



NORFOLK GOVERNANCE NETWORK

Virtual Conference 2020
Resetting Governance

WELCOME

www.ngn.org.uk



Saturday 10th October 2020

Dear Trustees, Governors and Clerks

Norfolk Governance Network Chair, Anne Gibson welcomes you to this year's 'Virtual' Conference, themed **Resetting Governance**.

This has been an unprecedented year for those in governance and for all those in our school communities. Governing with Covid-19 as a constant presence is certainly challenging and we encourage networking so that we can support each other to fulfil our roles, our 2019 Conference theme Feeling Valued, Staying Connected underpinned this need.

We hope you enjoy the conference and the topics chosen to be covered by our education and health specialists and leave the event inspired and keen to use the knowledge gained within your governance role and sharing with those unable to attend.

The presentations will be made available for you to share and the event will be recorded for those unable to attend today. We hope you enjoy it as much as we have enjoyed the planning.

Resetting Governance

Each autumn, NGN hosts a conference, in 2019 our theme was Feeling Valued, Staying Connected, we had no idea then what we would be facing in 2020 but the theme underlies the work of NGN and of governance. We value the vital role of good governance and of each governor and trustee the positive impact we can make for our leaders, staff, children and communities. Staying connected at all levels can be more of a challenge, particularly over the last six months, this is a key aim for NGN and we look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible. This also helps us to ensure that our representation meets your needs, context and visions so that we can all work together for the children in Norfolk.

Earlier this summer it soon became clear that we would not be able to meet in person at our planned autumn conference. From our own governor networks we realised that the need to get together was more important than ever. So, for 2020 we are holding our first virtual conference, welcome to Resetting Governance.

For us all, at Norfolk Governance Network it has been equally challenging in our respective schools. Where we represent governors at the county level, these meetings have also moved to virtual, the work continues because the need continues. It has been highly reassuring to see the resilience and flexibility in this new approach by all agencies. The huge wealth of online governance courses and webinars has also been very reassuring and useful. There has certainly been a steep learning curve as there has been for many boards across the county, however, governance at all levels has continued and this should be applauded.

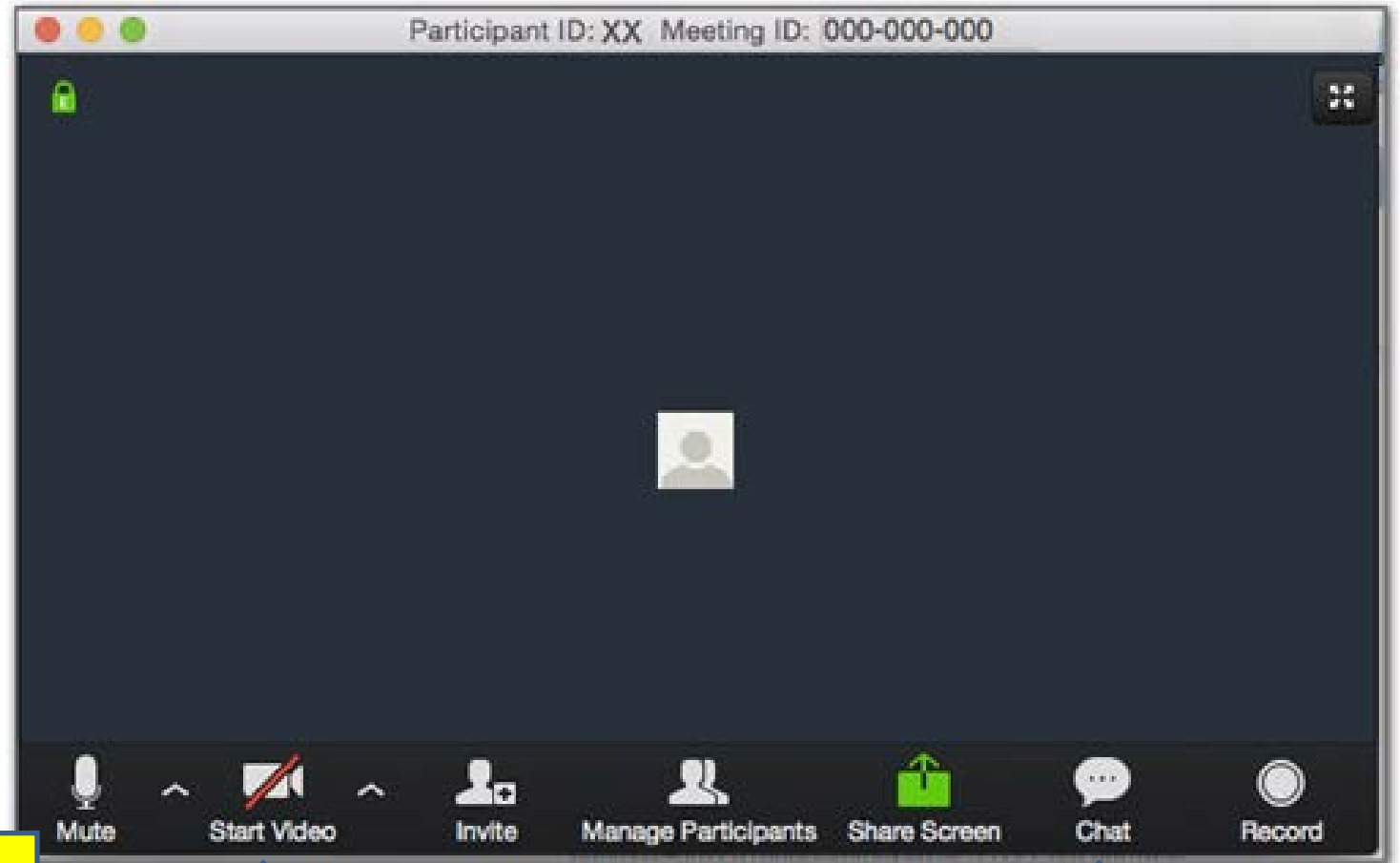
Feeling Valued, Staying Connected

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To help you get the most out of today please consider the following:

- Turn your webcam on (ensure you are appropriately dressed!)
- Check audio working – (use arrow next to 'Mute')
- Mute your microphone when not speaking
- Join in the conversation when able
- Use 'Chat' or 'Raise Hand'
- Share your experience if it will help others
- Actively participate in the group activities
- Have Fun!



Resetting Governance Agenda

- 8.30 Informal Networking as delegates join the conference main lobby.
- 9.00 Welcome by Anne Gibson, *NGN Chair*
- 9.30 Guest speaker: **Paul Brooker, OFSTED Restart: update on the phased return to inspections.**
- 10.30 Coffee Break – informal networking.
- 10.40 **Workshops:**
- SEND, Finance, Professional Clerking and Schools Digital Health Profile**
- 11.20 Guest speakers: **Dr Louise Smith, Covid-19 in schools**
- 12.15 Governors' Question Time
- 12.45 NGN AGM
- 12.55 Conference Closure



Guest speaker Paul Brooker

Paul Brooker became the **Ofsted Regional Director for the East of England** in November 2016.

Paul was appointed Her Majesty's Inspectors (HMI) in 2001 and has specialist expertise in the development of assessment and training from his role as an A level and GCSE chief examiner. Since joining Ofsted he has worked in school improvement in both primary and secondary schools and has held the role of Ofsted's national lead for academies and free schools. His previous post in Ofsted was Senior Her Majesty's Inspector in the East of England.

Prior to joining Ofsted, Paul was a senior leader in a secondary school and worked briefly as a local authority adviser.



Restart: update on the phased return to inspections

Paul Brooker

Regional Director for the East of England, OFSTED.

Breakout Sessions Introduction

Delegates to attend one of the following breakout sessions:

- 1. Finance** – Current Challenges *Led by Sarah Shirras, Chair School Forum and Head, St William's School Norwich.*
- 2. Norfolk SEND update** - *Led by Chris Snudden - Director of learning and inclusion for Norfolk's children's services.*
- 3. Professional Clerking:** Impact of clerking on governing effectiveness. *Led by Steve Edmunds, Director of Advice and Guidance and Rani Kaur, Head of Advice.*
- 4. Digital school Health Profile:** *Led by Fay Spencer, Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust.*



Dr S. J. Louise Smith, MB ChB, PhD, FFPH

As **Director of Public Health for Norfolk**, Dr Smith leads the Council Council's strategies to protect, promote and improve the populations' health. She is the lead officer support for Norfolk Health and Wellbeing Board, chairs the NHS Resilience Partnership and Norfolk Domestic Abuse Strategy Board. As DPH she is currently leading on Norfolk's response to the Covid 19 outbreak.

Prior to her role as Norfolk's DPH, Louise was Deputy Director Public Health in Hertfordshire specialising in public health commissioning, children, young people and sexual health. She retains an interest in sexual health and chairs the Association of Directors of Public Health sexual health policy advisory group.

She has recently joined the advisory panel for the What Works for Wellbeing Centre who draw evidence together and produce practical guidance that government, businesses and communities can use to help improve wellbeing across a wide range of issues including housing, employment, communities and the arts.

Louise trained as a doctor in Edinburgh, developed clinical and research experience interest in genetics, women and children; and served as senior medical advisor on women and children's health for the Scottish Government when Nicola Sturgeon was Minister for Health.



Covid-19 in schools

Dr S. J. Louise Smith, MB ChB, PhD, FFPH

Director of Public Health for Norfolk



NORFOLK GOVERNANCE NETWORK

Governors' Question Time

Please use the 'chat' function to send your questions through or if appropriate 'raise a hand' and unmute yourself when invited to speak.

#resettinggovernance



AGM

10th October 2020



NORFOLK GOVERNANCE NETWORK

AGM Agenda

- Apologies
- Minutes of AGM held on 9th November 2019
- NGN Chair's Report
- NGN Financial Report
- Election of Representatives to the County Committee
- Any urgent business

Norfolk Governance Network Annual General Meeting Minutes 9th November 2019

Attendees:

Anne Gibson – Chair (AG), Peter Harwood (PH), Angie Johnson (AJ), Alison Woodward (AW), Judy Leggett – JL, Jill Wilson – JW, Susanne Mason – Treasurer (SM), Hilary Bradshaw – HB, Mike Grimble – MG, Justine Petersen – Clerk (JP)



1. Welcome

- AG welcomed all present to the meeting.
- She encouraged delegates to consider joining the County Committee.
- The County Committee members made themselves known to the delegates.

2. Apologies for Absence

None received.

3. Minutes of last AGM – 10th November 2018.

Approved without amendment.

4. NGN Chair's Report

- The Chair's Report was circulated with the delegate packs.
- AG explained the collaborative working between NGN, Children's Services and Educate Norfolk.
- John Fisher, County Cabinet Member for Education was attending the conference.
- NGN briefings started last year. They were well received, and delegates were encouraged to attend future sessions.
- There were no comments or questions.

5. Finance Report

- The draft statement of accounts for the year up to 31st March 2019 was circulated with the delegate packs. The Treasurer provided an update.
- The NGN is now in its 24th year of existence. It receives an annual grant via NCC. The financial position is positive.
- The accounts have not yet been audited because of holidays and a bereavement, but they will be submitted imminently and approved at the next meeting of the County Committee.

Action – Clerk to add approval of statement of accounts to next County Committee agenda.

- There were no comments or questions.

6. County Committee Membership

- AG was unanimously re-elected onto the County Committee. Other members are due for re-election next year. Officers will be elected at the next County Committee meeting.
- AG invited delegates to express an interest in joining the County Committee. There was none at this stage.

7. Any Other Business

None.

8. Close

AG brought the AGM to a close at 09.27.

Norfolk Governance Network

Chair's Report for the year 2019-20

Introduction

Norfolk Governance Network (NGN) is the representative organisation for state school governors and trustees from local authority-maintained schools, academies and free schools in Norfolk. NGN receives funding from Norfolk County Council and is a corporate member of the National Governors Association (NGA).

NGN is run by governors for governors and aims to:

- Provide information to help governors in their role
- Represent the views of governors to the local authority (LA), Department for Education (DfE) and other national and local bodies when required.
- Create networking opportunities for governors to share knowledge and ideas.
- Hold conferences and events involving local and national speakers.
- Work with the officers of the LA, Regional Schools Commissioner and Norfolk Governor Services as representatives of school and academy governing boards.
- Assist schools in finding independent governors to sit on panels or committees

NGN activities this year

For all of us, the last year falls into two halves-before the pandemic and since. Covid-19 has impacted on lives across the world in so many ways. As school governors and trustees our concern has been on the impact on children and young people in Norfolk and much of our virtual conference this year will focus on that.

The pandemic has turned our focus to its impact on our children and communities, how to maintain contact, come to grips with remote learning, support our staff and address safeguarding concerns.

The challenges brought by Covid-19 have made it ever more important that as governors and trustees we stay connected with what is happening in Norfolk and nationally so that we can provide the best support and be supported ourselves. All of us have had to learn the skills needed for remote meetings and to focus as governors on how best to support our Headteachers as they navigate the complexities of supporting our children and young people during these difficult times.

Alongside that, the concerns which have taken our time in the past as governors and trustees have not gone away, and the concerns of Norfolk governors and trustees, about school funding, SEND, staff and governor recruitment and inclusion, are mirrored nationally.

Before and during the pandemic NGN has continued to work closely with the Norfolk Headteacher Associations, Educate Norfolk and NASSH (Norfolk Association of Special School Heads) to provide responses to national and local issues. The focus of our work and discussions since March this year has been almost completely about the impact of pandemic and its impact on our schools.

NGN members contribute actively in a range of areas. Members of the Network represent governors on the Schools Forum and several other boards and consultative groups in conjunction with Norfolk County Council, including the Joint Consultative Committee (JCC).

Before the pandemic, NGN had continued to develop the opportunities for networking and engagement with governors about current issues for our schools through governor briefings, shaped and sponsored by NGN and supported by Norfolk County Council. Briefings took place in Spring 2020, provided at three different venues across Norfolk. The briefings covered the new Ofsted framework, the school places and sufficiency strategy, and updates on the SEND Area transformation and the work of the Schools Forum. These briefings received very positive feedback from those attending. Further events were planned for summer 2020 but had to be deferred due to the pandemic.

There are plans to replicate the briefings virtually and those will be informed by feedback from this year's virtual conference.

During the summer NGN worked with Norfolk County Council to carry out a joint survey in July on "the Governance of Norfolk Schools". We wanted to hear from all Norfolk governors and trustees about their experience of governance during the pandemic and what support they felt was needed going forward in order to help plan support for governance and service provision across Norfolk. The survey feedback told us that not all governors and trustees are well informed about NGN and its role but also told us that many governors would like more opportunities for networking. The opportunities presented now to meet virtually may help us address the challenge of the geography of Norfolk and our virtual conference this year will be the first test of that.

The NGN website is now established as an important platform for NGN to communicate with Norfolk governors and trustees and will continue to be developed in response to member feedback.

Joint Chairs Meeting

The Joint Chairs meeting is an important opportunity for the Chairs of NASHH, Educate Norfolk, Schools Forum and NGN to meet with key colleagues from Norfolk County Council, including the Assistant Director, Education at the County Council, Chis Snudden, who chairs the meeting. In normal times we meet regularly, every 6 weeks, to share information and discuss new developments and priorities. At the beginning of the pandemic we were meeting daily to help manage the response. Since the start of the autumn term meetings have been weekly.

The Director of Children's Services, Sara Tough, and her leadership team meets regularly with the joint Chairs Group and those meetings are a great opportunity to engage directly with senior officers in Children's Services and share views and information affecting schools in Norfolk. This is one of several practical demonstrations of Sara's commitment to engaging with schools and is very encouraging.

County Committee

The County Committee is the engine room of NGN. It consists of representatives from schools and academies across Norfolk, some of whom are elected and some appointed. The Committee appoints the Chair, Vice Chairs and Treasurer. It has met four times this year, meeting virtually since the beginning of the pandemic.

County Committee agenda include review and discussion of key issues and challenges facing governors and trustees. The committee discussions inform the input and views that members contribute to other forums and boards.

Communications Sub-Committee

The Communications Sub-Committee is responsible for organising NGN events, conferences and communications. Governor engagement is a continuing challenge, particularly with the increasing demands on their time that governors are experiencing in working with their schools. It has met four times this year.

NGN/Educator Solutions Governance & Leadership Services Liaison Sub-Committee

NGN members and ESGLS leaders meet regularly. The group is well established as the channel to communicate key operational and strategic issues affecting governors. The open and supportive exchanges of information and views make these meetings very effective.

Thanks and acknowledgements

As Chair of NGN I would like to thank all the members of the County Committee and our dedicated Treasurer Susanne Mason, who have given their time freely to help other governors and to make a difference to children and young people in our schools. I would also like to thank Norfolk County Council for the financial support that is given to NGN and the officers and councillors who make sure that governors' voices are heard. Since March, everyone has adapted to meeting virtually and their energy for supporting our schools continues unabated.

As the coronavirus outbreak continues to present unprecedented challenges for us all, across all aspects of our lives, thank you to all school governors and trustees for your continuing support of our education system in Norfolk, over the last few months when education establishments have been under immense pressure.

Getting Involved

NGN is run by governors for governors and the County Committee feels strongly that school governors and trustees in Norfolk benefit from having a representative group. Our collective voice is always stronger than our individual voice and NGN contributes a respected and influential voice to education decision making in our County.

NGN has a "seat at the table" in Norfolk and rightly so given the key role of governors and trustees in leading Norfolk's schools. The continuing challenge is to increase our engagement of our members across Norfolk to ensure their views are well represented.

At the AGM we will be agreeing the re-election of some members of the County Committee. **We also need new members to join us! If you are interested, please speak to me or any of the other County Committee members during the conference or contact our Clerk, Justine Petersen at ngnclerk@gmail.com**

Look out for dates for new Governor virtual briefing events which will be published on the NGN website. **Please do all you can to attend and to encourage others to do so!**

**Anne Gibson
Chair of NGN
October 2020**

Statement of Accounts from 1/4/2019 to 31/3/2020

<u>INCOME</u>	£	£
Norfolk County Council Annual Grant for Norfolk Schools	10,428.00	
Interest from bank account	33.98	
Donation from NPS re conference	250.00	
Donation from Committee member	50.00	
		<hr/> 10,761.98
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>		
Web Site	939.00	
Printing, stationery & photocopying	109.74	
Postage	6.64	
Refreshments at county and business meetings	38.48	
Refreshments AGM and Forums	1,950.50	
Clerk's Honorarium	3,600.00	
Telephone / e-mail	25.00	
Travelling expenses	1,485.64	
Travel expenses to National Governors Association meetings	198.10	
Child minding	0.00	
National Governors' Association Affiliation fees	950.00	
Public Liability Insurance	180.43	
		<hr/> 9,487.56
		<hr/> 1,274.42

Balance Sheet

Balance of Accumulated Fund brought forward from 1.4.2018		19,452.42
Surplus of Income over expenditure for this financial year.		<u>1,274.42</u>
Accumulated Surplus carried forward to 2019 -2020	-	<u>20,726.84</u>

Represented by

Funds on Deposit	20,689.30	
Cash at Bank (Current account)	<u>37.54</u>	
		<u>20,726.84</u>

Committee Members up for re-election

Claire Blamey
Hilary Bradshaw
Mike Grimble
Peter Harwood
Angie Johnson
Rosemary Kett
Judy Leggett

Susanne Mason
Peter Rout
Heather Tew,
Jacqueline Westrop
Jill Wilson
Martin White
Alison Woodward



AGM & Autumn Conference

Closing Comments

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Thank You

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