

REPORT TO: Children and Young People Policy & Performance Board

DATE: 23rd February 2014

REPORTING OFFICER: Strategic Director Children & Enterprise

PORTFOLIO: Children, Young People & Families

SUBJECT: School Governance

WARDS: Borough-wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 This report sets out the position with regard to the Governor Support Services delivered via Cheshire East Council and Cheshire West and Chester Council to support Halton's governors, and confirms the residual role of the Local Authority.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

(1) The report is received.

3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

3.1 On 26th June 2014 the Council's Executive Board endorsed and approved Halton's School Governance Strategy. The School Governance Strategy was launched to all Halton's Governors via the Autumn 2014 Director's termly report to Governors, and sets out the support available to Halton's governors through its Clerking Service which is delivered by Cheshire West and Chester Local Authority, and through its Training and Development Service delivered through Cheshire East Local Authority, to ensure that Halton's governors are equipped to undertake their role as strategic leaders.

3.2 Within the Strategy are comprehensive details regarding Governing Body Self-Evaluation and recommendations for each governing body to also undertake an External Review of Governance.

The Strategy is available on the Halton Borough website via the following link:

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/PDFs/Schools/governor/SchoolGovernanceStrategy.pdf>

3.3 The Council's website has a dedicated page for School Governors, with a wealth of information, support, and links, including a link to the

Governors Learning Partnership website (where further information, advice, guidance and links to a full suite of training modules is available); recent publications; Governor Training opportunities and events; Governance Regulations and non-statutory advice; Guidance; Safeguarding, and Resources, which it is hoped governors find useful. Access is available to the website via the following link:

<http://www3.halton.gov.uk/Pages/EducationandFamilies/Schools/governors.aspx>,

- 3.4** Halton commissions Cheshire East Council to deliver its Training & Development Programme, and provide advice, support and guidance to Halton's Governing Bodies, including access to National Leaders of Governance who can be called upon to support a school's governing body.
- 3.5** During the 2013/14 academic year 167 Governors attended 26 separate training courses. An overall summary of feedback is attached as Appendix A, with a more detailed summary attached as Appendix B. In addition, 67 Governors from 20 schools in Halton completed 24 separate modules on the Modern Governor website, with 55 of Halton's Schools signed up to access this training.
- 3.6** In November 2014 the Annual Governor Conference was held with 52 governors in attendance representing 27 schools. Five individual presentations were made during the course of the conference. An evaluation summary from the conference is attached as Appendix C.
- 3.7** Halton now commissions Cheshire West and Chester Council to deliver its Governor Support Clerkship service. There are three dedicated clerks and two clerks who also clerk Cheshire West and Chester schools providing the service. Feedback for the quality of the service is sought on a termly basis from schools. Feedback scores are requested out of 6, with 5 being very good, met expectations well, and 6 being excellent delivered beyond expectations. A question is also asked as to how the service could be improved further. Feedback for the Autumn Term 2014 is currently being sought. Attached as Appendix D is an analysis of the Summer Term feedback.
- 3.8** The Local Authority retains statutory duties in regard to school governance, and these duties include the nomination for the appointment of Local Authority governors, agreeing and making Instruments of Government for all maintained schools, and using powers of intervention under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to strengthen governing bodies and, as appropriate, appoint additional governors to add strength, and create Interim Executive Boards.
- 3.9** At the time of writing, a report is progressing through to the Council's Executive Board reviewing and revising the process for appointment of Local Authority Governors in line with statutorily required changes.

3.10 The Halton Local Authority Governors Code of Conduct (issued in Autumn 2012 and subsequently referenced to schools during reconstitution) sets out the requirement for Local Authority governors and confirms that governors are expected to:

- Prepare for meetings by reading papers beforehand
- Take responsibility for their own learning and development as a governor, including attending training
- Attend meetings promptly, regularly, and for the full time
- Read any briefings, specifically for Local Authority governors
- Familiarise themselves with Local Authority policy and guidance and, where necessary, be able to explain this to other governors on the governing board.

4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Halton Borough Council retains statutory duties in regard to its residual role for school governance, and these duties include the nomination for the appointment of Local Authority Governors, agreeing and making Instruments of Government for all maintained schools, and using powers of intervention under the Education and Inspections Act 2006 to strengthen governing bodies and, as appropriate, appoint additional governors to add strength, and create Interim Executive Boards.

4.2 The School Governance Strategy, and associated commissioned services, are in place to support the development of effective governance in Halton's schools, promote high standards, and drive school improvement to ensure that all pupils attend good or outstanding provision.

The School Governance Strategy is aligned to the Council's Learning & Achievement Strategy 2014.

5.0 OTHER IMPLICATIONS

None.

6.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES

6.1 Children and Young People in Halton

The School Governance Strategy is aligned to the Council's Learning & Achievement Strategy, both of which underpin the priorities within the Children & Young People's Plan in ensuring governors fulfil their responsibilities.

6.2 Employment, Learning and Skills in Halton

As 6.1 above

6.3 A Healthy Halton

Governors have a range of statutory responsibilities, and the School Governance Strategy sets out those responsibilities, and confirms the Local Authorities support in this regard.

6.4 A Safer Halton

Safeguarding of children and young people is a key role for governing bodies, with each school having a dedicated governor with responsibility for safeguarding.

6.5 Halton's Urban Renewal

None

7.0 RISK ANALYSIS

7.1 The School Governance Strategy is in place to ensure Halton meets statutory requirements with regard to School Governors. There are no major risks associated with the publication of the Strategy.

8.0 EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

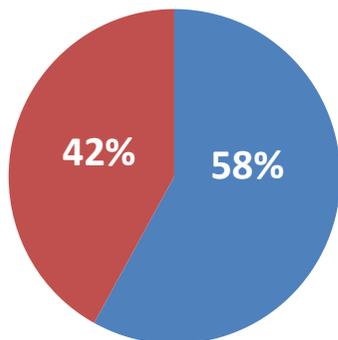
8.1 School Governors should ensure that the policies and procedures they approve for adoption in their schools comply with any requirements of the Equality Act 2010.

APPENDIX A

Evaluations Summary for Halton Training September 2013/14

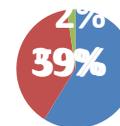
The Course Met its Stated Aims

■ Excellent ■ Good



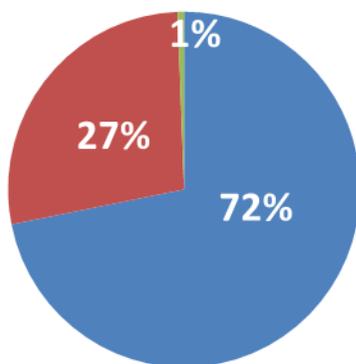
Organisation of the Course

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory



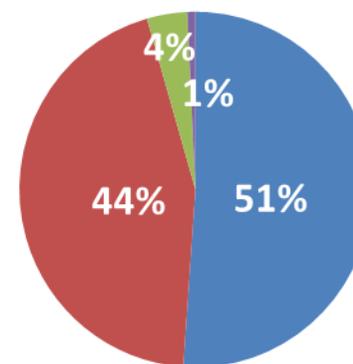
Quality of Presentation

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory



Course Materials

■ Excellent ■ Good ■ Satisfactory ■ Unsatisfactory



APPENDIX B

Date	Course Title	Venue	Course Ran?	No Attended	No of Evaluations	The course met its stated aims	Organisation of the course	Quality of Presentation	Course Materials
25/09/2013	Schools Financial Value Standard (SFVS)	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	6	5	4 Excellent, 1 Good	5 Excellent	4 Excellent, 1 Good	4 Excellent, 1 Good
26/09/2013	Induction Day	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	11	10	4 Excellent, 5 Good	4 Excellent, 5 Good	7 Excellent, 3 Good	7 Excellent, 3 Good
08/10/2013	The Governors Role in Health and Safety	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	7	7	6 Excellent, 1 Good	4 Excellent, 3 Good	4 Excellent, 3 Good	3 Excellent, 2 Good, 1 Satisfactory
09/10/2013	Attendance	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	3	3	3 Excellent	2 Excellent, 1 Good	3 Excellent	3 Excellent
16/10/2013	The Governors Role in Performance Management	Select Security Stadium	Yes	12	10	8 Excellent, 2 Good	8 Excellent, 2 Good	9 Excellent, 1 Good	4 Excellent, 5 Good
30/10/2013	Broad and Balanced Curriculum	Select Security Stadium	Yes	10	10	6 Excellent, 4 Good	3 Excellent, 6 Good, 1 Satisfactory	5 Excellent, 4 Good, 1 Satisfactory	2 Excellent, 6 Good, 2 Satisfactory
04/11/2013	Making Sense of School Data	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	8	8	6 Excellent, 2 Good	5 Excellent, 3 Good	6 Excellent, 2 Good	3 Excellent, 5 Good
05/11/2013	An Inspector Calls	St Clements Primary School	Yes	14	14	5 Excellent, 9 Good	4 Excellent, 9 Good, 1 Satisfactory	6 Excellent, 8 Good	3 Excellent, 10 Good, 1 Satisfactory
11/11/2013	Assessment in EYFS and KS1/KS2	Select Security Stadium	Yes	7	7	5 Excellent, 1 Good	5 Excellent, 2 Good	5 Excellent, 2 Good	5 Excellent, 2 Good
13/11/2013	Assessment in EYFS and KS1/KS2	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	9	9	5 Excellent, 3 Good	5 Excellent, 4 Good	5 Excellent, 4 Good	3 Excellent, 4 Good, 1 Satisfactory, 1 Unsatisfactory
19/11/2013	An Inspector Calls	St John Fisher Primary School	Yes	7	7	5 Excellent, 1 Good	6 Excellent, 1 Good	5 Excellent, 2 Good	3 Excellent, 4 Good
04/12/2013	An Inspector Calls	St Michaels Primary School	Yes	12	12	8 Excellent, 4 Good	7 Excellent, 4 Good, 1 Satisfactory	7 Excellent, 5 Good	6 Excellent, 6 Good
12/02/2014	A New Focus for Ofsted	Select Security Stadium	Yes	4	4	4 Excellent	4 Excellent	4 Excellent	4 Excellent
26/02/2014	GNNW Raiseonline	St John Fisher Primary School	Yes	7	7				
04/03/2014	Health and Safety: Governors Roles and Responsibilities	Select Security Stadium	Yes	4	4	3 Excellent, 1 Good	3 Excellent, 1 Good	3 Excellent, 1 Good	2 Excellent, 1 Good
04/03/2014	GNNW Performance Related Pay	The Heath School	Yes	5	5				
06/03/2014	Induction Day	Select Security Stadium	Yes	7	6	5 Excellent, 1 Good	4 Excellent, 2 Good	4 Excellent, 2 Good	4 Excellent, 2 Good
06/03/2014	GNNW Performance Related Pay	St John Fisher Primary School	Yes	8	8				
11/03/2014	Making a Difference- The Governors Monitoring Role	Select Security Stadium	Yes	6	6	3 Excellent, 3 Good	2 Excellent, 4 Good	1 Excellent, 5 Good	2 Excellent, 2 Good
13/03/2014	Handling School Complaints	Municipal Buildings	Yes	3	3	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	3 Excellent
06/06/2014	Induction Day	The Heath Conference Centre	Yes	4	4	4 Excellent	3 Excellent, 1 Good	4 Excellent	2 Excellent, 2 good
26/06/2014	GNNW Financial Efficiencies	Municipal Buildings	Yes	2	2				
27/06/2014	An Introduction to Chairing	The Heath Conference Centre	Yes	3	3	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	2 Excellent, 1 Good
30/06/2014	Managing School Complaints	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	3	3	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	3 Excellent	2 Excellent, 1 Good
07/07/2014	Preparing For Ofsted	Runcorn Town Hall	Yes	1	1	1 Excellent	1 Excellent	1 Excellent	1 Excellent
09/07/2014	Governing Body Self-Evaluation and Governor Mark	Municipal Buildings	Yes	4	4	1 Excellent, 3 Good	1 Excellent, 3 Good	1 Excellent, 3 Good	1 Excellent, 3 Good
	Overall			167	162	94 Excellent, 68 Good	77 Excellent, 51 Good, 3 Satisfactory	120 Excellent, 46 good, 1 satisfactory	69 Excellent, 60 Good, 5 Satisfactory, 1 Unsatisfactory

APPENDIX C

HALTON GOVERNOR CONFERENCE FRIDAY 21ST NOVEMBER 2014 EVALUATION SUMMARY

Gill Bennett: Halton's Achievement Headlines

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Standard of presentation	25	7		
Relevance of content	26	7		

Emma Knights: A two part presentation and discussion:

- Strategic Leadership and Governance – a key challenge for schools
- Lessons for governors and Headteachers from the Trojan Horse Enquiries

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Standard of presentation	25	9		
Relevance of content	26	8	1	

Ruth Agnew: Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural (SMSC) Education: How do we measure what we value? The governor's role.

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Standard of presentation	27	5	1	
Relevance of content	25	8	1	

Steven Nyakatawa: What's in the Educational News?

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Standard of presentation	6	14	3	
Relevance of content	11	10	2	

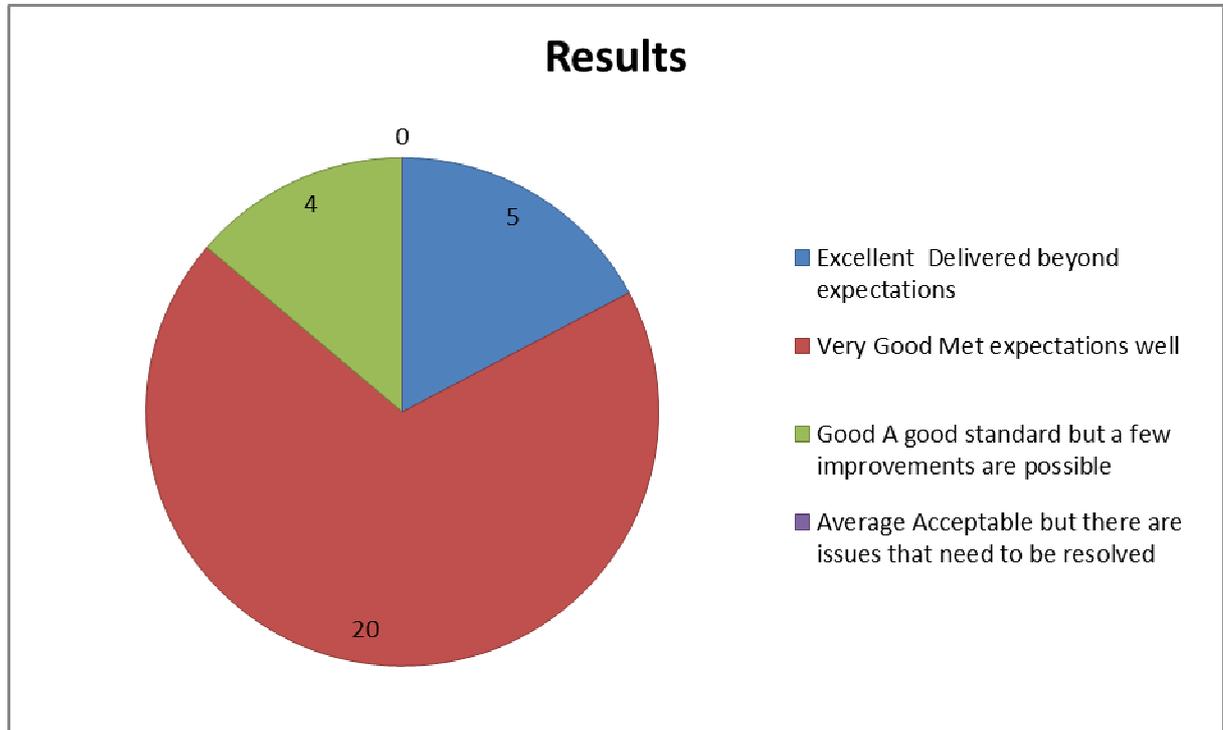
General Evaluation:

	1 (High)	2	3	4 (Low)
Organisation of the conference	26	5	3	
Conference materials	24	6	1	
Conference venue	28	4		1

APPENDIX D

Cheshire West and Chester Clerking Survey

There was a 53% return on the summer term survey for the Governor Clerking Service. The average score for feedback was 5.



At this time, the only additional comment received from a school was “it is difficult to comment on the service as it we have only had 2 meetings with the current clerk and therefore we have not yet built up a working relationship with them”.