

## **SUPPORT FOR GOVERNORS**

The Local Authority aims to promote and support the continuing development of effective school governance, which is recognised as adding great value to the Children and Young People's service in North Yorkshire. North Yorkshire schools are, by any measure, successful with overall performance consistently placing the County in the top group of Local Authorities in England.

One of the problems North Yorkshire has in promoting and supporting the work of governors is the widespread rural nature of the County and the feeling of isolation that this can induce. Whilst the geographical reality of this situation cannot be overcome, it is hoped that with the increased use of electronic communication methods as well as paper based systems, we can go some way to overcoming any such difficulties.

The LA has a governor support team. This Team is responsible for co-ordinating and developing the provision of support for governors. The delivery of that support is through a wide range of professional staff mainly based at County Hall.

As well as generally co-ordinating support, the Governance Support Unit also undertakes the following:

- The Governor School Improvement Network Meetings (known as Governor SInS) are held every term. The meetings are held at five different venues across the County to enable governors to access the one most convenient for you. The meetings are run by a senior member of the Quality and Improvement team. They start at 6-00pm and are usually last about two and a half hours. There is an optional workshop which is held at 4-30pm which takes a more in-depth look at a topical issue.  
The meetings are an ideal opportunity to receive information on a range of subjects. Experts from HR, Quality and Improvement, Finance and the Local Authority often come to these meetings to explain new legislation or guidelines. There are opportunities to network with other governors and talk to the Governor Support team.  
These meetings are all on the Learning Zone and can be booked through your school administrator.
- Although many schools employ their own clerk, the Governor Support Unit provides a professional clerking service to governing bodies. A service level agreement guarantees the level of Service provided. Full details of LA Clerking Service are in the Traded Services Manual, a copy of which is available at every school or you can contact Chrissy Richardson the Clerking Service Manager.
- Clerks Forums – these are held three times a year at various locations throughout the County. They offer an opportunity for school based clerks to keep abreast of current issues and to exchange good practice.

- Clerks Training – good quality training is essential if clerks are to undertake their role as effectively as possible. Full details of training courses for clerks are available from the Clerking Service Manager or via North Yorkshire County Council’s Smart Solutions website: <http://smartsolutions.northyorks.gov.uk/Home> under the sub-section ‘Training & Events’.
- A training programme for governors. Details of this year’s programme are included on the North Yorkshire County Council’s Smart Solutions website: <http://smartsolutions.northyorks.gov.uk/Home> under the sub-section ‘Training & Events’. New governors are strongly recommended to attend the induction course “Getting Started”. There is also a wide range of other more specialised courses on offer to assist governors fulfill their various functions. Your clerk can provide details on these courses or view the Smart Solutions website for further information.
- Advice on regulations, constitution, procedures, governor elections, terms of reference for committees and many other other governance related matters. Contact details are shown below.
- A range of information on specific subject areas is available on the website CYPs.info. This can be accessed through <http://cyps.northyorks.gov.uk> Please click on “Governance” in the left hand column for further information.
- The recruitment of governors and the maintenance of a register of potential governors to assist with the filling of vacant places on governing bodies
- Check on newly appointed/elected governors

LA Contacts For Information and Advice:

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As well as support from the LA there are a number of national organisations that provide support, advice and materials for governors. These include the National Governors Association, the DFE and Ofsted. If you do not have access to the internet please contact the school and ask them to download and print the information or order any materials you require.

Your contribution and commitment as a governor is very much appreciated and the LA will endeavour to provide you with the support you need to fulfil this important role. The governing body itself and your fellow governors also play an important part in providing a supportive environment and you should take advantage of opportunities of working alongside experienced governors. In addition, many governing bodies have their own induction programme for new governors which in some cases include providing a mentor governor.