

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Welcome to issue #17 of Governor Headlines. This edition includes information on School Improvement and Suffolk Performance Challenge and updates on Headteacher wellbeing, critical incidents and the new specialist admission process. It also features further information on the Development for Chairs training course, an update from the Inclusion Service and the Annual Parent Carer Satisfaction Survey for 2018.

As always, if you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding Governor Headlines please contact governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk .

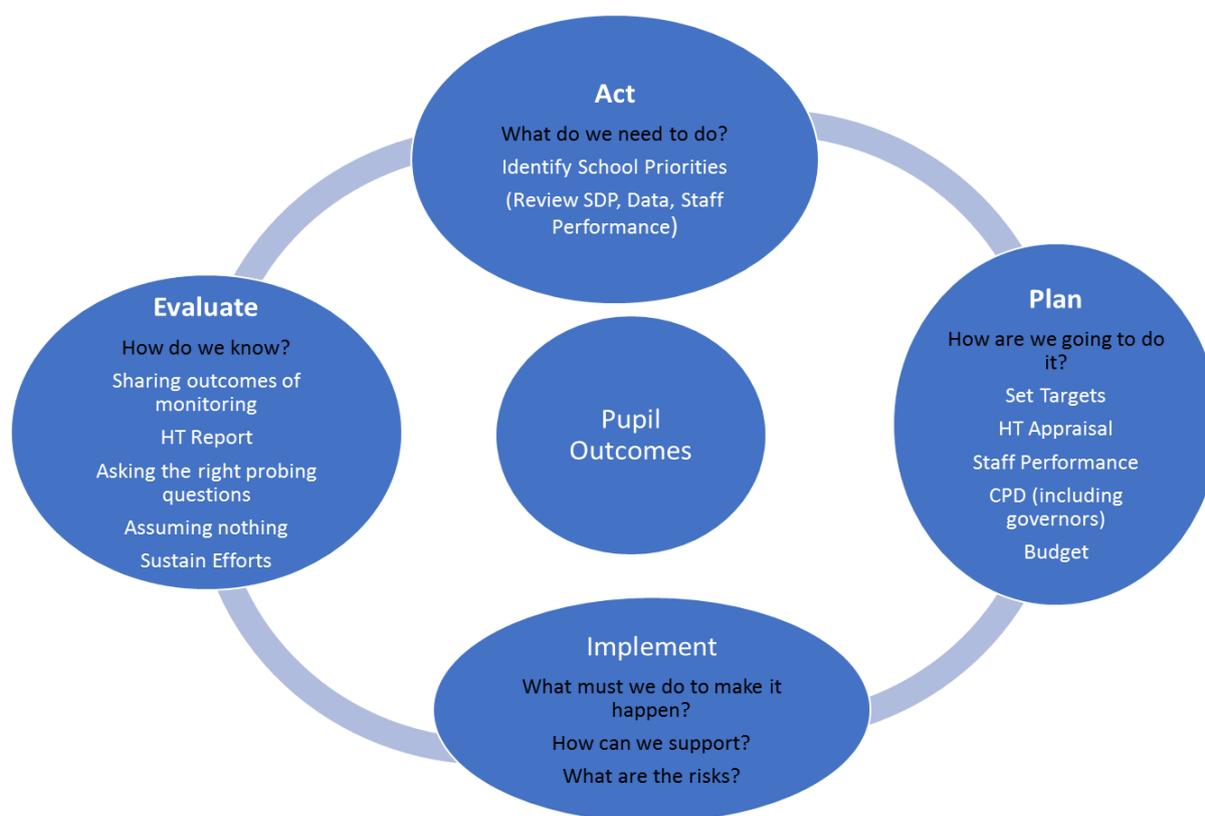
What's New This Month – October 2018

School Improvement Support 2018-19 Standards and Excellence Team Visits

This article clarifies school improvement support for all schools at this exciting time for school improvement in Suffolk- those who have chosen to be part of the Suffolk Learning and Improvement network peer review and for those who have not yet joined. It sets out the support from the Standards and Excellence Team and the SEO offer to all schools.

[Read more](#)

The School Improvement Cycle



Understanding the school improvement cycle is a key part of the role for governors in monitoring school performance.

Each year the leaders of a school, including the governors, will identify a set of priorities which drives the School Improvement Plan. School leaders, including governors, need to monitor carefully progress and outcomes to ensure that children are receiving the best possible education.

This diagram represents the school improvement cycle and can be applied to any governance activity. Some governors find it useful to use this as a framework for questioning. It is improbable that the concept of school improvement is new to you, but this diagrammatic version may help facilitate strategic discussion about all governance topics

For example: Discussions around budgets

- a) What do we need to do? e.g. we need to balance the budget for the forthcoming year.

- b) How are we going to do it? What scenarios for cost saving are there?
Combining classes? Staff redundancies? Reducing the use of outside support e.g. sports providers, cleaning?
- c) What must we do to make this happen? How do we implement this, how can we support this and what are the risks?
- d) How do we know this is working? What has the impact been on the children and staffing? How do we know it's working? Or not? Has it impacted on the original budget "problem"?

This is a very small and contained example but you may wish to look to other sources for innovative ideas for how to improve your school – what have other schools found effective? What research has already been undertaken in this area?

Suffolk Performance Challenge

Developed by Suffolk Headteachers for Suffolk Pupils

The Suffolk Performance Challenge has been developed by the Suffolk Learning and Improvement Network (SLIN) – Headteacher associations; LA colleagues and the School to School Support Partnership to strengthen the contribution of each and every school to accelerate the pace of improvement in pupil outcomes.

What does this mean for your school?

[Read more](#)

Development for Chairs Programme

The National Governance Association (NGA) is a not-for-profit organisation with a strong track record of delivering governance leadership programmes in cooperation with partners across England.

The Development for Chairs programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) and provides Chairs, Vice-Chairs, committee Chairs and future Chairs opportunities for developing leadership skills and confident governance. If you are interested in the programme further information can be found [here](#) .

Inclusion Services Update

Consultation on Educational Healthcare Plans (EHCPs)

Please can we remind SEND governors in particular regarding the need to be aware of all consultations on EHCPs that come into your school. We have had incidents recently where we have had to challenge a school or academy's response and it has transpired that the governors were not aware that the consultation had already been into the school, and when they considered the matter further have agreed the draft EHCP. This, naturally, has led to a delay for the correct educational provision being put in place for the child or young person.

If you require any further information, please contact the [SEND Family Services Team](#).

Inclusion Monitoring – Support and Challenge

Over recent months we have been exploring ways to better understand the landscape of inclusive practice across Suffolk, and we have now set up a mechanism whereby we can gather the information held by the LA to better challenge and support schools to be more inclusive of pupils with SEND and those whose placements are vulnerable.

We meet regularly with colleagues in the Standards and Excellence team, as well as the Regional Schools' Commissioner, to hold schools and academies to account for their inclusive practice, agreeing actions and monitoring the impact.

If you would like to find out more, please contact maria.hough@suffolk.gov.uk

Forgotten Children?

In July, the government released the report [Forgotten Children](#), which looks into alternative provision and the experiences of the children excluded by schools and academies. We are committed to working with schools and academies to ensure that exclusion from school is the last possible action, and that parents and carers have access to the information that they need to ensure that their child is treated fairly. We would therefore urge all schools and academies to work with us proactively within the In Year Fair Access Panel (IYFAP), and we are currently working with school leaders from across the county to ensure that our systems and processes are timely and robust, to protect and progress children and young people whose education placement is vulnerable.

SEND Sufficiency Plan

On September the 11th Suffolk County Council considered the approach and principles that will underpin the County Council's approach to commissioning provision for young people with SEND. Councillor Gordon Jones presented the findings drawn from the Education SEND Sufficiency Plan, commissioning workshops with parents and providers along with the formal consultation undertaken by the County Council. The cabinet agreed to the commissioning principles as set out in the consultation process and agreed to the commissioning approach of developing Specialist Units, increasing the number of special school places and the continuation of the use of the Independent sector for a small number of young people when appropriate. Cabinet agreed that a Policy Development Panel should be set up to agree the more detailed policy decisions. This will report back to Cabinet in January 2019. As part of its work the Panel will be seeking to talk with practitioners across the education sector to inform its policy making. A copy of the Cabinet paper can be accessed [here](#) Agenda Item 9.

SENCO Bulletin

The Inclusion Service sends out a bulletin twice per half-term to all SENCOs across the county providing them with details of their service, latest guidelines, training offers and anything else relating to special needs and disabilities.

If you are a governor with responsibility for SEND in your school you may find it useful to sign up at SENDnews@suffolk.gov.uk .

Please click [here](#) to see a copy of the latest bulletin.

Headteacher Wellbeing Update 2018/2019

Education and Learning have recently reviewed the arrangements for Headteacher wellbeing support. Support for all headteachers within maintained schools will now be led by the Resolution Team (Strategic Support).

[For more information and contact details please click here.](#)

Contact: StrategicSupport-EducationandLearning@Suffolk.gcsx.gov.uk

New Specialist Admission Process

From September 2019 our admission process to specialist schools/settings has changed. The process which will be effective and consistent, robustly monitored

with timely responses and in line legislation and policy such as the SEND Code of Practice.

[Read more](#)

Contact: Hannah Stewart, hannah.stewart@suffolk.gov.uk

Critical Incidents Update 2018/2019

In preparation for the forthcoming academic year we would like to remind all school leaders of the critical incident arrangements. We would advise all maintained, academy and free schools to update their internal arrangements accordingly.

[For more information click here.](#)

Contact: StrategicSupport-EducationandLearning@Suffolk.qcsx.gov.uk

Annual Parent Carer Satisfaction Survey 2018



It's that time of year again when we ask families across Suffolk to make their voices heard about education, health and care services. The findings from our annual survey form the basis of our evidence throughout the coming year, so it is really important that you complete our survey if you have a child or young person aged 0-25 with any

additional need or disability who either lives in Suffolk or receives services in the county. Last year 415 families responded but there are over 12,000 children and young people in Suffolk with special educational needs and disabilities and we are much stronger the more voices we have. Please share with everyone you know and encourage them to take the time to fill out this survey – one per child/young person. If you have any queries please contact us on admin@spcn.org.uk or phone 07341 126455

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/GenColl>

School Nursing Service for Academic Year 2018

Please find [here](#) a letter regarding changes to the School Nursing offer to Schools in the next academic year.

For further information please contact Anita Farrant on 01473 265566.
