

Development of Buckinghamshire Local Leaders of Governance – discussion with School Governance Consultative Board members

Background

Board members will be aware that the National College is developing National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) who are experienced chairmen with a proven track record of contributing to school improvement through effective leadership of the governing body. They must have been a chairman for a minimum of three years within the last five and in a school with an Ofsted judgement of leadership and management of at least good. There is an expectation that they can commit to 10 – 20 days per academic year and the College pays a small bursary to their school to help towards expenses.

In Buckinghamshire we currently have 2 NLGs from the first round of applications. The outcome of the second round is unknown at the time of writing.

For some years now the Governor Support Team has held a ‘pool’ of governors who are willing to support a school in challenging circumstances by joining its governing body for a period of at least two years.

The Governor Support Team recognises that there may be experienced and effective governors who will not meet the eligibility criteria for NLGs, and may not want the commitment of joining another governing body through the pool, but would be prepared to support another governor on a short term, more flexible basis.

From this recognition, the idea of Local Leaders of Governance was borne, as set out below:

Could you be a Buckinghamshire Local Leader of Governance?

Buckinghamshire Local Leaders of Governance will be governors (not only Chairmen) who are considered to be highly effective by their fellow governors and headteacher, and who are prepared to use their skills and experience on a voluntary basis to support and mentor other governors in improving school performance.

This might involve providing support and mentoring on one, or more of the following:

- Supporting a new chairman
- Understanding and analysing data to support school improvement
- Developing relationships with fellow governors and the headteacher/principal
- Identifying priorities for governing body development
- Reviewing governing body procedures, protocols or behaviours
- Considering structural change, such as academy status, collaboration, federation
- Managing change and dealing with challenging circumstances
- Managing budgets effectively.

What would be involved?

You would be offered an induction session which would cover the expectations and scope of the role.

As an LLG you might be asked to work with governors in other schools and academies to support school improvement. This might happen in a variety of ways:

- Face to face
- Via telephone or email
- Attending a governing body or committee meeting.

The Governor Support Team would act as a broker between you and the governor concerned in the first instance and a summary report would be produced at the end of a deployment to capture the impact of the support rather than the details.

It is envisaged that the support LLGs would provide would be short-term rather than long-term.

By putting yourself forward, you would not be under any obligation to provide support when contacted and would be able to stand down at any time. Also, you may find that you are not contacted for a long time, or, even not at all, as we will always work to find the closest match to the needs of the governing body concerned.

You will be contacted periodically by the Governor Support Team to check whether you wish to remain a LLG.

How do I nominate myself?

Please return the application form with two references, one from your headteacher and one from a member of your governing body to the Governor Support Team who will be in contact with you.

(For info: third round of NLG applications will open on 3 December 2012 and close at 10am on 21 January 2013. The criteria have been amended so that - by exception – applicants with less than three years' experience, who can demonstrate the impact they have had on improving school performance, will be eligible for designation.)