

Local Support Governor Programme

Background

The East Sussex Excellence for All strategy sets out our vision that East Sussex should be one of the best places in England to go to school and all children and young people will have the chance to prosper and achieve, regardless of their educational or physical needs, their family background, the school they attend or the neighbourhood where they live.

We value the important contribution that governors make to help us achieve this vision. Our schools could not exist without the dedication, time and effort of every single volunteer governor. At any one time East Sussex has approximately 1800 governors across the county working to support their schools, offering their time, knowledge and experience.

East Sussex schools have a track record of working in partnership for the benefit of all children and young people in their area, including through the development of Education Improvement Partnerships and Teaching School Alliances. As we move towards a sustainable model of system led improvement we believe that we need to further develop local leaders with the expertise and vision required to work successfully across a number of schools.

We recognise there is a wealth of experience within the existing governor community and governor to governor support is already taking place across the county, through the development of governor networks, governors taking on a governor role in another school, the support provided by National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) and through more ad hoc and local arrangements. To further build capacity and to provide a coordinated approach to sharing individual governor skills, knowledge and experience we operate a Local Support Governor programme.

The role of a Local Support Governor

Local Support Governors will be experienced and skilled governors who are recognised as such by the East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service and who are willing to support other governors and their governing boards in East Sussex.

The range of functions that Local Support Governors are asked to support include:

1. To support another governing board or the local authority by sitting on a panel, including: complaints panel, disciplinary panels, pay panels
2. To help facilitate governor networking in order to promote the sharing of experience, best practice and expertise
3. To be appointed or seconded as an additional governor
4. To be appointed or seconded to act as chair or vice chair of a school requiring support to boost capacity
5. To share their expertise on specific issues through providing case studies and/or advice to individual governors

Please note: we invite applications for an individual or a combination of functions.

Local Experience - Local Knowledge - Local Support

The Local Support Governor programme will complement the work of National Leaders of Governance (NLGs), and may provide a pathway for individual governors to progress to apply to become a NLG. NLGs are designated nationally by the Department for Education.

The principles of NLG deployments are:

- the mentoring of chair and/or members of the school's governing board.
- Chairing or being a member of an Interim Executive Board,
- Providing additional capacity to governing boards.
- Some NLGs are also trained to undertake external reviews of governance.

The aim of the deployment is to improve the quality of governance within a school or specific group of schools, leading to school improvement and build sustained capacity for high quality governance within the school or multi-academy trust so that quality of governance is sustained into the future.

For more details about becoming a NLG view:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-leaders-of-governance-a-guide-for-potential-applicants>

Deployment

Schools wishing to use the expertise of a Local Support Governor will do so through the East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service.

Personal development

Additional training will be offered to Local Support Governors twice a year. Training will be on topics tailored to the specific needs identified by Local Support Governors. The aim is for training to further develop governance skills and knowledge, provide any relevant sector updates and when a Local Support Governor has expressed an interest, assist with progressing to become a National Leader of Governance.

Length of service

Local Support Governors will be appointed for a two year period. A list of those appointed will be available on the East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service website.

Expenses

Expenses will be claimable from the Governor and Clerking Service for any expenses incurred as part of the role.

How to Apply

Governors interested in applying should complete and submit the online application form.

Please note: the application form enables you to apply for a single function; you do not have to apply for all five.

Applications will be assessed monthly.

Applications will be assessed by a panel of Local Authority officers and a National Leader of Governance.

Person specification for a Local Support Governor

Those applying to be a Local Support Governance should set out in their application form how they meet the following requirements for experience and skills, knowledge and understanding.

Experience

- Has experience as a governor in the last three years
- Able to demonstrate a strong track record in governance to include any of the following:
 - has a minimum of two years' experience as a chair or vice chair of governors or chair of a governing board committee
 - has held a link governor role
 - was in a school graded good or better by Ofsted for overall effectiveness in leadership and management whilst in any of the above leadership posts
 - a good history of completing online or attending governor training and networking events
 - Any relevant qualifications/accreditation such as Chair of Governors development course
 - has experience of sitting on, or chairing a complaints panel, disciplinary panels, pay panels
 - specific experience on any governance issue such as: moving to a federation or academy, recruitment of a Headteacher, data, pupil premium, etc.

Skill, knowledge and understanding

- Well developed and comprehensive understanding of governance in the current school landscape
- Passionate about governance and school improvement
- A commitment to quality and raising standards for all pupils
- Ability to work positively with others and debate, whilst being constructive
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to identify with a range of audiences
- Dynamic and motivational integrity to act without self interest
- A willingness to further develop skills, knowledge and understanding.