

Report on School Governor Conference April 2018

Circulation	Members of the School Governor network
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Summary	Report on UMSGI Annual Conference 2018 which is organised and delivered from within the Student Recruitment and Widening Participation Team
Action	For information and comment

1. Context

- 1.1. The conference held on 26 April 2018 was the 6th annual conference provided by UMSGI. The conference is open to staff, Alumni, chairs and Vice-Chairs and other external guests.
- 1.2. The conference is part of a package of institutional support provided to staff who are school and college governors. Other support includes a series of network meetings, online news and information and access to peer support provided through the online and face-to-face network.
- 1.3. 85 delegates attended the conference. The conference feedback survey received 45 responses, which is a 53% response rate.

2. Attendance

- 2.1 University of Manchester staff attending the conference are able to invite their Chair or Vice-Chair.

Table 1 – Delegates.	
Delegate type	Number
University staff	53
Non-staff	32
Total	85

- 2.2 **From those who completed the survey:**
 18 of the 45 were attending the UMSGI conference for the first time. (%)
 27 of 45 governors attending had previously attended an UMSGI network meeting.
 32 were university staff
 13 were non-staff

3. Type

- 3.1 The table below provides a breakdown of the different types of governors attending the Conference.

Table 2 – Governor type. Variety of governors completing the feedback	
Respondents	
Parent governors	9%
Co-opted governors	40%
Local Authority governors	4%
Chairs	13%

Vice-Chairs	27%
Other/not a governor	6%

4. Feedback

- 4.1. Feedback was extremely positive. 100% said that the conference was a good development opportunity.
- 4.2 Respondents were also positive about the organisation of the event with 98% agreeing that they received sufficient information regarding the arrangements in the lead up to the conference.
- 4.3 The table below provides the feedback received for each workshop.

Table 3 – Workshops. Delegates were asked to rate the workshops they attended. The number of delegates who rated workshops good, very good or excellent are as follows:

Workshop Title	Percentages
Online Safety in Schools (Ofsted)	94
School Finance (One Education)	74
The Equality and Diversity Objectives Review	100
Digital Citizenship and Cyber wellness	100
Inviting School Success	85
Effective Governance of SEND	94
The Dreaded Call – Preparing for OFSTED	100

- 4.4 Below is a short selection of feedback based on the workshops.

Table 4– Qualitative Data.

Information about online safety was great - the speaker made some very useful comments about how we as governors can double check the procedures in place. Most useful.

The framework talk was inspiring and has given us a number of ideas about how we can further challenge our school to continue moving forward.

Thank you for organising. Here's to UMSGI 2019!

I plan to prompt discussion of unconscious bias and digital citizenship within my school. The event also made me think about ensuring that we are able to teach the children the skills they will need in the future.

I have a much better understanding of School Finance after the workshop I attended, and although I'm not on a Finance Committee at the moment, I feel a lot more confident about interpreting the information our governing body looks at as a whole. I also feel like the conference overall was a really good opportunity to think about some of the challenges for schools in preparing students for their futures, I'm not sure what practical takeaway actions I have as I've very recently become a governor, but it was great to have this opportunity to reflect.

Good opportunity to spend time (apart from the usual meetings) with governor from the same school. The mental health info will be taken back to school.

4.5 Attendees were also asked to rate the speakers.

Table 5 – Speakers

Delegates were asked to rate the Conference speakers. The number of delegates who rated speakers good, very good or excellent are as follows:

Speaker	Percentage
Patrick Johnson, Conference Welcome and Introduction	98
Prof Mel Ainscow	100
Peter Rubery and Sharon Bruton	68
Dr Terry Hanley	98

4.6 Below is a short selection of feedback gathered via the online evaluation form.

Table 6– Qualitative Data.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to meet fellow governors across the university and to hear stories about others' experience as a governor. I thoroughly enjoyed the day and will be strongly recommending our Chair of Governors to attend next year.

A massive thanks to all the hard work that went into the conference and that goes into the network as a whole. I attended a Stockport LA conference a month or so ago and sat on the same table as the CEO for NGA who highly endorsed the UoM network which is a real credit to all the hard work that goes into maintaining this. We are extremely lucky to have this support at the university.

This was an excellent day - thanks very much for organising it! I've taken away information that I will pass on to fellow governors and had plenty to reflect on!

Thank you very much for a thought-provoking day with time and space to meet other governors and engage with interesting ideas.

Many thanks to the Team for putting the day together. So worthwhile and enjoyable!

Thank you again for a great conference Alison and Stephanie!