

News Bulletin



LIGHTHOUSE
SCHOOLS PARTNERSHIP

Issue 12: 29 November 2023



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Introduction

Dear everyone,

I hope that you forgive me turning to the grim subject of funding once again. You will be aware that we have been pursuing the Department for Education (DfE) with questions and challenge about their decision not to increase the Minimum Per Pupil Funding Level (MPPFL) in line with other funding streams. This has been the root cause of much of the challenging situation we currently find ourselves in as more than half our schools are on rock bottom funding. The new Schools Minister, Damian Hinds, wrote back to me last week. He has confirmed that the decision to withhold this funding was strategic and has given the justification that MPPFL had been increased higher than other factors in previous years. You can read his letter [here](#).

If anything I am now even more angry; the point of MPPFL or floor funding (it is of course to ensure that the lowest funded schools are not left too far behind) and to take the decision not to increase it simultaneously with granting inflationary pay awards is unjustifiable.

In slightly better news, the ESFA have confirmed that our Trust might be eligible to receive 'hardship funding' in recognition that we have been negatively affected by the funding decisions. We think that we have a strong case as MPPFL schools are disproportionately represented in our MAT. Louise Malik and I have been working with the DfE to make the case and provide the evidence. While I can make no promises, I do want you to know that we are working politically with the DfE to have our voice heard.

I also recognise how much personal pressure the funding situation is putting onto School Leaders, School Business Managers and Local Governing Bodies. In the last week I have seen this strain on the faces of strong and tough colleagues who are usually stoic about the challenges of leadership. Please reach out if there is anything that I can do, if you want to talk matters through or need to let off some steam.

In much brighter news, last week, we received Blagdon Primary Schools's Ofsted report back—we have known for a long time that Blagdon was a 'Good' school, but it is very pleasing to have the official confirmation of this in their [graded Ofsted Inspection](#). Our Trust is very proud of the work that Jenny Campbell, her colleagues and her governors have done to transform the environment and the educational experience at Blagdon. It is now one of Lighthouse Schools Partnership's best schools. Well done Blagdon Primary School!

As ever,

Gary



Admission Arrangements 2025-26


A reminder that the Trust is publicly consulting on the admission arrangements for 2025-26 for primary and secondary schools within North Somerset. The consultation period will run from Monday 27 November 2023 - Friday 19 January 2024 and the draft documents can be found on the [LSP website](#).

North Somerset Schools should share the consultation details with parents, including the deadline, and confirm that any comments, feedback or questions relating to these consultations should be emailed directly to the [LSP Central Offices](#) by 9.00am on Friday 19 January 2024. Placing a link on your website to the LSP webpage is also recommended.

The 2025-26 Admission Arrangements for LSP schools within BANES have also been published on the [LSP website](#). Please note that we are not consulting on these documents.

In addition to the LSP Consultation a large number of schools across the local area are also running consultations on their Admission Arrangements for 2025-26.

We have created a summary sheet, with all of the consultations we have been made aware of, should you wish to check or comment what is being proposed (schools may well have received notification of these consultations directly from the relevant local authority as well).

 [Click here](#) to view the details we have received so far - this is a live document so if/when we receive further notifications we will add them to the list.

Safeguarding Audits—NSC Schools

Janine Ashman, Director of Learning, has confirmed that North Somerset Council are able to accept the LSP Safeguarding Audits that have been done this term instead of schools completing the NS S175. Paul Cox at North Somerset Council, has requested however, that schools complete [the attached reflective questions](#).

Please can you add the reflective questions (link above) to the end of your LSP Safeguarding audit before submitting to Paul. When you do, please can you copy Lighthouse Learning (lighthouselearning@lsp.org) into the email so that we can keep a master copy.



Reminder: LSP Newsletter

Don't forget to send in any stories or photos that you would like to be included in the LSP Newsletter. The Newsletter will now be published at the start of Term 3.

However, please ensure any articles you want to include are sent to [Leah Evans, Communications Officer](#), by Thursday 7 December.

North Somerset Council Local Plan 2039

The draft of the North Somerset Council Local Plan 2039 has now been published. The Plan identifies where development can and cannot take place in North Somerset, guiding investment for new housing, jobs, transport and community facilities over the next 15 years.

It is currently open for comments, with a deadline of 5pm on **Monday 22 January 2024** for any comments to be submitted.

You can view the Local Plan and submit comments on the [North Somerset Council website](#).

Children's Commissioner: 'The Big Appeal'

The Children's Commissioner for England has launched **The Big Ambition**, a national survey of children and young people across England.

The aim of the survey is hear from children and young people about what is important to them and share this with the Government and policy makers to make sure their voices are heard.

The survey can [be accessed here](#) and will be open for responses until will be open until **Friday 15 December**.



Support with the Operational Review -SBM input needed

Thank you to the School Business Managers who offered their help with the operational review. We were able to take up the offer from two of our School Business Managers who met with Tim Perkin last week. The meeting was very helpful and has provided some really useful feedback in the development of our proposals. Work with these two School Business Managers is continuing. If you would like to discuss the Operational Review at any time please do not hesitate to [contact me](#).

Louise Malik

Chief Financial and Operating Officer

HR UPDATES

Workforce Census - Primary Schools

All Primary Schools have been sent their .xml files ready to be uploaded to the DfE Collect system. This is a reminder that the **final** deadline for errors to be corrected or any comments to be added is the **Friday 1 December** as the census needs to be submitted by this date. If you have any questions, please contact Laura via hr@lsp.org.uk.

December Payroll deadlines

Please note the payroll deadline for **December** is **5pm on Wednesday 29 November**. Trial reports will be available via the 'Neo People SharePoint' folder on Tuesday 5 December, however schools can check payroll inputs in iTrent prior to this date using 'Payslip History'. The December pay day is Friday 15 December.

The Central HR team will be sending the Teachers' pay progression inputs directly to Neo People in time for December payrun.



Deadline: Changes to your Local Governing Body

As you are aware, Trustees will be reviewing Local Governing Body (LGB) changes and appointments at their meeting on Tuesday 12 December. Please ensure that you have completed the [online form](#) (which is stored on the LSP Clerks SharePoint), notifying us of any updates to your LGB, by **12 noon on Friday 1 December**. Anything submitted after this deadline will not be considered until March 2024.

It is worth noting that Trustees can make re-appointments in advance (for example reappoint in December for a term of office which will expire in February 2024).

If you have any questions please contact [Chris Hills, Governance Professional](#).

Structures of Governance Review


In the new year we are looking to review our structures of governance, including the role of the Local Governing Body (LGB) with a focus on making sure each tier adds value to our Trust. We are looking for expressions of interest from governors who would like to be part of a small working party to begin this work. If you would be interested, please [email me](#) by Monday 18 December.

This will be the first step; prior to any change there will be consultation with all school leaders and governors.

Adele Haysom
Chair of Trustees

Reminders for Clerks

A few reminders/updates for Clerks this week:

- **Circulation of LSP News Bulletin** - please can you ensure that you forward the email containing the link to the LSP weekly news bulletin (sent every Wednesday morning) to your Local Governing Body as promptly as possible.
- **LSP Link Governors** - as mentioned in the bulletin on [Wednesday 15 November](#), please can you ensure that you update the  [central spreadsheet](#) with the names and (school) contact details for your LGB link governors for 2023-24 by **Thursday (30 November)**.
- **LSP LGB Minute Template** - Chris Hills, Governance Professional, will be emailing Clerks and Chairs the first draft of a Trust-wide minute template. This template has been put together using both National Governance Association (NGA) guidance and by looking at the documentation already being created by LSP schools. Hopefully there will not be too many changes/additional sections, and some of those that have been added should assist you in administration activities (for example the register/attendance list). If you could take a look, and trial this template over your next few LGB meetings, we would be most grateful. Please also shape your agendas to reflect the order of the headings in the minutes so that we have a consistent order/look across the Trust. Please [email Chris](#) with any feedback you may have.

If you have any questions about any of the above, feel free to [contact Chris](#).



Upcoming Lighthouse Learning Sessions and CPD Networks

Please email [Lighthouse Learning](#) if you have any questions about the below events.

Date	Event
Thursday 30 November	Teaching and Learning Leaders (Primary) Working Party
Monday 4 December 3.00-6.00pm	SEND Law and Funding Training with Garry Freeman Online <i>All Heads and SBMs invited to attend</i>
Term 3	
Monday 8 January 3.45 - 5.00pm	Maths Network (Primary). Online
15 January onwards	Primary Moderation Week. More details to be circulated shortly.
Monday 15 January 3.45-5.00pm	Assessment Network (Primary). Online
Monday 22 January	SEND Network. Online More details to be circulated shortly.

Reminder: SEND Law and Funding Training with Garry Freeman

A reminder that on **Monday (4 December)** SEND consultant Garry Freeman will be running an online session on SEND Law and Funding 3.00-6.00pm. Heads and SBMs have already been sent the MS Teams invitation link for this event.

If you have any questions/access concerns please email [Lighthouse Learning](#).



KEY LINKS, DATES AND DEADLINES

These reminders do not replace the Annual Planner so please ensure you are checking this regularly.

Please note the following links will only work for those who already have access to the relevant site or folder. If you feel you need to be given permission to access something please let us know.

[Click here to access the Annual Planner \(via Sharepoint\)](#)

[Click here to access an index of previous bulletin articles](#)

[Click here to access previous editions of the LSP weekly bulletin](#)

DATE	KEY DATE OR DEADLINE	FAO
Friday 1 December 12 noon	Deadline to submit changes or updates to LGB via <u>online form</u>	Clerks
Thursday 7 December	Deadline to submit news articles and festive designs for trust-wise newsletter/use	All



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