

GOVERNOR TRAINING

Governor Development Team



Training for Clerks

We offer essential updates for clerks three times a year, with morning and afternoon sessions plus additional training modules throughout the year. The value of a fully trained, knowledgeable and confident clerk cannot be underestimated. Hours are allocated in the clerk's contract to allow paid time to attend.

Clerks' Update

Wednesday 5 October 2011

Windsor House

9.30am - 11.30am and 3.45pm - 5.15pm

Wednesday 18 January 2012

Windsor House

9.30am - 11.30am and 3.45pm - 5.15pm

Wednesday 16 May 2012

Windsor House

9.30am - 11.30am and 3.45pm - 5.15pm

Clerking Skills

We also offer our five module Clerking Skills course. These five 90 minute sessions are being run in the autumn terms to allow clerks to put into practice the skills gained. This is open to new and established clerks. The course runs on a loop system allowing clerks to sign up at a later date for modules that they might have missed.

Module 1 - Tuesday 11 October 2011

Module 2 - Tuesday 18 October 2011

Module 3 - Tuesday 1 November 2011

Module 4 - Tuesday 8 November 2011

Module 5 - Tuesday 15 November 2011

Windsor House 5.30pm - 7pm

Also for the first time we will run the whole course in two parts as daytime workshop sessions:

Tuesday 19 June 2012	9.30am to 12 noon	Windsor House
Tuesday 26 June 2012	9.30am to 12 noon	Windsor House

Module 1 - Managing the Membership

How should the clerk work? We discuss the process for appointing governors and holding elections, recruitment, resizing the governing body and making committees work for the governing body.

Module 2 – Making meetings effective

We discuss the process of planning effective meetings from pre-meeting tasks, working with the chair, calculating the quorum and setting meeting deadlines. We review what should be included in the minutes and give advice on dealing with confidential items. The session will also include minute taking tips.

Module 3 – Managing information

We explain the clerk's role in keeping records, give guidance on storage and archiving, explore the clerk's knowledge of legislation, give tips to make policy review more manageable and review ways of consulting with stakeholders.

Module 4 – Managing personalities and conflict

We explore the area of relationships. How does the clerk build and maintain a team and deal with hidden agendas? Guidance will be given on building positive relationships and successful team working. The session will include guidance on managing governors' panels for exclusions, grievance and complaints.

Module 5 - The clerk working for school improvement

The vital role of the clerk in focusing governors on school improvement, making positive changes, the clerk's own continued professional development.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Feedback from the 2010/11 courses

“Informative, interesting, friendly.....Valuable and new information”

“Not to be missed, a good way to pick up information”

“Fabulous! Informative and relaxed”

“Excellent! I've learnt so much!”

Training for Chairs and Vice Chairs

Chairs and Vice Chairs, have a pivotal role to play in the success of a governing body and school. In support of this role we offer 3 Update meetings to which Chairs and Vice Chairs are invited. These meetings allow Chairs and Vice Chairs to receive news on national and local initiatives and to share best practice.

Chairs' and Vice Chairs' Update

Thursday 6 October 2011

Tuesday 17 January 2012

Tuesday 15 May 2012

Windsor House

6.30pm - 8pm

The forum provides an opportunity to update Chairs and Vice Chairs on national and local initiatives and to share best practice.

Chairing Skills

We also continue to run, in response to an overwhelming demand for places and excellent feedback, the 5 module training course for Chairs of governing bodies or committees, or aspiring Chairs. The course runs on a loop system allowing governors to sign up at a later date for modules that they might have missed. Governors completing the 5 modules over a two year period are awarded a framed certificate for school to demonstrate the commitment they have to leading a governing body or committee.

Module 1 - Monday 3 October 2011

Module 2 - Monday 31 October 2011

Module 3 - Monday 14 November 2011

Module 4 - Monday 28 November 2011

Module 5 – Monday 5 December

Windsor House

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Please book your place early for this course which has a maximum of 20 places.

In Module 1 we will discuss the role of the Chair, the importance of self-evaluation and the relationship with the Head teacher.

In Module 2 we will look at team effectiveness, leadership and new governor induction.

In Module 3 we review the best size for a governing body and deal with recruitment issues. We will discuss the role of committees and delegated powers and give guidance on positive working with the Clerk, how to manage conflict and have effective meetings.

In Module 4 we review how the Chair can help provide a strategic direction for the work of the school; discuss how the governing body can challenge, support, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of school and different ways the school can identify and be accountable to stakeholders.

In Module 5 we review the sources of evidence required by the governing body to monitor School Improvement and explore the Chair's role in supporting the work of committees in holding the school to account for standards. The final module also explores the role of the Chair in managing complaints and difficult incidents.

Feedback from 2010/11 courses

“Really wasn't expecting to gain as much knowledge as I have today. Everyone's opinions were really valued. Can't wait to the next session”

“Brilliant – given lots of confidence to go and be a better governor and support my school”

“The whole 5 module course has been excellent. Very informative and great to discuss ideas and initiatives with other governors.”

Just for Academy governors

A different way of governance – how academy status changes our working practices

Wednesday 11 January 2012

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Windsor House

The change to academy status is a big change for governors. This course explains the differences to the operating methods for governors, clerks and the Company Secretary.

We explore the Articles of Association and discuss what resources academy governors would like to support them in their role.

Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Open forum for Academy governors – Questions and Answers

Monday 23 April 2012

6.30pm – 8.00pm

Windsor House

For most governing bodies the change to academy status will be reaching the first anniversary. This session will give the opportunity for governors to discuss the changes academy status has brought and highlight through a question and answer session where areas of support may be identified. A review of the new Academy Induction training programme will be held and next steps identified.

Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Training for New Governors

New Governor Induction

Saturday 19 November 2011

Saturday 10 March 2012

Windsor House

9.30am - 1pm

This is an opportunity to explore, with other new governors, the roles and responsibilities of governing bodies, head teachers and the Local Authority. We will also examine the three main roles of governors: strategic, critical friend and accountability and discuss what techniques can be used to give you confidence in fulfilling these roles. The course also offers a chance to exchange experiences with other governors and to learn about visiting school.

Target audience: All new governors or experienced governors wishing to update their knowledge and skills

Our popular morning course is also delivered as a daytime or evening session at Windsor House for those unable to attend on a Saturday.

Wednesday 7 December 2011

9.30am - 1pm

Monday 9 January 2012

6pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday 23 May 2012

6pm - 8.30pm

New governors are also encouraged to review courses on key governance issues including Personnel Matters, Health and Safety and Finance, specifically for beginners.
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Liaison Governors' Group

Thursday 14 December 2011	6.30pm - 8pm
Thursday 22 March 2012	6.30pm - 8pm
Thursday 12 July 2012	6.30pm - 8pm

The Liaison Governors' Group, which meets at Windsor House, is made up of governors from across the city who meet to discuss the service and training provided by the Governor Development Team. These meetings give the team a chance to share the feedback from courses and to discuss ways the team shapes their service to give support and develop governors' (including head teachers' and clerks') skills. The group currently consists of approximately 25 governors but we always welcome new members. If you wish to join this group please ring and let us know in order that papers may be sent to you in advance.

Listening to you and shaping our service as a result

Please continue to feedback your views to us. As a result of your evaluations we have:-

- Increased the range of 30 and 45 minute themes
- Introduced new tutors to individual Governing Body training including Laura Stacey – Health and Safety and Simon White - Safeguarding
- Continued to provide courses specifically for Secondary governors on topics requested by delegates attending previous training sessions
- Amended course material
- Provided a new range of courses to attract both experienced and new governors – if you have never attended a course please take a look and see if there is something which would be useful to you and your fellow governors.

Training for all Governors

Equalities

Wednesday 21 September 2011

6.30pm - 8pm

Windsor House

The Equality Act is the most significant piece of equality legislation for many years. It simplifies streamlines and strengthens the law. It gives individuals greater protection from unfair discrimination and makes it easier for employers and companies to understand their responsibilities. It also sets a new standard for those who provide public services to treat everyone, with dignity and respect.

This training will provide governors with an overview of the duties and responsibilities that schools have under the Equality Act 2011 in relation to provision of education and access to benefits, facilities or services, both educational and non-educational that a school provides or offers to provide for pupils. Schools also have duties as employers, bodies which carry out public functions and service providers, some reference will be made to this however the main focus of the training will be in relation to the provision made for pupils

Governors are encouraged to invite their head teacher to accompany them to this important course.

Tutor: To be confirmed

Looked After Children

Thursday 22 September 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course will be presented by the Plymouth Looked After Children Education (PLACE) Team and will focus on four key areas which are of importance to governors:

- Children in Care in Plymouth - the current picture
- The role of the LAC Governor
- Statutory Responsibilities for Governing Bodies - what it means for you
- Developing good practice in your school

Tutor: Zoe Masters - Education Consultant (Children in Care)

Special Education Needs (SEN)

Tuesday 27 September 2011

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Windsor House

Most governing bodies have a named governor who monitors the delivery of education and opportunity to those children and young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN). But what exactly is the role and responsibilities of the governing body and what questions need to be asked to be a champion of the SEN role? What data is available and how are children defined as having special needs? This course explores the process of statementing, discusses expectations and will clarify the role and responsibilities.

Tutor: Linda Dawes – SEN Adviser

Attendance and the role of Education Welfare Officers

Wednesday 28 September 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

Ofsted have always focussed on attendance and the impact on learning from children who regularly arrive late at school. This course will give governors an insight to the work of the city Education Welfare Officers and the role they play in addressing attendance and welfare issues.

Tutor: Brian Gould - Senior Education Welfare Officer

Occupational Health and Wellbeing including Stress Management

Thursday 29 September 2011

6.30pm to 8.30pm

Windsor House

A briefing on the key strategic issues and interventions around the Health & Wellbeing of staff including the development of resilient staff and the effective use of Occupational Health Services and Health Promotion tools.

Tutors: Michelle Hingston-Wood – Health, Safety and Wellbeing Technician

Laura Stacey - Health, Safety & Wellbeing Adviser

The importance of school dinners

Wednesday 12 October 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

Good nutrition is a key factor to learning. This session will allow governors to learn about their role in providing school dinners and encouraging healthy eating within school. News of latest initiatives will be shared.

Tutor: Brad Pearce - Education Catering Manager

Making sense of school performance data

Thursday 13 October 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

The amount of data captured by schools is vast but how can governors best utilise it to aid their school improvement agenda. This course will outline different systems used in schools and discuss how governors can access data, use it effectively and increase their monitoring and evaluation skills.

Tutor: Stephanie Thomas – Senior Adviser (Primary Achievement)

Ethnic Minority Achievement Team (EMAT)

Wednesday 19 October 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

As part of the 0-19 Achievement Team the EMAT provide support and advice for schools to ensure all ethnic minority children are provided with opportunities to reach their full potential. This session will focus on showing governors how they can work positively with their schools to:

- raise the standards of achievement for all Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) pupils
- meet the needs of pupils learning English as an Additional Language (EAL)
- 'narrow the gap' for BME pupils at risk of underachieving
- support the inclusion of Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) pupils
- support equality and diversity in schools

Tutor: Lucinda Ross - Education Adviser - Assessment, EMA, MFL

0-19 Achievement Team

Performance Management

Thursday 20 October 2011 and repeated again on

Thursday 3 November 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

Under the Performance Management Regulations (2007) governors must have a suitable Performance Management policy which meets national deadlines ensuring that by 31 October all teaching staff have agreed targets and by 31 December that the head teacher's performance management objectives are agreed and previous objectives assessed.

This course explains the process of head teacher Performance Management, and will discuss how performance can be assessed and monitored.

Tutor: Stephanie Thomas – Senior Adviser (Primary Achievement)

Working Together – Executive Head teachers

Thursday 10 November 2011

4pm – 6pm

Windsor House

The role of Executive Head is now one of many new models available to governors. This sets up new systems of working and opens up opportunities for the traditional working relationship of the Head, Chair and Clerk to be redesigned to meet new and exciting futures. The course will be limited to Executive heads and their Chairs, governors and clerks but will aim to produce a document which can be made available to future governors contemplating headship recruitment.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Working with Co-ordinators

Thursday 17 November 2011

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

Are you a governor with responsibility for a particular curriculum subject? Would you like to know how to monitor the development of literacy/numeracy/science/ICT etc within your school? This course aims to explain the role of link governors and will advise you how to establish a good working relationship with curriculum co-ordinators. It will also consider how you can plan effective visits to your school and how to prepare curriculum link reports for feeding back to your fellow governors.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Safeguarding arrangements in schools

Monday 21 November 2011

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Windsor House

The course will cover areas such as the role of the governing body in safeguarding, vetting & barring arrangements in schools, managing allegations and concerns against staff, volunteers and the Ofsted safeguarding inspection framework.

Tutor: Simon White – Safeguarding Business Manager

Introduction to Health and Safety

Thursday 24 November 2011

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Windsor House

Have you just joined a Premises or Buildings and Sites' committee or are you interested in how governors can ensure the Health and Safety of the school community? This course explains the governing body's role and responsibilities.

Tutor: Laura Stacey – Health, Safety & Wellbeing Adviser

Gifted and talented

Wednesday 30 November 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course will discuss the role of a governor with responsibility for Gifted and Talented pupils. The course will define how gifted and talented is measured and discuss strategies available in schools to ensure these children are stretched in order to continue their learning.

Tutor: Stephanie Thomas – Senior Adviser (Primary Achievement)

An introduction to Finance Budget Monitoring for New Governors

Thursday 1 December 2011

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course will offer key information for governors about who the Plymouth City Council's Finance team are, what support and help they can offer and will explain the role of governors within financial accountability of their schools. This course is a must for new members of the Finance Committee or for governors seeking a wider understanding of budget planning within a school or college.

Tutor: Anita Martin – Senior Accountant

Early Years Foundation Stage

Tuesday 13 December 2011

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

The importance of early years development has never been doubted but it is an area where few governors have sound knowledge of the levels of development and the services which should be available to our children as they enter playgroups and school.

The course will include information about the work of the Early Years team supporting learning at that most key stage of a child's development.

Tutor: To be confirmed

The new Ofsted Framework 2012

Tuesday 10 January 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

January 2012 sees the introduction of the new Ofsted Framework. The course outlines the changes and demonstrates how governors can meet the new challenges and provide suitable evidence of good and outstanding governance. This course will be repeated on Wednesday 25th January.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Human Resource (HR) Matters – An introduction

Thursday 12 January 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

An introduction to the Local Authority Human Resources Team who support our city schools. This course will explain the team's work and describe the type of HR issues governors will need to be aware of as well as detailing the help HR advisers can give governors.

Tutors: Steve Jones and Graeme Catling – Senior Human Resources Advisers

Working Collaboratively

Monday 23 January 2012

4pm – 5.30pm

Windsor House

This course discusses collaboration and the benefits it can bring and the pitfalls to be avoided. How can governors encourage collaboration at both a school and governing body level. Guest presenters will include those who have set up formal and informal collaborations and will offer a chance for governors to discuss best practice.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

The new Ofsted Framework 2012

Wednesday 25 January 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

January 2012 sees the introduction of the new Ofsted Framework. The course outlines the changes and demonstrates how governors can meet the new challenges and provide suitable evidence of good and outstanding governance.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Family Fischer Trust (FFT) and the Plymouth matrix

Thursday 26 January 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

The Fischer Family Trust is an independent, non-profit organisation which is mainly involved in undertaking and supporting projects addressing the development of education in the UK. It helps the LA and Schools to make more effective use of Performance Data. Plymouth LA has also developed the Plymouth Matrix – a unique database supporting school improvement. This course is designed to explain the two systems and to describe how best governors can use data to best effect to support self-evaluation, assessment and target setting.

Tutor: To be confirmed

An introduction to Budget Planning for new governors

Thursday 2 February 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course seeks to explain key financial data and demonstrates how school budgets are calculated. This course demonstrates different funding streams and explains about devolved capital.

Tutor: Anita Martin – Senior Accountant

Performance Management – mid year review training

Tuesday 7 February 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

With the targets for your head teacher set by December and a full review not due until a year later how important is it for Performance Management governors to monitor performance throughout the year? The tutor will describe the best review methods and the data available to assist governors.

Tutor: Stephanie Thomas - Senior Adviser (Primary Achievement)

Cyberbullying and ICT safety

Thursday 9 February 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

Cyberbullying is when a child is tormented, threatened, harassed, humiliated, embarrassed or otherwise targeted by another child using the Internet, interactive and digital technologies or mobile phones. It has to have a minor on both sides, or at least have been instigated by a minor against another minor. As governors we have a duty to protect our children whilst in school and to educate parents. This course will discuss how best we can tackle this difficult subject and what protection can be put in place.

Tutor: To be confirmed

Family violence – the effect on children

Wednesday 22 February 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

Domestic abuse is a complex problem that requires a range of complex responses. It is hard to address, because other adults rarely witness the abuse and the survivor is likely to have family, financial and emotional links with the perpetrator. Most domestic abuse occurs in what should be a safe and supportive relationship and often in the presence of children. This course aims to give governors a better understanding of the problem and the effect on children in your school. It will advise on the strategies which come into place and how the immeasurable pain and suffering can be reduced.

Tutor: Katy Bradshaw, Children's Service Team Leader

Plymouth Domestic Abuse Service

Raising the Participation Age – implications for schools and academies

Monday 27 February 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

Raising the Participation Age (RPA) was a key strategy of the previous labour Government. In the autumn 2010, through the Comprehensive Spending Review and the White Paper "The Importance of Teaching" the new Coalition Government confirmed its commitment to the RPA. The Strategy, which will impact on learners from 2013, has huge implications for all: parents and carers, academies and school staff; FE staff; governors; employers, the Voluntary and Community Sector; Services for Children and Young People.

In the workshop, participants will have the opportunity to find out about the work that Plymouth LA with its partners has been doing in its capacity as a DfE funded trial area and to explore implications of the legislation, including for school/academies governors

Tutor: Annie Singer – Senior Adviser, Secondary Education

Outdoor Education

Tuesday 6 March 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

With the trend towards Academy Status the responsibility for the safety of staff and students now resides with these independent schools. What are the implications for management? Employer Guidance for staff is it up to the current job and what is necessary to ensure compliance, reduce the paperwork and crucially provide the confidence to staff, parents children and young people to offer a programme that will change lives.

Tutor: Martin Northcott – Outdoor Education Manager

Role of the Parent Governor

Thursday 8 March 2011

6.30pm - 8pm

Windsor House

We examine the role of the parent governor in this course. Parents sometimes feel that separating governance and parental responsibilities is difficult. Do parents represent other parents or are they a representative of the parent community? This course explores how you can fulfil the role, ensuring that the parent voice is heard at the governing body meetings whilst keeping the focus on all children in the school.

We will discuss how you can separate issues relating to your children to strategic governance and how involved you should be in submitting other parents' views, especially when they relate to complaints.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

PSHEE (Personal, Social, Health and Economic Education)

Monday 12 March 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course will give governors an opportunity to learn about the outcomes of recent major reviews of the national curriculum and the inclusion of PSHEE education in Government White Papers on education and public health.

Schools Minister Nick Gibb insisted that the review of PSHEE would be given a high priority, and that while Ofsted had found the subject was taught well in many places, more needed to be done to improve it across the school system. The new Ofsted Framework, starting January 2012, will address these points.

This course will be aimed at primary school governors but will be repeated if there is demand for secondary colleagues.

Tutors: Jono Madeley and Karl Sweeney

Health and Safety – First Aid and Accident reporting

Wednesday 14 March 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

This course will explain the governor's role in ensuring vital First Aid procedures are followed in schools and colleges. It will cover aspects of what first aid equipment is needed, what facilities should be available, and what training staff will need to fulfil statutory responsibilities when providing first aid services for children and young people.

Tutor: Laura Stacey – Health and Safety Adviser

Music in the Curriculum

Tuesday 20 March 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Windsor House

All schools are required to provide regular class music for a reasonable length of timer for all pupils up to the end of Key stage 3 and to offer music at Key Stage 4. Most secondary and many primary schools, often in partnership with the local music service (PYMS), offer opportunities for instrumental and vocal tuition to take place in the school. All head teachers and governors will want music to be the best possible experience for both the pupils' sake and to enhance the cultural life of the school and community. The aims of this training will be:

- To provide an insight into the music curriculum.
- To show how the musical life of the school can provide benefit to all pupils in your school.
- To help you develop the musical life of your school to give pupils an effective, imaginative, exciting and coherent music curriculum.
- To help the school to fulfill its legal responsibilities and identify ways in which your school's provision can be improved.
- To provide guidance on financial matters relating to music provision
- To answer any questions you may have.

Tutor: Gwyn Price – Head of Plymouth Youth Music Service (PYMS)

Special School Governor training – Evaluating data, what governors need to know
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Tuesday 17 April 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

A course designed for governors of special schools, we look at the data that is collected and how it can be used to ensure that the children receive the best opportunities as well as care in their school.

This course will assist governors in their monitoring and evaluation of school and in making progress on the school improvement agenda.

Tutor: Linda Dawes – SEN Adviser

Asking challenging questions

Thursday 19 April 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

Whether you are a new or more experienced governor asking questions about a specialist area can be daunting. We look to see how governing bodies can be most effective by asking challenging questions and using the responses to plan, monitor and evaluate their school improvement.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Religious Education – Understanding the place of Religious Education in the curriculum

Tuesday 24 April 2012

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Plymouth Centre for Faiths and Cultural Diversity

The session will provide opportunities for Governors to:-

- Understand the legal and educational requirements of RE
- Explore RE's contribution to Spiritual, Moral, Social and Cultural development
- Experience RE's role in personal development and well being,.

Tutor: Jonathan Marshall - RE adviser for Plymouth Schools

Human Resources (HR) Matters

Wednesday 25 April 2012

6.30pm - 8pm

Windsor House

Our school HR advisers will give governors an update on all staffing matters, including changes in policies and legislation. This course will allow plenty of time for a question and answer session.

Tutors: Steve Jones and Graeme Catling – Senior Human Resources Advisers

Working with parents

Monday 30 April 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

Ofsted inspectors always focus on how schools and governors engage with the parent community. Whilst parents are represented on the governing body this course explores how governors can seek engagement with the parents when reviewing policies, doing surveys and parent activities. We will learn from governing bodies who engage with parents when writing the School Improvement Plan and those with parent councils.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Risk Assessment and Workplace inspection

Thursday 10 May 2012

Windsor House

6.30pm – 8.30pm

Do you understand your responsibilities in relation to risk assessment? Have you carried out workplace inspections of your schools and didn't really understand what you were expected to do? If you don't feel that you are confident to make sense of the risk assessment process and workplace inspection, this course is for you.

Tutor: Laura Stacey – Health, Safety & Wellbeing Adviser

Interviewing Skills – Making the right impression*

Tuesday 22 May 2012

Windsor House

6.30pm - 8.30pm

Sitting on an interview panel can be quite daunting if you have not interviewed anyone before. This course will, with an injection of humour, aim to give governors confidence in how this role can be carried out confidently and how potential pitfalls can be avoided.

Tutors: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Stephanie Thomas - Senior Education Adviser

*A bespoke version of this course is made available to governing bodies which are in the process of recruiting Head teachers

Service families

Thursday 24 May 2012

Windsor House

6.30pm – 8pm

During 2011 almost all our Service families had an adult deployed in Afghanistan or away at sea. Plymouth City Council Staff and linked welfare agencies have been busy briefing schools and settings of what this means, especially the deployment to Afghanistan. As school governors, you will want to be equally well briefed on the details we are able to share. You may also want to hear about our new and innovative Service children's group and the pupil premium for Service children.

This brief session will focus on what we can tell you about current deployments, what good practice is already supporting our schools followed by questions and discussion.

Tutor: Heather Ogburn – Senior Adviser (Raising Aspiration and Narrowing the Gap)

Working together

Monday 28 May 2012

4pm – 6pm

Windsor House

The relationship between head teacher, chair of governors and clerk is one that should be the glue that binds the strategic leadership team of a school together and can mean the difference between successful governance and disaster. In a small group we will explore what governing bodies should expect from school leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing bodies.

Tutor: Karen Powell – Governor Development Officer

Special School governor training

Tuesday 12 June 2012

6.30pm – 8pm

Windsor House

We will be inviting special school governors to a question and answer session where guests providing services to special schools can answer questions from governors or present their latest news to governors. We ask governors to book early for this course so that we can arrange speakers as requested by the governors themselves.

Tutors : various