

## LASGB Report – January 2019



In the Autumn Term of 2018 our focus has been on Special Schools and SEN. This reflects the concerns expressed both locally and nationally about funding for the High Needs part of the Schools Budget.

**SEN Workshop** – On the 10th October we had a workshop about SEND. This was led by David Bird, a SEND Adviser with the School Improvement Service. We were tested on the many acronyms used with SEN. There was a discussion about the ECHPs and ‘Provision Mapping’. Sarah Duplain then spoke about the role of the SENCO. We were given five key questions: (1) Is the SENCO a member of the Senior Leadership Team? (2) What are the *outcomes*? (3) What training does the SENCO receive? (4) Is SEN on the SDP? (5) Are the legal requirements being met and is this shown on the school website? A discussion followed on governor involvement and parental pressures on schools. As always there was the question about funding.

**Annual General Meeting** – We held our AGM on the 17th November.

**Special Schools meeting** – On the 21st November we held our Special Schools workshop at the Larches School in Preston. There has been a lot of concern over the High Needs funding deficit and this was reflected in this meeting. Steve Belbin came and talked about the need to reduce the number of exclusions. A network of local clusters was suggested, with various models of outreach being proposed. Many people there were worried about the uncertainties and the prospect of expertise being lost. The existing know-how needs to be redeployed in a new way. This is very much part of a work in progress. Will Gale then spoke about ‘Supporting Inclusion’. There are two projects currently in progress; one is supporting ASD in the east of the County and the other is to do with Social, Emotional and Mental Health (SEMH) in the north of the County. A ‘Suitability and Sufficiency’ audit took place in the summer.

**Forthcoming events** – On Wednesday the 20th March we will be holding a seminar on the new Ofsted framework. This will be led by a Senior HMI, Joanne Ollson. The event starts at 7 p.m. at the Tickled Trout Hotel near Preston. It is expected that there will be a lot of interest in this subject and this speaker and so please book your place before the event.

Our May Conference will be on the 11th May at the Hallmark Leyland Hotel.

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