

JANET MYERS, CHAIR OF CHESHIRE WEST GOVERNANCE ASSOCIATION



How does your board work? How do you engage and inspire governors and make sure that everyone contributes? What are your plans for virtual/in person meetings? These are the questions that we tried to answer at our recent Chairs and Vice Chairs networking event.

Attendance and feedback were great, and I hope that those who could attend picked up tips that they were able to use with their board. Our networking events are at the heart of the association's offer to boards, and the ever increasing attendance and engagement suggests that you value them. In our November meeting, our organising committee discussed our upcoming events – an event for secondary/post-16 school governors and trustees and our annual conference in February. We have some great speakers lined up, and I hope that you can join us. We are always on the look out for more governors, trustees or governance professionals to join our organising committee. The commitment isn't huge – a few evenings a year – and no particular experience is needed, just a passion for governance and a desire to make a difference. Please get in touch with us at cwga@cwgovernanceassoc.co.uk if you'd like to find out more.

****RECRUITING FOR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS******

The CWGA is run by six volunteers, supported by a paid administrator. We are urgently looking for serving governors, trustees and clerks to join us to help with the running of our association. The role is for a three-year term of office. **Interested? Want to find out more. Then please contact us via email on cwga@cwgovernanceassoc.co.uk**

Hear from the newest member of the Executive Committee, Simon Livingstone, about why he joined the Executive Committee at CWGA



SIMON LIVINGSTONE, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBER - CWGA and CO-OPTED GOVERNOR - WEAVERHAM HIGH SCHOOL

I applied to join the Executive Committee of the CWGA knowing little about what the role entailed, I just wanted to help! I had some reservations about how much experience I had as a Governor compared to other members and whether I would end up sitting in meetings, either virtual or in person, and not contributing very much, for those that know me, that isn't really my style.

I could not have been more wrong; the role is probably less about the performance of governance and more about supporting governance at all levels and in all settings. It is about discussing the best way of doing this and how as a Governance Association we can engage and interact in the best way possible with all Chairs, Vice Chairs, Governors and Clerks. Offering support and networking opportunities to all of these, allowing the sharing of best practice and ideas, basically CWGA is the facilitator of this and puts events and conferences in place to do this.

I would recommend putting yourself forward to join the Executive Committee, whatever your level of experience, whether you are just starting your governance journey or whether you are a Governor of many years as it feels great to be part of something supporting the amazing work that we all do as Governors and Clerks. I hope to meet you all at an event soon, or even better joining the Executive!



Cheshire West
Governance Association

HEADS, CHAIRS & CLERKS VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

FRIDAY 11TH FEBRUARY 2022 9AM TO 12.30PM

MEMBERS £30 NON-MEMBERS £35

DEPUTY HEAD TEACHERS, VICE-CHAIRS & GOVERNORS ALL WELCOME

SPEAKER : NIGEL TABERNER



Nigel has over 30 years of operational experience with the Greater Manchester Police and Counter-Terrorism Policing North West. During that time he served in a wide variety of front line and investigative roles. At the height of his career he was a Detective Inspector responsible for counter-terrorism policing operations. Through Level2Communications Nigel now brings transferrable skills, honed in the secretive world of hostage negotiation, to help those in business and education. Nigel brings his unique perspective on communication, resilience and emotional intelligence that can dramatically transform any team, making them more effective, people focused, inclusive and ultimately, higher performing. Nigel's '*Lessons From The Edge Of Chaos*' presentations covers all aspects of negotiation and communication excellence, Nigel's storytelling will challenge and inspire the audience in equal measure.

SPEAKER : PROFESSOR LUCY EASTHOPE



Professor Lucy Easthope LLB MSc PhD is a leading authority on recovering from disaster. For over two decades she has challenged others to think differently about what comes next, after tragic events. She is a passionate and thought-provoking voice in an area that few know about: emergency planning. However in the time of the Covid-19 pandemic, her work has become decidedly more mainstream. She has particular interest in the support of children and young people after disaster. She advised government departments, corporations, emergency and health services and charities during the pandemic. Her book '*When The Dust Settles*' is published in March 2022. She is known globally for her work and holds research positions in the UK and New Zealand. She is a Professor in Practice of Risk and Hazard at the University of Durham where she Co-Founded the After Disaster Network and is a Fellow in Mass Fatalities and Pandemics at the Centre for Death and Society, University of Bath.

SPEAKER : JONATHAN SMART

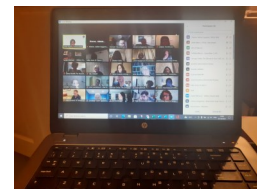


Jonathan Smart is assistant *regional director for the North West and a Senior Her Majesty's Inspector*. He inspects a range of provision, including primary, secondary, special and independent schools, and also regularly leads initial teacher education inspections. Before working for Ofsted, he gained extensive senior leadership experience across a number of educational organisations and also had experience working outside of education. Jonathan was a headteacher and executive headteacher of two schools in challenging circumstances. He has particular expertise in leadership, curriculum, and teaching and learning.

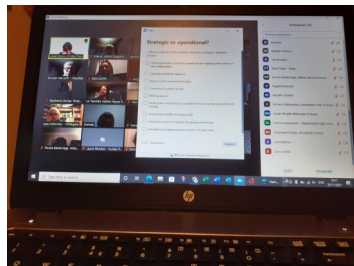
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/217832200977> **BOOK NOW FOR CONFERENCE**

OCTOBER—CHAIRS & VICE CHAIRS NETWORKING EVENT

Every day is a school day when it comes to being a governor and at the Association we believe that collaboration and the opportunity to share good practice is vital for the promotion of good governance. At our Chairs and Vice Chairs event we re-visited some ideas shared at a previous meeting including a discussion on board structures and the workings of the board. It has been a difficult time for everyone and governors responded quickly to the pandemic to ensure that governance continued. Covid has undoubtedly brought additional challenges and attendees discussed how they as Chairs and Vice Chairs were able to engage and inspire their colleagues and made sure that everyone is able to contribute to the success of the school. As you would expect, in the current climate, we discussed how to ensure governor visits continued and plans for virtual or in person meetings. As always, it was a pleasure to host such an informative and engaged group of governors. Thank you!



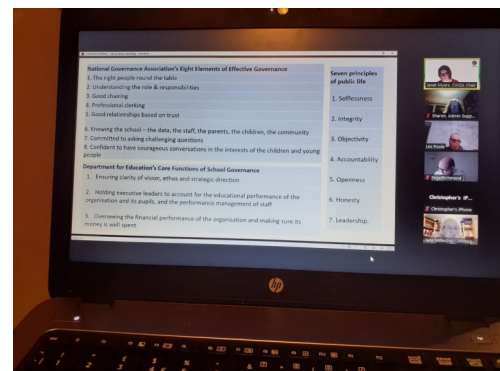
NOVEMBER—NEW GOVERNORS' NETWORKING EVENT



Supporting governors is at the heart of everything that the Cheshire West Governance Association does and we were very pleased to have a very good turnout for our New Governors Networking Event. During the evening governors had the opportunity to discuss the (sometimes difficult) difference between being operational and the

strategic role of governors. Attendees had the opportunities to hear about the three core functions of governance and the very important Nolan principles which we should all adhere to.

The topics of discussion were important for every governor to be made aware of on appointment and we hope this complements the induction process you have in your schools. We were very pleased to receive extremely positive feedback following this event and we would encourage any new governors to consider joining us for our next event.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

Secondary & Post-16 Governors/Trustees Networking Event - **Thursday 27th January 2022**

Headteachers, Chairs and Clerks Conference - **Friday 11th February 2022**

Governance Networking Event - **Thursday 17th March 2022**

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