

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL HEADS, CHAIRS & CLERKS CONFERENCE.....By Simon Livingstone,


Executive Member—Cheshire West Governance Association



Feedback from the recent Heads, Chairs and Clerks conference has been fantastic thanks to some excellent speakers.

Our first speaker was Professor Lucy Easthope, author of the forthcoming book entitled “When the Dust Settles”, discussing key themes around Disaster Recovery including what lessons should we learn from the pandemic so far and what can we do to support our pupils, staff and community in the next stage of the pandemic. Lucy has advised government departments, corporations, emergency and health services and charities during the pandemic and has been a leading authority on recovering from disaster for over two decades during which she has challenged others to think differently about what comes next after tragic events.



 Our second speaker was Jonathan Smart, Ofsted Assistant Regional Director for the North West and Senior HMI who answered some key questions around what inspection looks like post lockdown, what the key themes that are coming out of inspections and what is Ofsted looking for from governors and trustees at the moment.



Our final speaker was Nigel Taberner, with his “Lessons from the Edge of Chaos” presentation covering all aspects of negotiation and communication excellence with some valuable lessons for governors, trustees & school leaders around communication, developing trust & difficult conversations. Nigel has over 30 years of operational experience with the Greater Manchester Police and Counter-Terrorism

Policing North West serving in a wide variety of front line and investigative roles. Through Level2Communications Nigel now brings transferable skills, honed in the secretive world of hostage negotiation, to help those in business and education.



Here’s just some of the feedback left in the chat room by those that attended!!

"Absolutely inspirational! Thank you."

"What an amazing morning, thank you so much."

"A really inspiring morning. Much to think about and take back." "Huge thanks , inspirational indeed"

"Such a refreshingly different approach , brilliant speakers, so much useful information"

We asked Sue Mayers, Chair from Westminster Primary School for her feedback following the event.

“I was fortunate enough to attend the Conference in February 2022. What a joy to hear the inspirational speakers on either side of the valuable Ofsted update. I have been able to feed back to governors from what can only be described as a truly brilliant Conference. CWGA needs commending on organising such excellent events.

Thanks for your continued support, Sue!

JANUARY — SECONDARY/POST-16 GOVERNORS NETWORKING EVENT



By *Duncan Haworth, Executive Member—Cheshire West Governance Association*

This event was designed specifically for governors of secondary schools and post-16 settings. Covid-19 meant a couple of delegates had to drop out last minute, however those of us left had the advantage of really in-depth discussions of subjects raised!

After introductions the first subject covered was what views people had about the last two years. All present were concerned about the effects both short-term and long-term of the last two years on pupils and staff of schools. It was felt that it was easier to recognise and deal with the shorter-term effects of the last two years. As was pointed out for pupils who have been in reception and year 1 in the last twelve months, it will be another 6 years before those pupils join a secondary school. So very difficult to be sure about the possible long-term effects.

There were both positive and negative aspects to the last two years. Positive in that governance has adapted well to the new situation with virtual meetings generally being well received. Also positive in that it was felt that governance has changed and that there can be no going back to the situation pre covid. Different schools have adopted different procedures in terms of what meetings are virtual and what meetings are face-to-face.

Governors were concerned that they have not been able to attend schools as much as they would like, which led to a discussion over how different governing boards have handled going into school. The big issue for schools is the effect of covid on staff, especially senior staff, and how they have kept going over the last two years. Concern was expressed over staff wellbeing over the next 12 months.

Another major subject of discussion was around finance. Governors were reporting that at present schools had received extra funding, which was very welcome. They were however concerned that these extra funds were expected to be spent quickly whereas the general feeling was that we needed an extended period of extra funding to ensure that all gaps were addressed in pupil's learning and knowledge.

In all a great networking event for those that attended, with all present learning and understanding more about what is happening in other secondary/post-16 settings in CWAC.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY.....

School Vision Virtual Networking Event - **Thurs 17th March at 7pm**

BOOK NOW VIA EVENTBRITE <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/271991051557>

AGM and Networking Event - **Thursday 23rd June at 7pm WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS SOON**

Please follow us on Social Media

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Cheshire West
Governance Association

Don't miss our next event.....



Cheshire West
Governance Association

School Vision Virtual Networking Event

CWGA 'supporting the work of governors, trustees & clerks'

One of the core functions of governing boards is ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction....

We all know it is important to have a vision for our schools – but what does this mean for governors?

Why is it important to set a vision? Who creates the school vision? When did you last update it?

How can the vision be used for strategic planning, driving governing board agendas and monitoring?

If you would like the opportunity to network and discuss these and other questions, please join us at our School Vision virtual event!

This is a free event* for CWGA member schools

All governors/trustees and clerks are welcome! Join us on Zoom on Thursday 17th March 2022 at 7pm

Please click on the Eventbrite link to secure your booking and to tell us what you would like to get from this session

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/271991051557>

**If your school setting is not a member of CWGA, then the charge for attending is £20.
Please check your member status before selecting your ticket option by emailing cwga@cwqgovernanceassoc.co.uk*

****SAVE THE DATE: Our AGM and Networking Event
23rd June 2022****



Cheshire West
Governance Association

Nominate now....CWGA Awards 2021-22.....



We recognise the incredible work being done across CWAC, by people who give their time voluntarily, to make a difference to our schools. We think you will agree that their contribution is invaluable and so we invite you to nominate a governing body or an individual, for one of our 2022 CWGA Governance Awards.

If you feel you know someone deserving of that extra recognition, then nominate them for one of the three categories. All you need to do is pick the category from below and complete the nomination form overleaf with details of the person or group you wish to nominate, supported with some words as to why you have nominated them.

Cheshire West Governance Association Award Categories 2021/22

CWGA Governing Board of the Year

CWGA Chair of the Year

CWGA Clerk or Governance Manager of the Year

CWGA Governing Body of the Year - Celebrating a governing body who have shown great commitment and made a significant impact on the school. This award will go to the Governing Body that can demonstrate exceptional performance

CWGA Chair of the Year - Celebrating a Chair who has demonstrated exceptional leadership

CWGA Clerk or Governance Professional of the Year - Recognising an individual who has shown dedication and commitment as Clerk to Governors or Governance Manager

Judges will be looking for evidence to support how well the three core functions of governance have been fulfilled;

- **Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction**
- **Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff**
- **Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent**

...as well as [other contributing factors to strengthen the nomination](#) e.g.

- **Exceptional leadership and performance especially if through adversity**
- **Strong and creative initiatives that have enabled the school to improve and thrive**
- **Impact on the education experience**

Nomination Form 2021/22 - Closing date for nominations is the 4th May 2022, with short-listed nominees being invited to join us at our AGM on the 23rd June, where winners will be announced.

Name of person nominating:	
Role:	
Email:	Tel:

Nominee:	
Role:	
Name of School:	
Email:	Tel:

I wish to nominate a governing body/person for the following award: *[delete where applicable]*;

Governing Board of the Year / Chair of the Year / Clerk/Governance Professional of the Year

Please give supporting information for your nomination, taking into consideration the three core functions of governance [please feel free to continue onto as many pages as you need and expand the boxes]:

Ensuring clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction
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Holding executive leaders to account for the educational performance of the organisation and its pupils, and the performance management of staff

Overseeing the financial performance of the organisation and making sure its money is well spent

What other contributing factors can you share to strengthen the nomination