

LIVERPOOL GOVERNANCE FORUM

Minutes of Committee Meeting held at 10:00 on:
Tuesday 15 June 2021 via Zoom.

1.0 STANDARD ITEMS:

1.1 Welcome and Apologies

Present: Kathy Desmond (Chair), David Blythe (Hon Secretary), Frank McFarlane (Vice Chair), Dave Cadwallader, Michael Morris (joined 10.30), Pauline Warrington, David Owens, Howard Harris, Cynthia Carmichael, Maureen McDaid, John Thornhill.

Apologies: An O'Brien, C Barton, Mary Donahue, Andy Chadwick, B Murray

Guest speaker: Anna Dune, representative of the charity Mary's Meals.

KD introduced Anna Dunne who then addressed the meeting – Please see appendix A.

1.2 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No change.

1.3 Minutes of the April Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 20.4.21 had already been agreed by email and posted on the LGF website.

1.4 Matters Arising

By Letter re attendance at LGF meetings to be composed and distributed appropriately No response to email and follow up letter sent to home address.	DB/PA
Representative from the charity Mary's Meals to be invited to the next LGF meeting. DC has arranged for Anna Dunne, representative from Mary's Meals to address our June 2021 committee meeting.	DC
Peter Hartley to be contacted re LGF website. Website updated – committee notified by PA email on 12 May 2021.	DB
Jonathan Jones to be contacted re provision of school meals during summer holiday period.	KD

<p>Raised by KD at the Termly Chair of Governors meeting held on 28 April 2021. Steve Ready responded. No clear actions at this stage of the proposals to address the matter.</p>	
<p>Wording to encourage BAME governors to be shared with DC for inclusion in the next issue of Termly Governor’s News 2021 Summer term issue of “Governance news – Termly Newsletter” now issued and circulated to Governors and Trustees.</p>	DC/KD

2.0 LGF Matters and Events

2.1 Finance

DB reported that the current bank balance is £2948.62.

2.2 Feedback from Events

There have been no events since the last LGF meeting.

2.3 Future Events

Jonathan Dickson of Resonate is to be invited to address a future meeting in the next academic year.

2.4 Website

DB reported the website is generally up to date, noting recent presentations from Resonate and on Mental Health have been uploaded to the website. Governors were asked to cascade the information to their individual school’s

2.5 Twitter Account

AO’B continues to maintain the LGF Twitter account.

2.6 Others

N/A

3.0 Feedback from Representatives

3.1 Liverpool Schools Forum

The next meeting will be held on 23.6.21. Feedback will be available at the next LGF meeting.

3.2 LLP Executive Board

KD reported 93 primary schools had attended the Mental Health Support Teams for schools’ training. The remaining primary schools were invited to attend training in the past Spring Term.

Wellbeing Education Return (WER) training was delivered across all schools in December 2020.

Kath Thompson is seconded to LLP from MYA. MYA are happy for this arrangement to continue.

The 'Let's Create' packs of arts and craft materials had been delivered to 400 vulnerable children in summer 2020.

READING FESTIVAL: 108 schools signed up to this event held over multi-streaming platforms. Home learning had led to many families engaging with LLP activities as well as schools. It was felt that the way forward for the reading festival may be to continue it online more as more schools could access the authors and it enabled them to choose when to listen in or use the videos.

The time of the Reading Festival can be different for primary and secondary schools to fit in with their agendas.

Black Lives Matter Working groups: 30 secondary schools will receive packs of 18 books.

BLM: It was felt that the press release had been pitched correctly in that LLP is focussing on supporting schools with curriculum ideas and policy considerations.

The GP attendance project had been paused whilst some GDPR issues are addressed.

SIXINTOSEVEN Transition: There was a range of opinions on this subject. Secondary schools liked that it provided a single source of information, whereas primary schools expressed concern over the framing of the statements. Issues about cost were also raised regarding who would pay for it? Schools or LA? Consensus was that it would not suit special schools.

There was a consensus that the data would benefit all. However, it was felt that it was important to have the correct framework and model.

Elaine Rees and Jonathan Jones to liaise on how this could be progressed.

Finance: Generally, LLP's financial position is stable. It needs to be realistic about taking on new initiatives as everything has a potential cost implication. External grants will continue to be explored.

Noted the next LLP Executive Board Meeting will be held later this afternoon (15.6.21).

3.3 LLP All Learners

Feedback from meeting held on 19 May 2021. The Reading Festival went well. The Math's Party is linked with McMillan Coffee Morning arranged for 24 .09.21. Noted the need to teach online has focused the minds of many on how good it would be to have a central hub of resources, so all 31 secondary school could access them. The lessons would be prepared by specialists to be accessed by all schools as and when needed. It his felt that online teaching has been a good way to reach out to disaffected pupils.

3.4 LLP Learners Who Need More

DB provided feedback from Whole School Approach to Mental Health update meeting held on 26.5.21. Governors were asked to cascade the information from the meeting, which had been previously shared, to their individual schools. It was noted that apart from the facilitators and presenter only he and HH attended the Mental Health presentation. It was noted that it was difficult for governors to join MYA online courses as there is no dedicated area for Governors.

This is to be investigated by Elaine Rees.

3.5 LLP Maths Group

There had been no meetings since the last LGF meeting however PW reported information has been shared regarding the Maths Party to be held in September. KD suggested there should also be a dedicated Music Day. KD to raise this at the LLP Executive Board meeting to be held this afternoon.

3.6 Liverpool Safeguarding Forum

FMcF provided feedback from the Liverpool Safeguarding Children Partnership Forum meeting held on 15.6.21 highlighting the following:

The LSCP Forum has representatives from Social Services, Mental Health, Police, NHS, School Governors, among others.

At the meeting the members examined what could be learnt from their Covid experiences, what were their worries and what needed to be done.

Use of virtual platforms has meant efficiencies leading to better attendance at meetings. There has been a noticeable improvement in engagement with children and young people to whom virtual contact is more familiar.

Issues causing concern included: There has been a noticeable increase in domestic abuse.

There is a digital divide as access to and understanding of technologies is inconsistent across cohorts and families. There is an anticipation of a surge in need of children returning to school settings.

Circumstance caused by Covid 19 have exacerbated prior vulnerabilities and there is potential for increased hidden harm. Attendance and exclusion issues have been exacerbated by lockdown.

Neglect and child exploitation give rise to increased concern as circumstances change for many families. There has been an inevitable impact on children's mental health by bereavement and isolation. Child mental health has been affected by restrictions and social loss.

There has been an increase in on-line grooming.

It was felt that the actions the LSCP needed to take, as part of their Covid recovery included: To prepare for an increase in demand, not just in volume but in complexity. To address digital exclusion. Work on a new focus on attendance and exclusions as schools return and eventually move out of lockdown. Ensure LSCP involvement addressing neglect and child exploitation.

To retain practices that have improved work at the same time ensure that there is a return to face-to-face meetings with children and families. To highlight a need for a localised response; there should be a conversation with Government about commissioning.

KD enquired where statistics regarding raised levels of domestic abuse, internet provision etc. were sourced. FMcF replied that no exact figures were given at the meeting, but he could enquire if required.

Noted the next meeting is to be held on 16.9.21.

3.7 Others

The Education Improvement Priority Group 4 meeting planned for 22.3.21 was postponed. The next meeting is to be held on 23.6.21. MM is to attend the meeting and provide feedback at the next LGF meeting.

NGA

Gov's confirmed they were receiving the weekly NGA email containing information regarding online forums etc.

4.0 Other Items

Future LGF Meetings – a discussion took place regarding the format of future LGF meetings. KD suggested one in three meetings could be online. It was felt that, whilst face to face meetings were preferable, given the current social distancing restrictions capacity is reduced therefore a hybrid format may be more practical. This will mean some members will attend meetings in person whilst others will join the meeting via zoom. It was suggested that governors should indicate their desire to physically attend a meeting when they receive their agenda for the forthcoming meeting. As numbers could be restricted it may be necessary to allocate seats on a first come, first served basis. It was noted that schools would still have to agree to host the meetings.

The meeting concluded at 11:05

Next meeting: The next LGF committee meeting will be at 10am on Tuesday 13 July 2021.

Summary of actions from meeting:

Actions	By
Jonathan Dickson of Resonate to be invited to address a LGF meeting next academic year	DB
Feedback from the Liverpool School's Forum meeting held on 23.6.21	DB
Potential Music Day to be raised at LLP Executive Board meeting 15.6.21	KD
Feedback from Priority Group meeting held on 23.6.21	MM

Appendix A

KD introduced Anna Dunne of Mary's Meals, formerly known as Scottish International Relief.

Anna Dunne then shared a power point highlighting the history of the registered charity, its ethos, successes so far and the practicalities of delivering their support packages. The power point has been shared with LGF members.

AD highlighted that Mary's Meals provides life-changing meals to some of the world's poorest children every school day. They are a no-frills charity with a simple idea that works by providing one good meal in a place of learning, children are drawn into the classroom where they can receive an education that could one day free them from poverty. Working together, they believe that can be achieved in this world of plenty.

It was noted that the charity started in 1992 providing aid to people in need in Bosnia by 2002 the charity had a change of direction and started providing education and food for children in dire need. The charity started out feeding and educating 200 school children in Malawi and now supports 1.8 million children across 19 different countries around the world. AD underlined that without the many volunteers and supporters the charity could not operate.

It costs £15.90 per year to provide a meal per day for an individual child, 8p per meal. The charity promises that a minimum of 93% of donations are spent directly in meeting the needs of the children. When the charity goes to a new area they work with local government and tribes' people to provide a sustainable solution. The charity provides everything needed, including training and closely monitors the delivery of the project. Food is sourced as locally as possible using local small holders where possible, putting funds back into the local economy.

During Covid home has become the place of learning so parents have been collecting the food and as children have been learning at home, they have been teaching their parents to read and write. There has also been the opportunity to promote hand hygiene, social distancing etc.

AD highlighted that in many countries there is no safety net for poor children like the one that exists for UK children.

AD highlighted Mary's Meals is not a charity that only asks for donations, they invite people to get involved in any way they can. In the UK they have approximately 800 volunteers. From September 21 a Youth Ambassador programme is to be launched which means any one over 14 can become registered volunteer. Appropriate safeguarding measures will be in place to keep volunteers and the people they work with safe.

There are 4 key fundraising events each year: Sponsor a School where a business sponsors a specific school. World Porridge Day in October where people are encouraged to hold porridge parties to raise funds. The Backpack Project which is extremely popular. People are asked to fill a backpack with simple items from a provided list which is then given to pupils in need. Miles for Mary's Meals, a sponsored walk which will continue after lockdown.

The charity has resources appropriate for primary and secondary school and are happy to deliver presentations to schools and other appropriate organisations. The charity is supported by Gerrard Butler, famous actor. The charity's website there is a link to a U-tube channel showing information about the work the charity does.

AD informed the meeting that she had spoken with the Liverpool Secondary Head Teacher's Association and will be speaking to the Primary Head Teachers in July regarding setting up a Liverpool Mary's Meals Day with the purpose of raising funds and awareness of the plight of the poorest children who need support. Both Steve Rotherham and Jo Anne Anderson are interested in supporting this idea.

Governors were asked by AD to speak with their individual headteachers about the charity. AD said she is happy to deliver a presentation to individual schools and highlighted that her contact details are on the power point she has shared with the meeting.

DO asked if there was a dedicated site for making donations. AD explained that on the charities web site there is a link to enable people, once registered, to set up a donation page which means funds go directly to the charity with no deductions for administration by outside agencies etc.

FMcF asked if the charity found, in the countries where the charity operates, that the governments either do not have the funds or will not spend funds in this area as they spend it elsewhere? AD replied the situation varies from country to country but often government spend money on other things and inevitably there is corruption, but Mary's Meals work around the issues by working with trusted partners on the ground and monitored closely.

KD asked how do schools in the different countries hear about Mary's Meals or do Mary's Meals get in touch with schools?

AD replied to a bit of both applies. Often word of mouth means schools contact them by letter.

Mary's Meals will not commit to support a school until they are sure they can offer continued support. The Government was matching funding but due to recent developments the charity is not going to receive the funding until April 2022.

KD thanked AD for her interesting presentation.