pleasure in welcoming you to this seventh LGF Annual Review, which aims to provide Liverpool governors, trustees and our partners with a succinct overview of our key activities and the progress we have made during the 2020/21 academic year.

Having experienced a national lockdown in the 2019/20 academic year due to the worldwide coronavirus crisis, two further national lockdowns were encountered during the 2020/21 academic year. The lockdowns have had a significant impact on the way the LGF committee operated and we transitioned our meetings from face-to-face events, held in schools, to Zoom Video conferencing. Whilst video conferencing is not perfect, it has provided a very useful platform to progress our work in a constructive and effective manner.

It is, of course, most important to mention the profound effect the lockdowns have had on our children's education. However, the committee members have been most impressed in how schools have adapted to the situation and used innovative ways of supporting children to continue their learning and development. I would like to take this opportunity, on behalf of my colleagues, to congratulate Heads and staff on the excellent work they have done under such difficult circumstances.

On a positive note, there have been numerous opportunities for governors / trustees to update their knowledge and skills. SIL have continued to offer a comprehensive range of governor development courses and the NGA, to whom we are associated, have offered webinar events free of charge to members. We have also had an interesting range of guest speakers at our LGF committee meetings.

We launched our new [website](#) earlier in the year. It looks refreshed, attractive, easier to navigate and a more helpful source of information. Please do have a look and give any feedback which will help us to make improvements.

The coronavirus crisis presented many challenges throughout the year, in particularly, placing restrictions on school visits by governors/trustees to carry out their duties. Nevertheless, governors and trustees have adapted to the situation to ensure that generally ‘business-as-usual’ was conducted in our schools.

As LGF Chair, I lead a committed and dedicated team of governors/trustees. My thanks to them for their versatility in adapting to the new norm of operating during the period and for their continued support and contribution to our important work. Special thanks go to David Blythe for the many duties he shoulders, Dave Cadwallader for setting up our web meetings and Paula Anderson for taking the minutes - not an easy job on Zoom.

I look forward to being able to hold our meetings in our schools again with the added facility of including members by Zoom who cannot be there in person.

#### CONFERENCE:

We normally hold two conferences per year in November and May, but unfortunately due to the government pandemic restrictions this was not possible. We hope to be able to re-introduce them during the next academic year.

#### PUBLICATIONS:

Once again School Improvement Liverpool published three further issues of ‘Governance News’ during the academic year, which contained articles submitted by LGF members. These documents are most informative and contain a wealth of advice and information on current governance practice, ensuring governors and trustees are kept up to date on a wide range of topics. We do recommend governors and trustees access and make full use of the documents, which can be accessed at: [www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk](http://www.schoolimprovementliverpool.co.uk)

We would also like to record our thanks to SIL for their continued support which is much appreciated.

#### MEETINGS & GUEST SPEAKERS:

As mentioned in the Chair’s comments above, we continued to operate successfully using Zoom video conferencing facilities. In total we held nine committee meetings during the year, including five when we also invited guest speakers to address us on a range of various development topics. These were all informative and engaging. We would like to thank all our speakers for giving their time and making a valuable contribution to our work. The meetings held are summarised below:

MONTH	MEETING, GUEST SPEAKER & TOPIC ( <i>Development - information session</i> )
September	Committee meeting only
October	AGM followed by guest speaker and Committee meeting <i>Speaker: Elaine Rees, CEO, Liverpool Learning Partnership</i> <i>Topic: Update on progress with LLP priorities</i>
December	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Chris Price, Relationship Manager, School Improvement Liverpool</i> <i>Topic: Overview of the SIL Supply Agency, including the provision of supply teachers</i>
January	Committee meeting only
February	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Judith Hicks, Head of Inspiring Governance, National Governance Association</i> <i>Topic: Inspiring Governance. (NB: This presentation is available to access on our website under ‘Other Reports’)</i>
March	Committee meeting only
April	Committee meeting only
June	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Anna Dunne, Manager, Mary’s Meals UK (Registered Charity)</i> <i>Topic: Life-changing meals to some of the world’s poorest children every school day. (NB: This presentation is available to access on our website under ‘Other Reports’)</i>
July	Committee meeting and guest speaker <i>Speaker: Emma Harris, Senior Partnership Manager, Governors for Schools</i> <i>Topic: An overview of the organisation’s services and how they can support board of governors with recruitment. (NB: This presentation is available to access on our website under ‘Other Reports’)</i>

## MEETING VENUES:

For the 2021/22 academic year, we are optimistic that we will be able to revert back to our policy of holding our meetings in schools across the city. If you would like to host one of our meetings, then please let us know by contacting David Blythe, LGF Honorary Secretary at: [admin@livgovforum.org.uk](mailto:admin@livgovforum.org.uk)

## DATES FOR FUTURE EVENTS:

The dates for our 2021/22 Autumn Term meetings are:

**21<sup>st</sup> September, 16<sup>th</sup> November & 7<sup>th</sup> December.** All meetings are on a **Tuesday from 10am until 12 noon**, except for our meeting on the **16<sup>th</sup> November, which starts with our AGM at 10am to 10:30am. This is then followed by our Committee Meeting at 10:30 until 12:30.**

Further details regarding the location will be shown on our website.

## FUNDING AND FINANCE:

LGF is normally funded by subscriptions from the majority of Liverpool schools; primary, special and secondary at a nominal charge of £25 per school. This is collected through the three Headteacher Associations.

The funding we receive is in line with similar national governor and trustee organisations across the country and ensures we are funded on a secure basis. This enables us to play a full and active role in improving educational standards in Liverpool.

However, we have only received limited funding this year due to the Covid-19 virus situation and had to use our reserves to service our ongoing business.

To ensure financial control and accountability, we have a “Finance and Operating Manual” which sets out important parameters and is regularly reviewed and updated as required. The accounts are also independently audited.

A summary of the accounts for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> August, 2021 is as follows:

SUMMARY OF 2020 / 21 FINANCIAL STATEMENT	£
Bank balance brought forward at 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2020	2708:62
2020/21 academic year income	2125:00
Expenditure during reporting year	2035:00
Closing bank balance at 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2021	2798:62

A full statement of accounts will be available at the LGF November AGM.

## SPECIAL TRIBUTE:

We would like to take this opportunity to make a special tribute to Cynthia Carmichael who at our last meeting in July, announced she was stepping down as a school governor and as consequence would be resigning as a committee member of the LGF. Cynthia, a qualified school teacher, was also a governor at a number of schools over a 32 year period, latterly at ‘The Beacon Church of England Primary School’.

A founding member of the LGF, Cynthia has served the organisation for nearly 25 years, which included a period as the Honorary Secretary.

Cynthia’s commitment and dedication to supporting children’s education is unquestionable and her continued contribution and sound wisdom will be missed. We would like to offer Cynthia our very best wishes for a well-earned happy retirement.

Finally, we hope you find this seventh LGF annual review as interesting and informative as ever.

## APPENDIX A

### 2012/21 OVERVIEW OF LGF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The table below details the members and the various committees they represent on behalf of the LGF.

The LGF committee formally met regularly to coordinate its activities, obtain feedback from members who have attended the various strategic committee meetings, formulate policy and progress development plans. Minutes of committee meetings and other relevant information are promptly published on the LGF website:

[www.livgovforum.org.uk](http://www.livgovforum.org.uk)

LGF sub committees are established when required, to focus and drive forward special projects e.g. the LGF Conferences.

LGF COMMITTEE / ASSOCIATE MEMBERS	
NAME & SCHOOL	COMMITTEE MEMBERS & REPRESENTATION
Joe Hartley Honorary President	-
Kathy Desmond ( <i>Chair</i> ) ( <i>Garston CE Primary &amp; Broadgreen</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board Member, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>• All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Frank McFarlane ( <i>Vice-Chair</i> ) ( <i>Archbishop Blanch CE High</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liverpool Safeguarding Partnership</li> <li>• All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>•</li> </ul>
David Blythe ( <i>Honorary Secretary</i> ) ( <i>Hope &amp; Gateacre</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>• Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Cliff Barton ( <i>Sudley Infant</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Dave Cadwallader ( <i>Rainbow Educational MAT, Smithdown Primary &amp; Gateacre</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provides advice and guidance to the LGF committee and acts as the liaison with School Improvement Liverpool</li> </ul>
Cynthia Carmichael ( <i>The Beacon C of E Primary</i> )	-
Andy Chadwick ( <i>Ranworth Square Primary</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> <li>• All Learners Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Maureen McDaid ( <i>St Nicholas Catholic Primary &amp; Gateacre</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Committee and Formula Working Group, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Michael Morris ( <i>St Margaret's CE Academy</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• LCC, Priority 4, Educational Improvement Plan</li> </ul>
Avril O'Brien ( <i>St Paul &amp; St Timothy Catholic Infant</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> <li>• LCC Race Equality Taskforce</li> </ul>
Dave Owens ( <i>Mospits Lane Primary</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Howard Harris ( <i>Belle Vale Primary</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learners Who Need More Strategic Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
John Thornhill ( <i>Sudley Juniors &amp; St Julies High</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Pauline Warrington ( <i>St Anne's Catholic Primary &amp; Bishop Martin CE Primary</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maths &amp; Numeracy Focus Group, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
NAME & SCHOOL	ASSOCIATE MEMBERS
Marlene Taylor ( <i>Lawrence Community Primary</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Main Committee, Liverpool Schools Forum</li> </ul>
Barbara Murray ( <i>Councillor, Liverpool City Council</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of Education and Skills Select Committee</li> </ul>
Mary Donohue ( <i>Broughton Hall High</i> )	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Representative at Board Meetings, Liverpool Learning Partnership</li> </ul>
Paula Anderson	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting Secretary</li> </ul>