



Calderdale Governors' Association
*Supporting excellence in
Governance*

CGA Meeting on Tuesday 15th December 2020.

Held via Zoom



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Agenda

Introduction

Welcome to Connie Beirne Service manager Early Years and School Strategy & Performance.

Congratulations to Lesley Bowyer on becoming Asst Director Education & Inclusion

Brief Overview of Schools & Academies Show and NGA Annual Conference Week

Update on Calderdale and feedback from CASH & CPHA to include various online free stuff
Debby Simpson with Governor training consultation & clerking & David Kirk project N Halifax

Interval including Xmas draw

Looking forward to Spring Term – what have we learned?

General discussion on further points of concern/interest



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Introduction.

Schools & Academies Show 17-20th Nov 2020

Virtual Education exhibition with seminars and various exhibitors

Wide range of seminar topics

Responding to Covid 19;Safeguarding;Curriculum;School Leadership; School
funding. School improvement. Risk & Financial management

Large number of high quality high profile speakers e.g. SoS Education, National RSC,
Head of OFSTED.

NEXT SHOW APRIL 2021

Free to attend will be virtual.



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NGA

Annual Conference Seminars

- 1: Virtual Governance monitoring & Board reporting amidst a global pandemic
- 2: The GB's role in closing the disadvantage gap for pupils
- 3: The GB's role in school & Trust improvement
- 4: Where next for school improvement & accountability

Saturday 28 November 2020 –AGM

Annual Address by Emma Knights

Themes: Visible Governance, Board Diversity, Young governors, Ethical Governance,
Importance of high quality clerking, Sustainability & SEND

NGA DfE Funded Training Chairs, Clerks & Boards 12th March 2021



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Feedback from CPHA

A general awareness of the enormity of the pandemic and the implications this has had on schools and in particular leaders.

- As heads we are there for our staff and as well as running our schools a big part of our role has been to ensure our staff are 'ok'. Who is wondering if the head is 'ok?'
- The need to be on call for Covid calls from staff evenings and weekends, so it is hard to switch off as a leader.
- The impact of staff isolation/staff needing to provide childcare to their own children, due to out of school contact - hard to cover absent staff due to cover staff working in different bubbles. These absences have additional impact on children and the intervention groups that are planned.



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- When bubbles are closed still have a mixed level of children completing work when paper based and electronic is supplied, so the gap between the children are widening.
 - Staff stress due to high local cases.
- Lack of other support services working with families (staff working from home- no home visits), schools are picking up more and more.
- Funding – supply staff especially if this is required for supervision (using zoom isn't always working – particularly for our youngest children who need quality interactions with staff).
 - Workload – all staff plus pressures out of school impacting. We have found the need to adapt/change deadlines for data for example.
 - Assessment – adapting deadlines, not putting too much pressure on pupils, teacher assessment.
- Covid impact on data – different depending on children/cohorts/experiences of lockdown (family illness, isolation etc).
- We appreciate support but we could do without any extra challenges or additional workload.



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Governance during Pandemic.

Balance between challenge and support.

(This balance is an ongoing thread throughout 2020/21)



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Debby Simpson

Training package - Consultation

*Clerking Service – Update together with update from North
Halifax*



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INTERVAL

PRIZE DRAW

3 PRIZES

Leading Academy Trusts Why some fail, but most don't

NGA The Chairs Handbook New Edition Oct 2020

NGA Coffee/Tea Cup



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Looking Forward Spring Term 2021

Continuing concerns about impact of Covid 19 - Effect of loosening restrictions over Christmas /New Year

Lessons learnt : Collaboration stronger together although still aspects of competition. Across Calderdale & Wider. Senior Leaders and governors should not feel alone or isolated.

Nothing improves children's education & learning more than having excellent teachers. All teachers need to be supported and developed to be good.

Culture and learning should be shared.

Good professional clerking is essential.

GB should take time to consider the longer term Vision & Strategy. WHY are we doing this?

What is the point of Governance?

Funding: Still big questions re additional money for Covid related costs.

Flag up possible improvement to small rural school funding but not until 2022/3



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Calderdale school children among hardest hit in Yorkshire by pandemic says new OFSTED report.

Halifax Courier 12/12/20

More support needed for primary school children across the region as inequalities that start right from a child's birth are holding back communities, leading Northern education leaders have warned.



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North Halifax Cluster Partnership Research Bid (UOH) £6,600

The bid funding money would be used to explore the impact and implications of COVID-19 and prolonged lockdown on some of the most disadvantaged pupils (according to the IMD) through a research led partnership project between cluster schools and the UOH School of Education and Professional Development that will:

- Shed light on the complexities of the challenges facing schools in ensuring learning progress in the current conjuncture
- Arrive at some well-informed interventions and ongoing approaches to a post-COVID curriculum
 - Examine how future remote learning and existing blended learning can take place in the most disadvantaged households and where there is little or no support for learning
- Begin to narrow the attainment gap that already existed between disadvantaged pupils and their peers that EEF research now indicates has widened even further
- Share research findings across all clusters so that catch up curricula and contingency planning for possible future lockdown for the most disadvantaged learners so the impact of loss of time in school can be mitigated to the best extent possible



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Calderdale Governors' Association

www.calderdalegovs.org.uk

Formal business been on hold. No AGM.

No elections for officers. Looking for volunteers.

Although different landscape in education still a need for a group where governors can get together and be able to influence L.A. and improve own practice.

**Important we learn about what you as governors/trustees want from
CGA. How can it help you?**



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Social Media

Facebook: School Governors UK. Private group 4K members

Twitter: Fee Stagg @dogpaws23 : www.sbwgovernance.co.uk

Rosemary Hoyle @HoyleRosemary Jane Owens @WirralGov

#ukgovchat 8-45 pm Sundays

Julie Cordiner @juliecordiner School Business Manager

www.schoolfinancialsuccess.com

Andrew Hall Weekly safeguarding briefing. Email sign up

SEND NASEN Free membership from January 2021

DfE Consultation finishes on 4th March 2021 for Keeping Children Safe in Education new version for Sept 2021

[Primary assessment and accountability update: Autumn 2020](#)



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CONCLUSION

Thanks for coming.

Have a lovely Christmas and best wishes for 2021 and thank you for all you have been doing to support your School leaders during this extraordinary year.

Hopefully see you all in 2021!!