

Local Support Governor Programme

Background

The East Sussex *Excellence for All 2021-2023* strategy sets out our shared vision to support every setting and partnership to strengthen leadership at all levels, enabling leaders who promote excellence for all children and young people.

System leadership, through collaboration, provides opportunities for practitioners to share best practice across schools and settings, whilst creating space for a wider array of career development opportunities. The Local Support Governor Programme is closely aligned to our ongoing commitment to developing system leadership and enhancing school to school support.

The Local Support Governor programme provides a coordinated approach for individual governors to share their skills, knowledge, and experience to support other governing boards in East Sussex.

The role of a Local Support Governor (LSG)

Local Support Governors are experienced and skilled governors who are willing to support other governors and their governing boards in East Sussex. LSGs are designated by the East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service.

LSGs can provide support in a range of areas:

- Chair coaching and mentoring
- Leadership transition
- Federation
- Academisation
- Finance
- Networking
- Coaching
- Monitoring and challenge
- Inclusion, SEND and Disadvantaged pupils
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Equality and Diversity
- Early Years and Nursery Support
- Safeguarding
- Data
- Complaint investigations
- Complaint panels
- General Disciplinary Committee
- Staffing Panels
- Grievance Panels
- To be appointed or seconded as an additional governor on another board

- To be appointed or seconded to act as a Chair or Vice Chair on another board

Please note: Governors can apply to offer all the functions of a LSG detailed above, or just some.

Deployment

The East Sussex Governor and Clerking Service oversees the LSG programme and coordinates the deployment of LSGs. LSGs are required to submit short reports to provide feedback on their deployments.

Personal development

Additional training is offered to LSGs on topics tailored to specific needs identified. The aim is for training to further develop governance skills and knowledge and provide any relevant sector updates.

Eligibility

The following criteria must be met by those designated as LSGs:

- Be a governor at an East Sussex School for at least 2 years (or have equivalent experience elsewhere)
- The school is not subjected to local authority intervention under the Schools Causing Concern guidance (this does not apply if you have been placed on the governing board as part of an LSG deployment)

Length of service

LSGs are appointed for a two year period. At the end of this period LSGs may apply again for another two year period. Re-application will consider the deployments undertaken by the LSG.

How to Apply

Governors interested in applying should complete and submit the online application form. Applications must provide evidence of your skills and experience, and references are taken up.

Applications are assessed by a panel of local authority officers and a National Leader of Governance.

Person specification for a Local Support Governor

Those applying to be LSGs should set out in their application form how they meet the following requirements for experience and skills, knowledge and understanding.

Experience

In this section your application should provide evidence of your experience, and details of the impact of this experience on developing effective governance.

- A good history of attending governor training and networking events
- Experience of sitting on or chairing a complaints panel, disciplinary panel or pay panel (if you are applying to these areas)
- Able to demonstrate a strong track record in governance and in securing impact

Skill, knowledge and understanding

In this section your application should provide evidence to support your statements and details of the impact of these skills, knowledge and understanding on developing effective governance.

- Well-developed and comprehensive understanding of governance in the current school landscape
- Passionate about governance and school improvement
- A commitment to quality and raising standards for all pupils
- Good communication and interpersonal skills, and the ability to identify with a range of audiences