

	<h2>Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee</h2> <h3>22 September 2020</h3>
Title	Local Authority School Governor nominations – update
Report of	Chairman of the Committee, Councillor David Longstaff
Wards	All
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	Appendix A (embedded within this document below)
Officer Contact Details	<p>Chris Munday, Executive Director, Children Services Chris.Munday@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7099</p> <p>Ian Harrison, Chief Executive and Director of Education and Learning, Barnet Education and Learning Service Ian.J.Harrison@Barnet.gov.uk Telephone: 0208 359 7943</p>
<h2>Summary</h2>	
<p>In September 2018, the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee received a report on the process for nominating Local Authority governors to serve on the governing bodies of Barnet schools. The committee approved the proposed changes to the process and agreed there should be a review of the new process in twelve months' time. At its meeting on 10 September 2019 the committee noted the nominations made in the school year 2018/19 and agreed that the process for making nominations described in the report should continue.</p> <p>This report describes the process that has operated since September 2018 and Appendix A sets out the details of the recommendations of the panel at the three meetings held in the school year 2019/20.</p>	

Recommendation

- 1. That the Committee note the information in Appendix A of this report on the nominations of local authority governors to Barnet Schools since September 2019.**
- 2. That the Committee agrees that in future all members of the Local Authority Governor nominations panel should be members of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.**

1 WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 In September 2018, the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee received a report on the process for nominating Local Authority governors to serve on the governing bodies of Barnet schools. The committee approved the proposed changes to the process and agreed there should be a review of the new process in twelve months' time. At its meeting on 10 September 2019 the committee noted the nominations made in the school year 2018/19 and agreed that the process for making nominations described in the report should continue.
- 1.2 The agreed process for nominating local authority (LA) governors is as follows:
 - A panel consisting of one majority party councillor and one minority party councillor meets with the Governor Services and Advice Officer from the Education and Skills Service. The panel considers Local Authority Governor vacancies and possible nominations and makes recommendations on nominations to the Executive Director, Children's Services.
 - The Executive Director considers the recommendations and decides on the nominations. Nominations made by the Executive Director are reported via a Chief Officer Decision in the name of the Executive Director, Children's Services.
 - Each nomination is then reported to the appropriate Clerk to the Governing Body, advising that the Governing Body should consider appointment of the nominee, and requiring the Clerk to report the Governing Body decision, with terms of office of the LA Governor as appropriate, for the Council's records.
 - The school then decides on whether to accept the nomination and make the appointment.
- 1.3 The Chair of the panel is the representative from the majority party, currently Cllr John Hart, and the representative from the minority party is Cllr Pauline Coakley-Webb. There are two named reserves: Cllr Linda Freedman (Conservative) and Cllr Anne Hutton (Labour). If the two members disagree on a nomination, the chair has a second or casting vote.
- 1.4 When it meets, the panel considers applications (via a completed application form), which is matched to details of the skills and other eligibility criteria outlined by the Governing Body of the school with the vacancy. First preference is given to Ward

Members who have put themselves forward. The panel considers whether the Ward Member has the requisite skills and, if required, requests further information from the individual. If no Ward Members or other Councillors put themselves forward or the Ward Member/other Councillor does not have the requisite skills, other candidates, who have applied independently to Governor Services, are assessed for suitability, based on their application form/Curriculum Vitae, together with any comments from the Chair of Governors regarding desirable skills and experience being sought. The panel considers whether the other candidates have the requisite skills and selects the best candidate based on merit.

1.5 The panel meets termly. In the 2019/20 school year the panel met three times.

1.6 Details of the recommendations of the panel are shown in Appendix A.

1.7 On the three occasions when the panel met, the panel considered and made recommendations for nominations as follows:

- September 2019 – 11 vacancies considered; 6 nominations agreed
- February 2020 – 10 vacancies considered; 9 nominations agreed
- July 2020 – 7 vacancies considered; 6 nominations agreed

Due to the restrictions arising from the Covid19 pandemic, the July 2020 panel 'meeting' was conducted by email.

1.8 All recommendations made were agreed by the Executive Director and therefore the nominations were put forward to the relevant Governing Bodies. One nomination by the Executive Director, following the recommendation of the panel at its 2019 Autumn Term meeting, was rejected by the Governing Body of the school concerned and the panel later agreed an alternative nomination. Where recommendations for nomination were deferred, this was because the panel did not believe it had anyone suitable to nominate.

1.9 The percentage of LA governor vacancies after each termly meeting for 2019/20 were 5% after the Autumn 2019 meeting, 1% after the Spring 2020 meeting, and 2% after the Summer 2020 meeting, compared to 24% before the new process was implemented in December 2018. These are the lowest percentages of LA Governor vacancies on record so far.

1.10 As the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee now has oversight of this nominations process, it is proposed that in future all members of the Local Authority Governor nominations panel should be members of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee.

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The change to the procedure for nominating local authority governors agreed by the committee in September 2018 was intended:

- to improve the selection of appropriately skilled governors to enhance schools' governance, by introducing more rigorous selection, informed by local knowledge of each school's context and skills required.

- to contribute to good oversight and management of schools for the benefit of children and young people.
- to ensure that the process reflects the new legislative requirements.
- to reduce delay in appointments.

The change appears to have met these objectives.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED

- 3.1 The nominations process could be undertaken by a committee. Previous experience has found this practice to be lengthy and to result in delays in making nominations. The revised arrangements have streamlined the process, whilst retaining Member involvement and oversight.

4 POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION

- 4.1 The nomination process agreed by the Committee in September 2018 and again in September 2019 will continue to be implemented. Recommendations made by the Panel and decisions taken by the Executive Director will continue to be reported via a Chief Officer Decision.

5 IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION

Corporate Priorities and Performance

- 5.1 The quality of the education offer in Barnet is at the heart of Barnet's continuing success as a place where people want to live, work and study. It plays a crucial part in making Barnet a popular and desirable place with many families attracted to the area by the good reputation of Barnet's schools.
- 5.2 Excellent educational outcomes and ensuring children and young people are equipped to meet the needs of employers are key to delivering the Council's strategic objectives set out in its Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024, based on the core principles of fairness, responsibility and opportunity to make sure Barnet is a place:
- of opportunity, where people can further their quality of life
 - where people are helped to help themselves, recognising that prevention is better than cure
 - where responsibility is shared, fairly
 - where services are delivered efficiently to get value for money for the taxpayer.
- 5.3 The London Borough of Barnet's Education Strategy 2017-2020 sets out that good leadership and governance is a key driver to the achievement of the improvement of schools and educational outcomes.

Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

- 5.4 The work to drive the delivery of the council's contribution to the Education Strategy is delivered from within existing resources of the Education and Learning service, which is delivered in partnership with Barnet Education and Learning Service Ltd.

Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.5 The School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2012 came into force on 1 September 2012, amendments came into force on 1 September 2014 and further amendments came into force on 1 September 2015. The Constitution of Governing Bodies of Maintained Schools 2017 contains statutory guidance for governing bodies of maintained schools and local authorities.
- 5.6 Under the Council's Constitution Article 7 (Committees, Forums and Partnerships) the terms of reference of the Children, Education and Safeguarding Committee includes responsibility for 'determining the arrangements for making nominations to the governing bodies of Local Authority administered schools.'

Risk Management

- 5.7 The risk of not responding to the increased focus being placed on Governing Bodies within the Ofsted Inspection Framework is a risk to the council and the local community in terms of failing to maintain the quality of education in Barnet.
- 5.8 If responsibility for the nominations process were to be transferred back to a committee, there is a risk of delay in decision-making, leading to governing bodies carrying vacancies for a significant period of time which could impact on the effectiveness of the governing bodies and their ability to discharge their duties.

Equalities and Diversity

- 5.9 The competency framework for governors states that governors should be mindful of their responsibilities under equalities legislation, recognising and encouraging diversity and inclusion. By ensuring that governors have the requisite skills to undertake the role, the process in place for nominating LA governors should ensure an improved form of school governance in terms of compliance with equalities legislation.

Corporate Parenting Principles

- 5.10 Governing bodies are responsible for holding the headteacher to account. This includes assurance that the designated teacher for looked after children is properly supported and challenged to undertake this role. By ensuring that governors have the requisite skills to undertake the role of governor, this should ensure an improved form of school governance in terms of schools' complying with duties towards looked after children.

Consultation and Engagement

5.11 Nominations have been made to a number of maintained schools. Schools have not given any negative feedback on the new process for nominating governors.

6 BACKGROUND PAPERS

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 12th September 2018:
Item 9 - Report on 'Proposed change to the Local Authority School Governor Appointments Process'.

<http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CIId=697&MIId=9467&Ver=4>

Children, Education, Libraries and Safeguarding Committee, 10th September 2019:
Item 9 - Report on 'Proposed change to the Local Authority School Governor nominations – update and review'.

<https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s55005/Local%20Authority%20School%20Governor%20nominations%20-%20update%20and%20review.pdf>

Appendix A

Recommendations of the LA Governor Nominations Panel at meetings in Autumn, Spring and Summer terms of 2019/20

LA Governor Nomination Panel Meeting Report – September 2019

School	Background Note	Nomination
1. COLINDALE	Cllr Zubairi re-nominated by school.	Cllr Zabairi
2. GARDEN SUBURB INFANT AND JUNIORS	Jane Harris resigned. New nomination required.	Deferred
3. MENORAH FOUNDATION	Cllr Dean Cohen Resigned July 2019. Rabbi Jacob Ebrahimoff nominated via school. Agreed.	Rabbi Jacob Ebrahimoff
4. MONKEN HADLEY	Rosemary Gwilliam term expired August 2018. New nomination required. Deferred.	Deferred
5. NOAM PRIMARY SCHOOL	No background information available. Matthew Pearlman nominated via School. Agreed.	Matthew Pearlman
6. NORTHSIDE	Margaret Pond resigned July 2019. New nomination required	Deferred
7. QUEENSWELL JUNIOR	Tallulah Rushaya resigned 8 June 2019. New nomination required.	Deferred
8. ST MARY'S CE (EN4)	Jason Groves resigned. New nomination received for Ali Jomehri, former Co-opted Governor.	Ali Jomehri
9. ST PAUL'S CE (N11)	Emily Salinger re-nominated	Emily Salinger
10. ST PAUL'S CE (NW7)	Lisa Mazzucotelli resigned 2.4.19. Cllr Linda Freeman nominated.	Cllr Linda Freedman
11. ARK ACADEMY	No background information available.	Deferred

LA Governor Nomination Panel Meeting Report – February 2020

School	Background note	Nomination
1. ARK ACADEMY	School requests nomination. Cllr Coakley Webb to enquire of Ward Councillors.	Deferred.
2. BARNET EARLY YEARS ALLIANCE (BEYA)	Headteacher requested nomination after resignation of former LA Governor. Dr Nick Mahony considered and approved.	Dr Nick Mahony
3. BELL LANE PRIMARY	LA Governor John Hickman passed away November 2019. Condolences recorded. Cllr Coakley Webb's nomination of Kate Elliott agreed.	Kate Elliott
4. BROOKLAND JUNIOR & INFANT	Sapna Shah's term ends March 2020. School requests re-nomination. Agreed.	Sapna Shah
5. EDGWARE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Matthew Connor (AKA Matthew Martin) resigned Sept 2019. Robert Weiner nominated by school. Agreed.	Robert Weiner
6. MATHILDA MARKS-KENNEDY (MMK) PRIMARY	Nomination received through school from Dr Ben Weiner. Agreed.	Dr Ben Weiner
7. MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY SCHOOL	Rosemary Gwilliam term expired 31.8.18. Nomination for Amir Fakeeh considered.	Amir Fakeeh
8. NORTHSIDE PRIMARY	Holly Kal Weiss Resigned. Nomination received for Nam Thaker via GS. Agreed	Nam Thaker
9. QUEENSWELL JUNIOR SCHOOL	Tallulah Rushaya resigned 8 June 2019. Chair advised to postpone due to pending federation.	Postponed
10. ST MARY'S AND ST JOHN'S (SMSJ)	Joel Davidson resigned. School nominates Simon Benson. Agreed.	Simon Benson
11. ST PAUL'S CE PRIMARY NW7	Charlotte Elizabeth nominated after previous nomination was rejected by the Governing Body.	Charlotte Elizabeth

LA Governor Nomination Panel Meeting Report – July 2020

School	Background note	Nomination
1. ARK ACADEMY	The school's governance service suggested a nomination. Cllr Coakley Webb to discuss with ward Councillors.	Deferred
2. MOSS HALL NURSERY	Brian Salinger nominated by school 20/5/2020. Current term ends 6 July 2020. Re-nominated by GB. AGREED	Brian Salinger
3. QUEENSWELL INF & JUNIOR SCHOOL	LA Governor required for new federation. Priya Nair nominated via GS. AGREED.	Priya Nair
4. SACRED HEART CATHOLIC PRIMARY (THE)	Clare Hegarty resigned. Nia Panayiotopoulos nominated via GS. AGREED.	Nia Panayiotopoulos
5. TRENT PRIMARY	Tim Tilley Nomination ends 26 April 2020. School request re-nomination. AGREED.	Tim Tilley
6. BELL LANE	The February meeting of the panel recommended Kate Elliott but the Governing Body asked for a further nomination for Terri Patterson, which the panel supported. Now the Governing Body has two LA nominations to choose from at their next meeting.	Terri Patterson
7. MONKEN HADLEY CE PRIMARY	GB have submitted nomination for Samantha Wrightson. Agreed.	Samantha Wrightson