

University of Manchester School Governor Initiative

Notes of Network Meeting on 13 October 2016, 12.15pm-1.45pm

From: Alison Gregory, Undergraduate Recruitment & Widening Participation Officer
Stephanie Lee, Head of Widening Participation & Outreach

Attendees: Kieron Flanagan, Alistair Sutcliffe, Matthew Valentine, David Cupit, Anne-Marie Nugnes, Sian Nash, Claire Kilner, Mike Gibbons, Lesley Dowdall, Pia Pollock, Sue Astley, Christine Mclean, Ian Bradley, Peter Crowe, Siobhan Cartwright, Adrian Jarvis, Fiona Day.

1. **Welcome & Introductions.** The group introduced themselves and welcomed new members
2. **Guest Speaker – Lisa Murtagh, Director of Partnerships and Teacher Enquiry, Manchester Institute of Education**
 - 2.1 Thanks go to Lisa who delivered a presentation and discussion on initial teacher training provision. Her slides and hand-outs are available at <http://www.staffnet.manchester.ac.uk/umsgi/events/slides/>
3. **Minutes & Matters arising.**
 - 3.1 **Queen’s Award.** The presentation took place at Gorton Monastery on 4 July and the award now sits in the display cabinet in the old Visitors Centre, University Place
4. **SGOSS and Inspiring Governors update**
 - 4.1 Stephanie gave an update on the changes that have occurred over summer with [SGOSS](#) and [Inspiring Governance](#). SGOSS reached the end of their contact with the DfE and their tenure was not renewed. Inspiring Governance, run by the Education and Employers Taskforce <http://www.educationandemployers.org/> have replaced the position previously held by SGOSS and will be funded and supported by the DfE and the University is working to develop a relationship with this organisation. In the meantime, SGOSS have independently secured funding for the next 3 years to continue the work they started with us 5 years ago. As a result we will be working with both organisations in a bid to secure the optimum number of school governor placements.
5. **The DfE Schools Consultation update**
 - 5.1 Stephanie Lee updated governors on the government’s consultation “Schools for Everyone”. To view the slides and key points from the meeting, please go to the notes [here](#). Amongst other things, it is proposed that Universities play a direct role in improving school quality and pupil attainment. The consultation is open until 12 December. The full consultation document can be found [here](#).
6. **UMSGI Annual Conference 2017**
 - 6.1 Alison outlined draft plans for the conference which will take place on Thursday 27 April at Chancellors Conference Centre. The proposed theme for the Conference is ‘Collaboration, Community and Connection’ and attendees supported this theme.
 - 6.2 Alison asked governors to suggest **workshops and speakers for the event.**

Some of the suggestions were:

- a. Co-operative Trusts and a model for this. A speaker from Burton-on-Trent was recommended.
- b. Strategies for parental engagement
- c. DfE policy and curriculum design – the way in which policy influences curriculum and how schools respond to this. Head teacher Blessed Thomas Holford
- d. Graham Brady – debate on grammar schools (Policy Week speaker)
- e. Life after levels
- f. Governing Body structures (MATs etc)
- g. Pupil Premium – monitoring the impact and spend.
- h. PIXEL (Teaching & Learning)
- i. Inclusivity – a local SEN national expert heard at Priestnall School
- j. How exam boards work
- k. Retired Head of St Aidan's, Margaret McGee

ACTION:

- Please send any further suggestions to alison.gregory@manchester.ac.uk
- Please let Alison know if your Chair would like to speak for 5-10 mins on current issues and priorities. We are looking for 3 Chairs (primary, secondary and post-16) who will speak in the morning sessions.

7. Coffee Mornings

- 7.1 Alison proposed changes to the format of coffee mornings. Due to decreasing popularity it was proposed that coffee mornings take place within the faculties and PSS. However colleagues felt that a change of venue to be nearer the faculties would help and perhaps a change of name to the event would be useful in giving the event more formality. We will aim to change the locations of the coffee mornings to give more people a chance to attend.

8. AOB

- 8.1 Science Spectacular. Leaflets were available to take away for the event on Saturday 22 October.
- 8.2 City Year. Governors may be interested in this new opportunity for schools. Please see a number of attachments on this email. You can find out more about City Year at their website <http://www.cityyear.org.uk/>
- 8.3 Governing Matters magazines from the NGA were available to take away

9. Next Meeting

- 9.1 The next meeting will be in February 2017. You may put yourself forward for the open forum section if you wish to talk for 5 minutes about any school issues you have experienced and would like to share with colleagues.