

Welcome to our second fortnightly round up of governance news. Our aim is to bring together all relevant updates and share best practice with you. Thank you for the feedback on the first update, if you have any more thoughts, please do get in touch.

Last Events and Training this term

There are only two weeks of training and events left this term. Thank you to everyone who has attended. We hope you have found it useful.

A couple of key reminders:

Reminder – Induction B this Saturday

Induction part B is happening on Saturday 3rd December at 9:30am. If you have already attended part A at any time, please do book onto this session to complete your induction.

Reminder – Free EVENT: Armed Forces' Children: the board's role - Network Meetings

These meetings are **FREE to all governors, trustees and school directors in Oxfordshire.**

Does your school have any pupils from military families? Oxfordshire has high numbers of military children and about half of our schools have at least one pupil who fits this category. With small groups of Service pupils in many of our schools, these children can easily be forgotten by boards. As part of the support for governors, trustees and directors across Oxfordshire, **Matt Blyton** (an external adviser with over 25 years' experience of working with military families) will be leading this network group to:

- Provide an overview of the strengths that Service children bring to schools and the challenges they face
- Discuss the Government's Service Pupil Premium funding
- Introduce governors to an evidence-based toolkit to support them and school leaders to evaluate their provision (Thriving Lives toolkit)
- Give updates on the current projects and plans for development work in 2023
- Facilitate a forum for sharing good practice and exploring solutions to challenges

There will be three network meetings in total across the academic year and these sessions are recommended for all boards with at least one Service pupil on roll.

HOW TO CONTACT US

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Maintained Schools

Statutory Data

Updating GovernorHub – Deadline passed!

As per our email to Chairs of Governors, please make sure you update GovernorHub with any changes to Chair/Vice chair, committee membership and other roles such as Safeguarding and Finance link governors. **The deadline for confirmation was 1st December so please reply to the email to confirm urgently**

All Schools

Get Information About Schools (GIAS) – Statutory update

All maintained school governing bodies and academy trusts have a legal duty to provide all of the governance information requested on [this page](#) in so far as it is available to them.

The information can be downloaded in the correct form from GovernorHub. It is usually the school office who does the updates to GIAS.

Section 175/157 Statutory Safeguarding Return – DEADLINE 16TH DECEMBER 2022

Section 175 of the Education Act 2002 introduced statutory duties for schools/settings, governing bodies and local authorities with regard to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children.

S.175 guidance, requires governing bodies to carry out an annual review of the school's policies and procedures and provide information to the local authority about how the duties set out in the guidance have been discharged.

Independent schools/settings and Academies are covered under Section 157 of the same.

The deadline for this year's return is **16th December 2022**. Boards will need to have approved the return by this date.

[Safeguarding | Schools \(oxfordshire.gov.uk\)](http://oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Temporary change to Local Community Support Service (LCSS)

A message from Kevin Gordon - Kevin Gordon, Corporate Director of Children's Services

Dear Colleagues,

In response to our current recruitment challenges across Children's Services, I wanted to keep you up to date with some business critical actions that are required in respect of the LCSS service. For a short period of time, it is necessary for us to re purpose the qualified social workers within LCSS into a statutory case holding team, in order that we are able to safely manage the current workload pressures across our statutory children's social work service.

Temporary Changes to LCSS service delivery from 23 November

The advice and consultation, including No Names Consultations, will **continue but will not be in operation on a Friday until further notice**. The NNC line **is not for urgent/immediate safeguarding advice**, we expect that professionals speak to their Designated Safeguarding Lead in the first instance.

Should you require an immediate safeguarding response do please contact the MASH on **0345 050 7666** in line with usual practice.

The NNC line will operate 8:30am - 5:00pm Monday to Thursday.

Link workers - During this time there will not be dedicated Link Worker for settings. Instead, should you need advice please contact the NNC line or alternatively email the LCSS team requesting a call back for a phone consultation:

For LCSS North LCSS.North@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For LCSS Central LCSS.Central@oxfordshire.gov.uk

For LCSS South LCSS.South@oxfordshire.gov.uk

All advice will be provided remotely via phone or MS Teams.

Support with on-going TAF processes - LCSS will not be able to chair TAF meetings to the same extent as they do currently. There will be a limited service. LCSS staff will discuss the detail of this with lead practitioner's dependent on the need in individual team around the family meetings.

Review of Education and Health Care Needs Assessments - LCSS will continue to provide this statutory function.

Review of Strengths & Needs Forms - LCSS will continue to complete these.

Early Help networks - These will not run during this time.

EH Training: LCSS will continue to offer the EH training (more dates will be added at the end of December for 2023 – via the OSCB training pages)

The LCSS will continue to:

- Undertake the Community Around the School Offer.
- Develop and support the recently launched Early Help strategy, underpinned by the Strengths & Needs Form for children in the community.
- Continue to provide professional support with team around the family in the community where required , alongside the family.

We will use this time to review the impact of the community network meetings.

Kind regards,

Kevin Gordon

Corporate Director of Children's Services

Children, Education & Families

Link to Annual Schedule of Governing Board business

A reminder: To help you plan your work throughout the year, please follow the link to the annual schedule of governing board business

[Annual schedule 2022 23](#)

Governor Training

The [Spring term's training programme](#) is now available on GovernorHub.

Training can be booked by using the Oxfordshire Governor Services link on Governor Hub and then clicking on the [Training heading](#).

For Governors without access to these pages bookings can be made:

- By email to GovernorServices@Oxfordshire.gov.uk
- By phone on 03300 249046

Both methods will require a name and email address so the booking can be added to our online system and the joining link sent to you. MS Teams is the software used for course delivery.

If your school subscribes to training through the buyback, there will be no additional charge. All other bookings will be charged (unless the course is provided free which will be stated) on a 'pay as you use' basis. More details can be found here: [Pay As You Use Costs](#)

Sessions are NOT recorded unless this feature is stated in the description.

We look forward to seeing you.

Thank you for everything you do!

The next update will be posted on 16th December 2022 and if you have any feedback, please do get in touch with us in the meantime

Keep warm and have a lovely weekend

With best wishes from

The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Joanne and Helen

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