



Nottinghamshire
County Council

Recruitment and Retention of Governors Review Group **Minutes**

Tuesday 24 January 2012 at 2pm
County Hall, West Bridgford, Nottingham

Membership

- Councillor Liz Yates (Chair)
Councillor John Allin (Vice-chair)
- Councillor Vincent Dobson
- Councillor Sybil Fielding
- Councillor Rev Tom Irvine
Councillor Mel Shepherd
Councillor Brian Wombwell
Mr David Richards

- absent

Officers in Attendance

Martin Gately – Scrutiny Co-ordinator
Daniel Reynafarje – Governance Support Officer
Gill Thackrey – Group Manager, Business Development and Support
Leonie Meikle – Governor Services Manager
Jane Mansell – Senior Practitioner, Governing Body Services

Chair

It was agreed that Councillor John Allin would Chair the meeting in the absence of Councillor Liz Yates.

Minutes

The minutes of the last meeting held on 20 December 2011, having been circulated to all Members, were taken as read and were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

Apologies

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Liz Yates (other reasons), Vincent Dobson (medical/illness) and Sybil Fielding (other reasons).

Declarations of Interest by Members or Officers

No declarations of interests were made.

Key Issues and Recommendations of the Review

Members welcomed Ms Jane Mansell, Senior Practitioner, Governing Body Services and chair of the Governor Recruitment and Retention Working Group (GRRWG).

Ms Mansell gave a brief overview regarding the work being carried out by the GRRWG, which included the following:-

- Looking at statistics with regards to current vacancies. There has been a small reduction in vacancies in all areas of the county and Nottinghamshire is currently at the national average.
- Examining exit questionnaires for any trends on any particular issues. Some of the trends found include the ever-changing rules for governors, the increasing responsibility and the time it takes up to be a governor.
- Looking at the ethnic and disability mix of governing bodies. There is a new database form that includes ethnic and disability questions that are optional and used purely for statistical information.
- Looking at current and future recruitment campaigns. They have already visited Kings Mill Hospital and plan to visit National College. A press release has been issued on the Mansfield and Ashfield Chads and 4 responses have been received so far. Future projects include updating the Council website and giving awards in order to raise the profile of governors and the good work they do.

In response to questions and comments, Ms Mansell, Ms Thackrey and Ms Meikle replied:-

- Although numbers are still low, Mansfield and Ashfield have the highest take-up of governor training. It is about breaking barriers when it comes to recruiting in these areas.
- Struggling schools are currently not looking at successful schools to help them improve, but there is a forum for clerks of different schools to share ideas and advice.
- Out of the 20 latest questionnaires that were sent out, 7 were returned. This is not something that is pursued but could be a recommendation.
- A survey used to be sent out to find out what training was needed, but this is no longer done as it is down to the individual governing body to identify any training needs.
- A recommendation from this review could be to make paperwork more user-friendly for governors.
- Clerks are encouraged to be pro-active, but they tend to adjust to the governing body they are working with.
- Some secondary schools do have students on governing bodies and even a few primary schools do. This could be a recommendation.
- Schools can have CRB checks if they choose to, but there is no requirement for this. Identity checks are always carried out.

Members thanked Ms Mansell for her attendance.

It was noted that a draft report with recommendations will be presented at the next meeting for approval of the Review Group.

The meeting closed at 2.50pm.

CHAIR

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