

Cheshire West and Chester Association of Governing Bodies



February 2017

UPDATE CHANGE OF DATE Governors Forum meeting 2nd March 2017

The second consultation on a new national funding formula to be introduced from 2018-19 was unveiled on the 14th December 2016. To say it was a disappointment to all schools in Cheshire West and Chester was somewhat of an understatement in that the average change was a REDUCTION in funding of 2.2%. Only five schools across Cheshire West and Chester showed any increase in funding.

Because of the real concern over these proposed changes we have taken a decision to change the date of the Governors Forum meeting because the funding consultation finishes on the 23rd March 2017. This will hopefully allow all governing boards in CWAC to express their concern over future funding.

So the Governors' Forum meeting will now take place on THURSDAY 2ND MARCH 2017 at Christleton High School starting at 1900. We will have two related topics around finance. Firstly information on the proposed National Funding Formula, how it will affect your school and what we can do to try and get changes to the proposals. The second topic will be a discussion about some actions that schools might be able to take to help offset the effects of inflation on your budget.

Competency framework for Governors

The DfE have recently published a competence framework for governors of maintained schools and Academy Trust Boards. It sets out the knowledge, skills and effective behaviours that governors need to discharge their duties. It also presents the additional demands put on (expected) of Chairs. This information is grouped under six broad headings.

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|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1) Strategic leadership | 2) Accountability |
| 3) People | 4) Structures |
| 5) Compliance | 6) Evaluation |

This competency framework will be of particular use to Chairs of Governors as they continue to develop their Boards and recruit new people to join. Governing Boards may wish to refer to it when undertaking collective training or evaluation their own performance. Individual governors may find it helpful when considering their training needs. The list of competences may be daunting and nobody is the finished article. It is a framework to work towards.

A revised version of the Governance Handbook has also been published. It is structured into the same six areas and there is a useful section that outlines the changes from the previous versions. Highlights include increased financial accountability, a focus on the role of Chairs and Clerks and updates about safeguarding and the Prevent duty. Academies will be interested in the sections about Trustees and Members.

Contacts

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Heads / Chairs Conference 23rd June 2017

The date for the next Heads / Chairs conference has been set for Friday 23rd June 2017 at the Cheshire View. We will be looking to get national speakers to come to this conference. Further details will be available in March 2017.

National Audit Office report

The National Audit Office published a report on the financial sustainability of schools in the period up to 2020, which along with the new National Funding Formula makes for difficult reading.

School Governing Bodies need to read at least the Executive summary of the report, as this is now receiving considerable interest both from the DfE and from Ofsted. The report can be found at

<https://www.nao.org.uk/report/financial-sustainability-in-schools/>

Communication

As an Executive we recognise that communication between the Association, its Executive and its members will always be one of the areas which can be improved. We are always looking for more ways to communicate to and get communication from members. So we are going to contact a limited number of the contacts we have that we send this newsletter to, so that we can establish from these people whether there are other things we could do and what more governing bodies would want from us.

Please, if someone does contact you from the Association, either David Rowlands or Chris Chapman, give them as much information as you can. If you want to tell us what you want anyway please contact any of the Officers of the Association.

Executive members for the Association

We recognise as an Executive that many of us have been the Executive for a considerable period and that the time is now right for new people to join the Executive. We have the ability to co-opt 4 governors onto the Executive. What we are looking for are governors who will help to organise some of the events we run and take an active part in the discussions that we hold with the LA and other appropriate organisations. If you feel able to help please contact any of the CWACAGB officers to find out more details.

Twitter

Follow us on Twitter at CWACAssocGB

Or contact us at CWACAGB@gmail.com