

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Welcome to November's edition of Governor Headlines. This month's newsletter contains important information on Elective Home Education and the Local Offer Website, for advice on services available for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). We also offer some thoughts on how to develop a strong vision and strategy for your schools and some tips on building a successful teaching school alliance. There are also opportunities to book onto several training events, including governor seminars and an Ofsted webinar.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding Governor Headlines please contact governorheadlines@suffolk.gov.uk.

What's new this month - November 2017

The Knowledge

Please find the latest edition of **The Knowledge** for November 2017 [here](#).



Elective Home Education (EHE)

Important Information

You may have noted some recent press items raising the profile of the EHE. The EHE briefing note draws attention to key issues relating to the law as it currently stands. It is important governors are aware of the rapid increase in the number of pupils leaving school to be home-educated. This increase is replicated in that of our statistical neighbours and nationally.

As part of their monitoring role and to assure themselves that any action taken by school staff is within the law, governors could ask school leaders about the number of pupils who have left the school to be home educated.

For more information please see the [EHE Briefing Note](#) for all senior leaders, including governors, in Local Authority maintained schools, academies and free schools.

If you have any queries please contact Sarah Warboys, Strategic Lead Quality Assurance / EHE Team Manager at sarah.warboys@suffolk.gov.uk or 01473 263949.

Helping you to understand Ofsted



Inspecting governance, an Ofsted webinar for school's governors and leaders in the East of England

Join us for a webinar on Nov 27, 2017 at 6:00PM GMT.

Register now [here](#);

Dear Colleagues,

Please join us for the next of our popular webinars in the East of England.

Our webinars are very well attended and colleagues in schools have valued the opportunity to engage directly with Her Majesty's Inspectors.

At this webinar we will be talking about inspecting governance in schools. The webinar is aimed at governors and leaders in schools as well as local authority colleagues.

We realise that it can be difficult for some governors to attend during the working day. We hope that a start time of 1800 will be more convenient.

We want to engage more directly with you so that you can hear from us first hand. We also want to hear your views, experiences and concerns.

You will hear from Paul Brooker, Regional Director for the East of England and some of his colleagues who will talk about how we inspect governance in maintained schools and academies.

When you register for the webinar you will have the opportunity to pose questions directly to the regional team and to shape the event by telling us what you would like us to cover when we talk about inspecting governance.

We hope you can join us.

Michelle Winter SHMI
East of England Region

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

[View System Requirements](#)

Governor Seminars - Autumn 2017

There are a number of places left on the Schools' Choice governor seminars taking place in the Autumn term.

The dates and venues for these are:

Wednesday 22 November - Riverside (Lowestoft)

Tuesday 28 November - Howard Primary School (Bury St Edmunds)

Wednesday 6 December - Best Western Ipswich Hotel (Ipswich)

To view the seminar schedule and for information on how to book a place, please click [here](#).

Can You See Clearly Now?

The first core function of governing bodies is to ensure clarity of vision, ethos and strategic direction.

Three Steps

For those new to governance, or strategic planning, this may sound daunting but the process is encompassed by three steps:

- Where are we now?
- Where do we want to be?
- How do we get there?

Where Are We Now?

- Ascertaining the current situation of your school requires a self-evaluation of both the organisation's performance and, as part of that, the governing body's performance.
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- Self-evaluation needs to be honest. Identify what is good practice but don't shy away from what needs to be done better.
- Ask challenging questions and have courageous conversations with fellow governors and the senior leadership team. Is the school doing as well as it can and are governors contributing effectively to that success?

Where Do We Want To Be?

- Once you have a clear picture of your school's current position and the views of its stakeholders, an ambitious but realistic strategy can be written.
- At the heart of this document must be high-quality educational outcomes for, and a devotion to the wellbeing of, all children and young people in the school.
- The document should also consider the future, preparing children and young people for the next stages of education and life.

How Do We Get There?

- Your written strategy should have between 4 - 6 priorities and the document should also identify key performance indicators with termly milestones, against which the senior leadership report and which enable you to assess progress.
- Strategies should be developed alongside the Headteacher and senior leadership team and should be a shared vision for the school.
- Once the strategy is agreed it is the responsibility of the senior leadership team to deliver it. The role of the governing body is to hold senior leadership to account for the delivery of this vision.

Monitoring the Strategy

- Once vision has been set and a strategy developed they need to be monitored regularly.
 - The strategy should drive the activities of the governing board and should therefore be reflected in meeting agendas and used to hold leadership to account.
 - Vision and strategy should be reviewed annually at a devoted separate meeting.
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How to Build a Successful Teaching School Alliance

10 Tips for Teaching Schools:

Roger Pope, NCTL Chair, gives his personal insight into how successful teaching school alliances operate.

[10 Tips for Teaching Schools - How to Build a Successful Alliance](#)

Analyse School Performance (ASP)

Understanding ASP and Pupils' Achievements in 2017

Please see below for details of an ASP training event for governors:

When: Monday 13 November, 5:30pm - 8:30pm

Where: All Saints' CEVCP School, Lawshall (IP29 4QA)

Cost: £50 per governor

Please see [here](#) for more information.

To book a place please contact head@allsaintsprimary.org

The Local Offer Website

The Local Offer website is the place to go for information and advice on services available for children and young people with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) in Suffolk.

The information available on the Local Offer website describes the support available to

families, and **all** children and young people with SEN and/or disabilities.

This support includes:

- universal services, for example early years and childcare providers, schools and GPs;
- short-term support for children and young people with SEND who require additional support (in addition to what's provided by universal services); and
- specialist services for children and young people with SEND who need specific longer-term support.

For anyone who needs help with the website, the Local Offer Adviser is standing by. The Adviser can be contacted Monday to Friday between 9am and 5pm, either via webchat on the website, by calling 0345 606 1490, or by emailing localoffer@suffolk.gov.uk

For regular updates about the Local Offer follow us on Twitter [@Suffolk_LO](https://twitter.com/Suffolk_LO)

The SCC School Leadership and Governance Team and Schools' Choice

To help you to know the best place of contact for various governance issues and ensure you receive the best form of support, we would like to remind you of the differences in the role and responsibilities between the Suffolk County Council Leadership and Governance team and Schools' Choice.

Prior to January 2017, all governor services operated under Schools' Choice. In January however School's Choice divested from the Local Authority to become their own separate entity, retaining Governor Training and the Clerking Service.

Suffolk County Council continue to undertake the statutory responsibilities for governance, including the appointment of Local Authority governors and the reconstitution of governing bodies.

Our Senior Governance Advisor Joanna Howell is available to offer advice through any challenges you may be facing. To contact Joanna please

email joanna.howell@suffolk.gov.uk or phone 01473 263972.

It is vital that you report any changes to your governing body to governance@suffolk.gov.uk so that we're able to amend our records accordingly. This especially includes any governor resignations, new appointments and reappointments as, if we don't have this information, we are not able to support you to the best of our ability.

Govern Suffolk Schools
Recruitment Campaign

Help someone else put their skills into a Suffolk school by sharing the information below or by directing them to: www.suffolk.gov.uk/governsuffolk.

A governor can make a really important contribution to a child's life, whilst developing personal and professional skills at the same time. Being passionate about improving outcomes and opportunities for children and young people is essential.

You can really make a difference.



Emma Oddie is a School Governor from Sudbury and said:

“I became a governor because I wanted to give something back to my community. I am able to use my strategic thinking and previous experience working in education and business to make a difference to my local school which is really rewarding.”

Watch Emma’s story and see how other people across Suffolk are putting their skills into schools [here](#).

If you, or someone you know, would like to learn more about the role and how to apply, please visit www.suffolk.gov.uk/governsuffolk .

Alternatively, you can Call: 01473 263972 or Email: governance@suffolk.gov.uk.
