



## Welcome to our governance newsletter

As time races towards the Christmas holidays, there are only a few updates for you this week.

Thank you to all the maintained schools who have been completing the data confirmation survey. If you haven't done it yet, the link is shared below.

### Contact us

For **governance** queries  
email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0330 0249 046  
For **clerking** queries email:  
[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)



**Tim Brock**  
Lead Officer for  
Governance



**Helen Tate**  
Governor Support  
Officer



**Ruth Pangu**  
Clerk to Governors  
Team Lead

### DfE and national updates

#### Greater protections for children from future strike action

The government has launched a [consultation](#) to introduce new protections for children and young people's education during any future strike action.

[Find out more](#)



### Oxfordshire updates

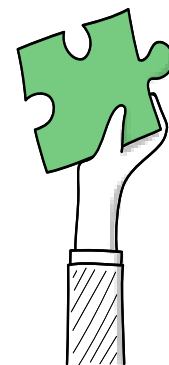
#### Updated Pupil Place Planning Data

Oxfordshire's Pupil Place Plan (published at [www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplanning](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/schoolplanning)) is going through its annual update. The draft sections providing updated comment and data about each area, along with area-level pupil forecasts (still awaiting their final sign-off by the DfE) are now available.

Please note this is mainly related to mainstream schools; detailed information on special education provision planning is provided in the SEND Sufficiency Delivery Strategy, which will be updated in the spring.

If you have any comments or questions, or would like to discuss your own school's specific situation, please contact [school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:school.planning@oxfordshire.gov.uk) before the end of term. The complete document is due to be finalised in January.

[Draft Pupil Place Plan 2023 Data Section](#) (PDF, 3MB)



### Contact us

For **governance** queries  
email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0330 0249 046  
For **clerking** queries email:  
[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

---

## Update on Staffing arrangements in OCC Children's Services

Sent on behalf of **Stephen Chandler, Executive Director  
for People, Transformation & Performance**

Good afternoon Colleagues,  
I would like to keep you updated on changes to senior  
staffing arrangements with Children's Services:

### **Director of Children's Services**

As you will be aware from my earlier email, we have been  
successful in recruiting Lisa Lyons as our DCS and Lisa will  
join us during January 2024 (the exact date to be confirmed  
shortly as she confirms with Stoke).

Anne has advised that she will finish with us on 22 December  
2023; I am sure you will want to thank Anne for all her work  
during her time with us. During the short period between  
Anne leaving and Lisa joining I will assume the statutory  
DCS role. (Thank you all in advance for your support during  
that period).

### **Deputy Director of Education**

You will be aware that Lynda has been with us now for 6  
months, we are really grateful to Lynda for everything she  
has done in her time with us. After careful consideration we  
have offered the deputy director interim position to Kate  
Reynolds who will start with us on the 11 December 2023.  
Kate knows Oxfordshire well; she lives locally and will be  
able to be hugely flexible in meeting our schools leaders.

Lynda will of course hand over to Kate and leave us on 13  
December 2023.

I know many of you will be keen to hear about Hayley, and I  
am pleased to let you know that I spoke to her and she is  
recovering having had her knee replaced early in November.  
Further updates to follow in the New Year.



## Contact us

For **governance** queries

email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries email:

[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for all the hard work you do each and every day and the positive impact we bring to children, young people and their families.

Best wishes,  
Stephen Chandler

**Executive Director for People, Transformation & Performance**

Oxfordshire County Council, County Hall, Oxford, OX1 1ND  
[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

---

## Data Confirmation for maintained schools 2023 - reminder

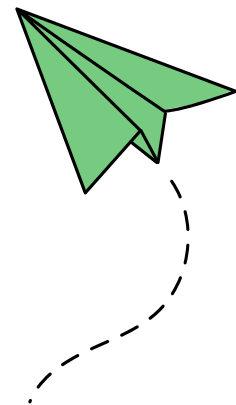
You will remember that we ask you to keep certain information up to date and accurate on GovernorHub. There are also statutory requirements to include this information on certain public websites.

This year we have decided to gather the information as a survey. It should not take long to complete. The link has been emailed to maintained school chairs of governors. Here is the link again, should you need it:

[Maintained Schools Data Confirmation 2023](#)

Thank you to all the boards who have already completed the survey this year. We are working our way through the requests for further information.

A reminder that we are asking for your response by the end of term **22<sup>nd</sup> December 2023**.



---

## Inspiring Governance

Are you looking for skilled volunteers to join your governing board? Would you like to diversify how you find skilled volunteers to become governors at your school or multi academy trust?

**Thursday**  
**14 December 2023**  
**12.00-13.00**  
**Register**

## Contact us

For **governance** queries  
email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)  
Phone: 0330 0249 046  
For **clerking** queries email:  
[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Join Inspiring Governance for a lunchtime learning session hosted on Zoom with Richard Ellam, Head of School and Trust Support, suitable for anyone who is signed up to the Inspiring Governance recruitment tool, regardless of your experience of using it.

Thursday  
11 January 2024  
12.00-13.00

[REGISTER](#)

## Safeguarding audit S157/175 deadline

A reminder that the annual safeguarding report needs to be submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> December 2023

The report and actions should be reviewed and monitored by the full governing board



## Governor Services Training

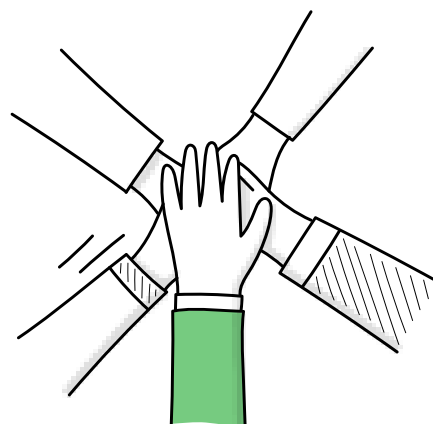
### Spring Term training programme

Our autumn training programme has now finished. We delivered 35 courses. Thank you to the over 800 attendees for your commitment.

The Spring term training programme is now available to book through the usual GovernorHub channels, or by emailing Governor Services. The full programme is available to view [here](#)

### How to book

Training can be booked directly through [GovernorHub](#) for all maintained schools in Oxfordshire. Log into your account and click on the 'Oxfordshire Governor Services Training' tab.



## Contact us

For **governance** queries

email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries email:

[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

If your school subscribes to training, there will be no additional charge for this training. All other bookings will be charged on a '[pay as you use](#)' basis.

For schools with no access to GovernorHub, bookings can be made by email to [governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governortraining@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

You must provide a **name** and **email address** so we can add your booking to our system and send you the joining link.

### Charging for training

Please do check whether your board has subscribed to the training package before booking. Those who govern at schools that subscribe can register for as much training as they like at no additional cost.

For those who govern at schools that do not currently subscribe, there is a charge to attend and schools will be invoiced after the event. Here are our current [Pay as You Go rates](#)

Any briefings or events that are free for anyone to attend are clearly marked as such.



*...for everything you do for children in Oxfordshire*

Hope everyone has a lovely weekend.

Our last news update of the autumn term will be published on Friday 22nd December 2023.

With very best wishes from

**The Oxfordshire Governor Services Team - Tim, Helen and Ruth**

### Contact us

For **governance** queries

email: [governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:governorservices@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Phone: 0330 0249 046

For **clerking** queries email:

[clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:clerking.service@oxfordshire.gov.uk)