



Welcome back to the second half of the Spring term. As we head towards the Easter break the Governor Support Team (GST) will continue to keep you updated with the Local Government Reorganisation.

Local Government Reorganisation

As part of the process to set up the new unitary councils, shadow authorities have been created.

Both Shadow Authorities have launched websites that hold all the public information related to the Shadow Authority, including information about the elections in May 2022 and the subsequent meetings, agendas, minutes and decisions:

- [Shadow Authority for Cumberland Council website](#)
- [Shadow Authority for Westmorland and Furness website](#)

News/Updates

Careers guidance and access for education and training providers

New **statutory guidance** has been published by the DfE following a consultation which was held last year. New legislation came into force on 1 January 2023, which requires schools with pupils in years 8 to 13 to provide a minimum of six meetings with providers of technical education or apprenticeships. Schools must publish a provider access policy statement; the guidance stipulates what must be included in the statement, and a model is provided, beyond this, schools can add as little or as much information as they want. In addition, the National Co-ordinators of Governor Services (NCOGS) have produced additional information [here](#) to support governing boards.

Teaching online safety in schools

This non-statutory **guidance** is for school leaders, school staff and governing bodies. It applies to all local authority maintained schools, academies and free schools. Online safety is a key focus for Ofsted inspections and governors may be asked by inspectors how the school is equipping their pupils with the knowledge needed to make the best use of the internet and technology in a safe, considered and respectful way.

Training and Sources of Support

NGA Learning Link

The Learning Improvement Service (LIS) continue to provide all schools in Cumbria with access to the National Governance Association (NGA) Learning Link e-learning modules, free of charge until **18 April 2023**.

Advising the board: Clerking Programme

The NGA has launched a '**Career Pathway**', a new resource highlighting opportunities to work and progress as a governance professional in the schools' sector. The pathway centres around four levels applicable to most governance professional roles:

1. **How to: become a trusted advisor**
2. **How to: clerk courageously**
3. **How to: support the development of the board**
4. **Handling difficult conversations**

All four modules are available in the new **Advising the board** collection under the **Governance professionals** category on Learning Link.

Tackling disadvantaged: Pupil success and wellbeing

Disadvantage in education is consistently reported as one of the biggest challenges that schools and trusts face. Having a clear focus on meeting the needs of disadvantaged pupils, who may need additional support to fulfil their potential, is fundamental to raising standards for all pupils in your school/trust.

The NGA's **Widening the lens on disadvantage guidance** is designed to help governing boards explore what disadvantage means in their context and to identify pupil groups who may need additional support. It forms an introduction to NGA's series of toolkits for tackling disadvantage in education, along with a supporting disadvantage webinar

The Chair's role: Building great relationships for boards and leaders

In **episode 23** of Governing Chatters, Emma Knights is joined by Andy Buck to talk about the vital relationship between the chair of the board and the executive leader, whether that be a head teacher of a school or a chief executive of a trust and how that relationship can be supportive, challenging and secure.

Emma and Andy explore some of the key habits that help to build a rapport between the board and the senior leadership team. They discuss how to create conversations that are both supportive and challenging that ask the right questions.

Training on School Admission Appeals

The Legal Services department at Cumbria County Council are offering a training course on School Admission Appeal. The training is open to all school staff, local authority employees and panel members involved in Appeal Panels. Further details and booking arrangements can be found **here**.

Contact

The GST continues to offer advice, support, and guidance, specific to your boards needs and can be contacted as follows:

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