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*The latest news, views, and announcements*

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Communication with all our members.

Fellow Members: -

Our current method of communication is via email to known email addresses (either school or governor known), also via social media platforms i.e., Facebook.

We at LASGB are always seeking what ways we can improve on our current communication service to you, supporting you in your governance roles.

We are currently investigating the use of text/ SMS messaging and also website notifications

We welcome your feedback on suggestions in reaching you (for some) more effectively and possibly in a timelier fashion.

Please forward your suggestions to [contact@lasgb.org.uk](mailto:contact@lasgb.org.uk).

**HELP US TO HELP & BETTER SUPPORT YOU!**

## Safeguarding



### Audit report

The Section 175/157 audit process was undertaken by the Children's Safeguarding Assurance Partnership (CSAP) on behalf of Blackpool and Lancashire Local Authorities. The online self-assessment took place across the Spring Term 2022, and the findings have now been published. You can find these at:

<https://www.safeguardingpartnership.org.uk/s175-overview-report-2021-22/>

The Audit reflects statutory guidance in both Keeping Children Safe in Education (KCSIE) and Working Together to Safeguard Children (2018)

Through their own self-assessment, schools reported the following top 5 areas of strength and top 5 areas for development. Do you, as governors, know how your school replied?

	Top 5 Areas of Strength <sup>1</sup>	Top 5 Areas for Development	
95%	Section 11 - Children Missing from Education	Section 12 - Parental Responsibility & Private Fostering	79%
92%	Section 7 - Promoting the Welfare of Pupils	Section 13 - Elective Home Education	79%
92%	Section 6 - Policy, Procedures & Recording	Section 14 - FGM, HBA, Forced Marriage, Breast Ironing/Flattening	79%
91%	Section 9 - Safeguarding and the Curriculum	Section 16 - Child Sexual Abuse in the Family Environment (CSAFE)	76%
90%	Section 5 - Site Safety	Section 4 - Early Help	72%

### Safeguarding training for all governors.

Last term's Chairs' Forums outlined the recent requirement for all governors to undertake safeguarding training. KCSIE 2022 states:

*'Governing bodies and proprietors should ensure that all governors and trustees receive appropriate safeguarding and child protection (including online) training at induction. **This training should equip them with the knowledge to provide strategic challenge** to test and assure themselves that the safeguarding policies and procedures in place in schools and colleges are effective and support the delivery of a robust school approach to safeguarding. Their training should be regularly updated.'*

Governing boards should now ensure the safeguarding governor undergoes more detailed training but also that **all** governors should have 'regular' training to update their knowledge on how to ensure safeguarding is effective in their schools. Both these approaches should be strategic.

LPDS provides several courses on safeguarding issues such as Prevent, Safer Recruitment and Online Safeguarding, as do NGA. There are, from January via LPDS, additional governor briefings for all governors.

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## Schools' Forum - January 2023

The Schools' Forum is a statutory body which considers matters to do with the financing of education within the local authority and other matters in relation to policy and procedures. There are representatives from all sectors in the group and LASGB has a place as an observer. After each round of meetings, a newsletter - Fair Exchange - is published on the portal.

The meeting which took place on January 11<sup>th</sup> had a very lengthy agenda! Decisions regarding the budget for 23/24 were made which will go to the next full council meeting for ratification. There has been an increase in funding though much of it will be "spent" on increased costs.

The meeting also agreed on the number of commissioned places in Short Stay schools and to continue funding, still on a temporary basis only, for both Emotional and Well Being Services and the Inclusion and Engagement Team.

There was a presentation from members of the team working on the implementation of Oracle Fusion. It was accepted that the introduction has not been without many problems, but the meeting was reassured that things will be settled. The project was a massive one across the whole of LCC costing £22 million pounds - we all hope all problems will be resolved very soon!

The Chair of the Forum has written to the Director of Education and Children's Services and the appropriate cabinet members raising concerns about the fact that a number of senior local authority posts have not been filled on a permanent basis. The LASGB Executive discussed this matter and the impact it is having on long term planning for the support of all our children - we are to raise it at our termly meeting with representatives from the authority.

If you would like any more information about any of these matters do, please get in touch via our website or [contact@lasgb.org.uk](mailto:contact@lasgb.org.uk).

## Recognition Awards



If you have any Governor who you feel is deserving of an award, then all we need is supporting email with details of the Governor and why you think their service deserves to be recognized from the Headteacher or Chair of Governors send to [contact@lasgb.org.uk](mailto:contact@lasgb.org.uk)



Almost 75% of Lancashire's Schools/Academies are members of the LASGB



[www.lasgb.org.uk](http://www.lasgb.org.uk) | [contact@lasgb.org.uk](mailto:contact@lasgb.org.uk)