

News from the Leadership & Governance Team: January 2011 Governor training issue



All governors need to participate in training to improve their effectiveness in their role and to keep up to date with developments that may affect their school and their role as a governor.

The whole governing body is responsible for the training of its members. Training can either be accessed by new governors requiring an overview of their role or by more experienced governors who want to learn more about specific subjects.

Link Governor

Many governing bodies assign the responsibility for co-ordinating training to their Link Governor who can then liaise with the local authority to ensure that their governors are equipped with all the information they need to encourage fellow governors to access the most appropriate training thus enabling them to carry out their duties effectively.

Safeguarding Children training

Governing Bodies are accountable for ensuring their establishments have arrangements for carrying out their functions with a view to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. The above two hour course aims to raise awareness of these responsibilities.

Some governing bodies have found it helpful for an individual member of the governing body to champion child protection issues within the school.

(It is the role of the Chair of the Governors to take the lead in dealing with allegations of abuse made against the head teacher.)

If any governors need to update their own knowledge of safeguarding/child protection then they can attend their school's whole school awareness raising sessions or book onto a Local Safeguarding Children Board Northamptonshire 'Introduction to Safeguarding' course
www.lscbnorthamptonshire.org.uk

The Leadership & Governance team has received a number of requests from schools asking for the training to be delivered in-house to the whole governing body. Unfortunately our trainers do not have the resource to meet these requests, so we suggest that governors attend the scheduled courses (see above)

Our colleagues who are Senior Welfare Officers, in the Child Protection & Safeguarding team have reassured us that although the subject of “Safeguarding” should be a key focus for all governing bodies, it’s not essential for all governors to attend the training.

Instead, governing bodies can nominate one or two governors to be responsible for Safeguarding. It’s the role of the governing body to ensure that the safety and welfare of children is being met via the Safeguarding policy and that all staff are aware not only of the policy, but are also familiar with the procedure in their own school to protect children.



Non-attendance at training

Please note that if a governor fails to attend a module or a full training session, the cost will still be levied against your SLA or invoiced if you use the “Pay As You Use” option. We suggest that Link Governors check with individual governors to ascertain that they have attended the training they have booked. Each governor who completes a course will be awarded an attendance certificate, so checking is straightforward.

Cancellation of Courses

Some governors have raised concerns over the cancellation of governor training courses in recent terms. As you can appreciate, all eyes are focussed on value for money and efficiency; unfortunately

there are occasions when a course has to be cancelled due to a lack of delegates.

If a course is attended by fewer than 5 delegates, not only does it become an expensive way of delivering training, but the attendees themselves will not benefit from the good practice shared by other governors or the learning that comes from breakout sessions or workshop activity.

We thank you for your understanding when courses have to be cancelled and our CPD colleagues will try to book you on to another course so that you don’t miss out on a training opportunity.

Spring 2011: Programme of scheduled courses

The spring training courses are all advertised on the school governors pages on the NCC website:

www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cpd

Note that these scheduled courses will all be delivered at Britannia House in Northampton – the authority’s central training hub.



Summer 2011: Programme of scheduled courses

From April 1st 2011 the Leadership & Governance team will be offering a new training programme. Details will be made available to all governors this spring term,

but note that the new programme will include:

- More emphasis on training for new governors
- More accessible and flexible training opportunities
- A review of the existing SLA to ensure that governing bodies continue to achieve value for money
- The introduction of new courses
- The introduction of monthly training evenings, enabling governors to not only access training, but to meet the Leadership & Governance team and access more information about Children and Young People's services in the county.

To book training

Booking governor training is simple - website: www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/cpd or e-mail: cpdlasi@northamptonshire.gov.uk

Each delegate is sent a confirmation letter detailing the course, venue, time etc. Which is sent to the school.



And finally...

Please cascade this information to your governing body.

Don't forget to make full use of the hyperlinks within the newsletter to access more information.

