

GOVERNOR HEADLINES

Welcome to December's edition of Governor Headlines, the last of 2017. We would like to thank you for all your hard work and dedication over the past year and wish you a Happy Christmas and New Year.

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

What's new this month - December 2017

School and Post-16 Travel: Outcome of Cabinet

You will be aware that today, Wednesday 5 December 2017, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet will be reconsidering the recommendation to consult on school and post-16 travel.

Cabinet's decision will be published on the [school travel webpage](#) by Wednesday 6

December 2017.

If you would like to listen to the recording of the meeting, this will be available on the [Cabinet webpage](#) Cabinet webpage from early-mid December.

For the Attention of:
All Parent Governors of Maintained Schools Only

Suffolk County Council Scrutiny Committee Vacancies

As you may be aware an email was sent to all parent governors of Local Authority maintained schools on Monday 27 November with a [letter](#) detailing the two vacancies for **Parent Governor Representatives** on the Scrutiny Committee of Suffolk County Council.

The [government guidelines](#) allow for **qualified parent governors of maintained schools** to be considered for election, and all parent governors of maintained schools are eligible to vote, to elect two of their peers onto the Committee.

In the first instance we are seeking nominations for the parent governor representatives. If you would like to nominate yourself for a position please complete the [nomination form](#). The form includes an opportunity to submit a statement of no more than 50 words giving your details and your view as to why you would be an appropriate representative of parent governors on the Scrutiny Committee.

Please email your completed nomination form to governance@suffolk.gov.uk by Tuesday 19 December 2017. (Alternatively, postal returns can be sent to Leadership & Governance, Education & Learning, Endeavour House, 8 Russell Road, Ipswich, Suffolk, IP1 2BX).

If you would like further information of the role of the Scrutiny Committee please contact Theresa Harden at Theresa.harden@suffolk.gov.uk

Suffolk Fostering and Adoption

Brothers and Sisters Shouldn't Be Split Up Could You Give Them a Home Together?

More than 750 children currently live in care in Suffolk and there is an urgent need for more people to come forward to foster, particularly for sibling groups. We are therefore urging Suffolk residents to come forward and see if they could make a positive difference to our children's lives.

This is the second stage in an on-going campaign to recruit foster carers in Suffolk, this part of the campaign focuses on the real-life experiences of two Suffolk Fostering Service, foster carers, Margi and Pat who specifically care for sibling groups. Please [click here](#) to watch the film.



If you think you might be interested or know someone who might be interested, then please don't hesitate to get in touch on **01473 264800** or alternatively visit our website for more information www.fosterandadopt.suffolk.gov.uk/

Helping You To...

Governance in MATs

What Have We Learned?

- Trusts are more likely to be successful if they have spent time on understanding elements of governance and have heeded the guidance.
- Successful Trusts have a true separation of powers with independent members and capable boards, as well as clear schemes of delegation so everyone understands which functions are carried out at what level.
- Successful Trusts are clear that it is the boards role as the accountable body to ensure that the right people, policies and reporting systems are in place so that the overall trust can be successful.
- Good risk management is critical. Trusts that have a realistic and accurate view of the risks they face are less likely to find themselves confronting problems.
- It's essential to manage change effectively. Whilst motivating, change is nearly always demanding and moving from a single autonomous school to being part of a group is a major organisational shift, involving a change in culture.

The Importance of Training

- Training covering change management is available and Trusts that have invested in this for senior executive leaders often make the transition more successfully.
- Time needs to be invested in building the culture of the new organisation.
- It is essential that good and open relationships are formed within Trusts.
- Training helps to ensure everyone knows their roles and responsibilities.

Robust Structure

- Time must be invested on the governance structure and accountability aspect of Trusts.
- The board should support the Chief Executive in getting out to all the schools involved, meeting academy committees and academy Headteachers. These meetings help create an open and honest culture.
- Being honest about the extent of challenges, and investing in addressing them, promotes more robust governance structures.
- A robust structure reduces the risk of any school in an MAT failing.

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/governorsuffolk.

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.
