

Devon Association of Governors

Minutes of the Executive Committee held on Thursday 22nd September 2005, 6.00pm at the West of England School, Exeter

Present: Leon Winston (Chair), Colleen Arnold, Laurie Burbridge, Debbie Clapshaw, Jenny Currie, Jo Frith, Ivan Godfrey, David Gravell, Oriana Hosford, Don Paterson, Ian Rogers.

In attendance: Pat Clewer

Apologies: Mike Billington, Jane Lucas, Roger Adcock, Faith Butler, John Gale, Helen Morrison, Rob Shilcock, Iris Watson. Sue Millner & Jean Willder (Torbay).

05.25 Membership Carol Robinson is no longer a governor and has therefore resigned from the Executive. The Chair congratulated Ivan Godfrey and his wife on their return from a successful charity walk across the Pyrenees. Ivan offered to talk to schools about the journey (in French if requested!).

05.26 Presentations and discussions

1: The Children Act & 'Every Child Matters' with Pat Clewer, Head of Partnerships, Devon County Council Children's Services

His job is to manage the agenda for change in Devon with reference to the Children Act 2004. The Act says that Councils, Police, Health, Probation & Connexions all have a duty to co-operate to improve children's well-being by means of a Children's Trust or Local Strategic Partnership. Each local authority will have a Director of Children's Services and a lead council member. There will be a single Children's Plan and an integrated inspection framework. The implications for governors are that all schools will have a duty to share information and participate in the Children's Trust. Ofsted will be asking schools how they are addressing the set of 5 outcomes for children in the 'Every Child Matters' agenda: Be healthy, Stay safe, Enjoy and achieve, Make a positive contribution and achieve economic wellbeing. In addition, integrated inspections or 'Joint Area Reviews' will look at all aspects of being a child in one geographic area. Devon is scheduled for a review sometime after August 2006.

The proposed vision for Devon is that the Local Learning Communities form the base of the building block. Extended Schools, Children's Centres, Youth Enquiry Services and Joint Agency Teams will be built around the LLC. This will give a fully integrated front line delivery for all children and young people in the area. As part of his presentation, Pat showed an example of how a child who had family and health problems was helped by an integrated response to his needs. Everyone worked together to make a difference to his life. His concluding thoughts: 'The point is to change the landscape of children and young people's services. If we don't, outcomes for children and young people will not improve. It is important to build responsive/intervention services around children, young people and families and not around organisations or structures. Changing hearts and mind is everyone's business.'

Questions from the committee:

Q. This is hugely resource based. What are the practicalities of getting people together?

A. Some learning communities are piloting a system - they have a referral coordinator who manages the communication flow - this role is funded by the Children's Trust. It is proposed that resources and accountability are transferred to the local children's service management teams.

Q. What are the priorities for governing bodies?

A. Make sure you are fully up to date with the learning and community agendas.

Q. Will agencies come in and disrupt families' lives when it is not necessary?

A. A parent can be a Key worker in a family - Devon is pioneering the Parent Key Worker role.

The Chair & committee thanked Pat Clewer for his very informative contribution, which outlined the broad implications of the 'Every Child Matters' agenda.

DAG & DGS have organised a conference based on 'Every Child Matters' to be held on 14th & 15th October 2005, in Exeter. This will have at its heart the topics raised tonight.

Pat Clewer and Don Paterson left the meeting.

2 NGC/NASG merger The committee discussed the proposed merger of the two national governor bodies. Positive and negative aspects of a merger were discussed but the consensus was that one governor body would be more coherent and have a stronger voice to represent governors at a national level. It was suggested that the size of the new executive board be looked at - benefits of it being smaller? The NGC and NASG will be making a decision on the merger at their AGMs this autumn.

- **NASG** has its AGM on 22nd October. The DAG Committee agreed to vote yes to the proposed resolution (agenda item 9): *That subject to and conditional upon the charity currently known as "the National Governors' Council" but intended to be known as "The National Governors' Association"...adopting by special resolution an amended Memorandum and Articles (incorporating its new name) in a form acceptable to the Committee and subject also to the consent of the Charity Commission and such other consents (if any) as may be necessary being obtained not later than 30th April 2006 the Committee shall take all necessary steps to transfer the Association's assets and undertaking in such manner (acting reasonably) to the National Governors' Association as the Committee sees fit.* DAG can send one rep to the meeting or arrange for a proxy vote.
- **NGC**. DAG has one vote at the NGC AGM on 12th November 2005. Ivan Godfrey and Roger Adcock will attend - there are two other places available. Ivan will circulate details to the executive, and bring further information to the next DAG meeting on 10th November.

It was agreed to canvas the opinion of Devon governors by inviting them to the next executive meeting where there will be an open forum to discuss the proposed merger. Ivan will also raise the matter at the forthcoming DAG area meetings.

05.27 Minutes of the previous meeting held on 9th June 2005 were agreed as a true record and signed by the Chair with the note that Jo Frith's school is Littleton Primary, Honiton (not Littleham).

05.28 Matters arising

- 05.09 DAG Leaflet: It was agreed to print 6500 leaflets to go out with the Autumn Devon Governor magazine together with an extra run to produce enough to go into new governor packs for the next academic year. The cost will be around £750. Jenny will liaise with Devon Design & Print.
- 05.15 Governor involvement in LLCs - whole day conference at Torquay on 19th October - volunteers sought.
- 05.15. Judy Burgess. A gift from DAG will be presented to Judy at the Autumn Conference. Schools have also contributed individually.
- 05.16. Letter from Mr. Rich. Issues raised have now been addressed.
- 05.22. Cheque signatories are now Leon Winston, Ivan Godfrey, Ian Rogers and Colleen Arnold.

05.29 Committee Representatives

- **Exeter Governors Forum** Laurie Burbridge is the new chair of the Forum. This replaces the Exeter branch of DAG, and funds are being transferred to the Forum. Its future is under discussion, Laurie will keep DAG updated.
- **DAISI** are short-listing for a new administrator. Oriana Hosford is on the interview panel.
- **NGC Area meeting** will be held in Taunton on 4th October. Ivan Godfrey and Leon Winston will attend.
- **South West COGS meeting** - Debbie Clapshaw attended; very good meeting.
- **NGC AGM 12th November 2005** Roger Adcock and Ivan Godfrey will attend. There are two other places open to committee members - Ivan will email DAG exec. DAG can put forward a name to go on the NGC Executive (no volunteers at present).
- **Young Carers Conference on 12th October 2005** organised by Social Services to discuss young carer issues. Oriana Hosford expressed an interest in attending.
- **Youth Matters Conference, Plymouth** Ivan will email Exec. To seek a volunteer to attend.
- **SOC** It was agreed to reappoint Mike Billington as secondary school rep for a further 3 years.
- **Parent Governor Representatives** Mrs. Jane Day from Malborough with South Huish Primary School was elected as primary representative. No nomination was received from the secondary sector. Ivan will advertise via the updates.

- **Link Governor meeting** Ivan will ask Iris Watson if she would like to attend the meeting in Barnstaple on 15th November.
- **SSSB** Don Paterson will replace Carol Robinson as secondary governor rep.
- **DfES/Ofsted Conference** 29th/30th Sept. Don Paterson to attend.

05.30 Treasurer's Report

Income and Expenditure Statement for period ended 22nd September 2005, and DAG Current Account 2005 were circulated. Thanks to Ian Rogers.

05.31 Secretary's Report

- **Co-option** It was agreed to co-opt Simon Howes on to the Executive. (Gulworthy Primary).
- **Inclusion Project** Rob Shilvock has been unable to take the matter further forward owing to illness.

05.32 Review of meeting The meeting closed at 8pm.

The talk by Pat Clewer was very informative and made the whole issue of Every Child Matters much clearer.

Date & time of next meeting:

Thursday 10th November 2005, 6pm. Refreshments served from 5.30pm. West of England School, Topsham Road, Exeter.

ACTION POINTS

Secretary:

- 05.26 Volunteer for NASG AGM 22nd October? Colleen Arnold offered transport. If no volunteer, DAG to use proxy vote to support Agenda item 9, resolution proposed by the Executive.
- 05.26 NGC AGM 12th November - DAG can send up to 4. Roger & Ivan to go, ask rest of Exec if any volunteers.
- 05.26 Proposed merger of NGC/NASG - discuss at next Exec meeting and invite any Devon governor to attend- "open forum to discuss proposed merger".
- 05.29 Ask for volunteers from Exec. - Youth Matters conference, Plymouth.
- 05.29 Link Governor, Ashburton Nov 13th - ask Iris Watson.
- 05.29 SSSB replacement for Carol Robinson - Don Paterson.
- 05.29 Mike Billington reappointed to SOC for 3 years.
- 05.29 DfES conference 29th/30th Sept: Inform Don Paterson he can attend, DAG will pay travel/expenses.
- 05.31 Simon Howes co-opted onto Exec.

Asst Sec.

- 05.28 DAG leaflet - arrange for copies to be sent out with autumn Devon governor magazine. Plus extra for new governor packs.