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**University of Manchester School Governor Initiative**

**Notes of Network Meeting on 19 June 2013, 12-2pm**

From: Alison Gregory, Undergraduate Recruitment & Widening Participation Officer Stephanie Lee, Undergraduate Recruitment & Widening Participation Manager

To Members of the University of Manchester School Governors Network

**Attendees:** Polly Greensith (nee Crook), Paul Glendinnig, Jacqui Waby, Andrew Richardson, Gabriele Wegner, Karen Sage, Rachel Bailey, Stephanie Nixon, Pauline Morgan, Chris Trask, Daniele Atkinson, Sian Nash.

1. **Welcome and introductions.** There was a welcome to all new governors who have joined the network since the last meeting. Since the March network meeting, 14 governors have been placed from within the UoM. Overall figures have increased from 105 to 119 members of staff.
2. **Minutes & Matter Arising.** AG went through matters arising from the last meeting. All matters arising were covered in the meeting.
3. SL talked through the latest figures from SGOSS. 39 volunteers have been placed through SGOSS since the start of our initiative and this equates more widely to 11% of all SGOSS volunteers in the North West and 19% of volunteers in Greater Manchester & Cheshire.

SGOSS have also made a calculation of how many hours have been donated by volunteers and how many children this has impacted. The calculation was based on the average number of pupils in UK schools and data was collected via surveys conducted with their own governors and local authorities.

For the 39 volunteers within the University of Manchester, this calculates at 3276 hours donated in a year and 17,550 children impacted.

**Action**: SL to do similar statistics with the overall UoM figures and present at the next network meeting. SL will also do a calculation of the equivalent financial costing of the hours donated.

1. **Conference**

AG gave a summary of the conference held on 25 April. 45 University of Manchester delegates attended and participated in a choice of 6 different workshops, facilitated mostly by University of Manchester staff. The feedback for the whole day extremely positive and 94% of conference attendees said they wanted the Conference to be an annual event.

Action: AG to set a date for the 2014 conference. It was suggested by CT that other members of school GB’s be invited to our conference again as those attending this year found it useful.

The network meeting attendees were asked for suggestions for the conference in 2014. Ideas included:

* Ofsted – governors to feedback on their Ofsted inspections
* National Leaders of Governance – the role of the National Leaders in supporting GBs.
* RAISEonline - it was proposed that the RAISEonline training could take place before the conference and AG will look into finding a provider for this training.

Presentation notes and a video of the keynote speaker are available on <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umsgi/events/conference-presentations/>

1. **Training**

AG gave an update on forthcoming training opportunities and sources of information available to help governors in their role. A discussion took place about governors’ training and support using a summary of the recent LinkedIn discussion forum. Suggestions and recommendations were made. These included:

* “An Inspector Calls” to help governing bodies prepare for an Ofsted inspection.
* RAISEonline. <http://www.raiseonline.org.uk/>
* Governors’ Self-Assessment which was run by a National Leader of Governance in Trafford

AG gave information about the National Governors Association (NGA) and their forth-coming conference and invited any governor who wishes to attend. AG will attend on behalf of the network. As a corporate member of the NGA, we will receive a weekly newsletter to keep up to date with changes, a monthly bulletin board, access to the members’ area of the website for up to 10 members of staff, a subscription to *Governing Matters* and two free places at all the NGA events. If your school is not already an NGA member and you would like to be one of the 10 staff members to access the NGA member resources, please email me at [alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk](file:///C%3A%5CDocuments%20and%20Settings%5Cmwwsssl1%5CLocal%20Settings%5CTemporary%20Internet%20Files%5CContent.Outlook%5C9CB80KAL%5Calison.gregory%40manchester.ac.uk)

A list of other support can be found here:

* DfE Handbook. Go to: <http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/governance/b00224781/govhandbook>
* Governor Line 08000 722181
* Email Governor Line <http://www.education.gov.uk/governorline>
* Modern Governor online training. Free trial available <http://www.moderngovernor.com/>
* LA induction training – Manchester 3 July 6.15pm
* Ten Governor – free trial membership <http://www.tengovernor.com/>
* NGA website open to all contains briefing documents to download <http://www.nga.org.uk/>
* Ofsted Dashboard <http://dashboard.ofsted.gov.uk/>
1. **Engaging our Alumni**

As part of the launch of the Social Responsibility Strategy in November this year, it has been agreed by the University's Senior Leadership Team that School Governors will be one of the five new 'Signature Programmes'. The aim will be for the University of Manchester School Governor Initiative to:

* contribute to the leadership and improvement of state schools by engaging staff and alumni in creating the largest growth of School Governors in the UK by 2014/15

A key aspect will be to continue to encourage staff to become Governors with the added dimension of engaging our alumni . We will target Governors through two key means:

* The annual magazine for alumni – this is distributed in the Autumn and will feature a UoM alumnus who is a governor with a call to action
* A range of targeted emails to alumni throughout 2013/14 and 2014/15
1. **AOB**

We were recently long-listed for the Guardian Sustainability Awards, please see our case study online.

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/sustainable-business/university-manchester-filling-governor-gap>

We have since entered for 2 further awards. These are the Times Higher Award Green Gown Awards under the Social Responsibility category. We have been short-listed for a Green Gown Award and now need to submit further evidence for the second stage of the awards <http://www.eauc.org.uk/2013_finalists>

1. **Date of next Meeting:** Thursday 17 October, 12pm – 2pm