

Governor Development Opportunities

Learners First is an inclusive school partnership built around a successful 0-19 teaching school model. Its primary focus is to build excellence and address underperformance in equal measure through system led school improvement and leadership development. The partnership is school led and is driven by the Mission and the need to ensure improved outcomes for children and young people.

The Mission

All students making at least good progress

No underperforming cohorts

All teachers delivering at least good learning

All schools moving to at least the next level of successful performance

Effective governance has always been crucial to the success of schools and academies but never more so than now when governance features so decisively in the current Ofsted Framework. The effective development and support for school and academy governors is critical if the aim of transforming school leadership at all levels and developing a culture of high expectations, high impact and high challenge is to be achieved. As a result, Governor Development continues to be core area of work for Learners First.

Learners First offer a wide range of governor development opportunities and following a successful tendering process is delighted to be working in partnership with Sheffield City Council on the delivery of the following Governor Development opportunities. The opportunities outlined overleaf have been developed in partnership with a range of headteachers and National Leaders of Governance (NLGs) and are provided to all Sheffield schools and academies subscribing to Sheffield City Council's Governor Development Package for 2015-16, free at the point of access. Additional sessions in relation to the below themes will be made available in the spring and summer terms, details of which will be circulated in the second half of autumn 2015.

- Induction for New Governors
- Ofsted – New Framework Updates for Governors
- Understanding School Data
- Governing Body Skills & Experience Audit
- Holding Leadership to Account and Performance Management

Please note, other governor development opportunities provided by Learners First are available to Sheffield schools and academies to access, however, these sit outside the contract with Sheffield City Council and are therefore chargeable on a per-person fee. Please see www.learnersfirst.net for further details.

Induction for New Governors (ING) Programme

Cohort 1: 30th Sept; 7th Oct; 14th Oct; and 21st Oct 2015 (Ref: ING11)

Times for all sessions: 6-8pm held at Wickersley School & Sports College

Cohort 2: 23rd Nov; 30th Nov; 7th Dec; and 14th Dec 2015 (Ref: ING12)

Times for all sessions: 6-8pm held at The Source Skills Academy, Meadowhall

The ING programme aims to support new governors to play an active and valuable part in their governing body from an early stage. The programme is relevant for governors from all phases and settings and is organised into four core sessions that look at moral purpose, strategic leadership, accountability and the role of governors as a critical friend. Attendance at all four sessions is required. The programme aims to support new governors to better understand:

- the role of governing bodies and why they exist
 - how to be an effective member of a governing body
 - the key roles and responsibilities of governing bodies in contributing to school improvement
 - the different and complementary roles of the headteacher and the governing body
 - roles of different stakeholders and their relationship with the governing body
- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** New Governors
 - **COST:** For governors from schools/academies subscribing to Learners First Governor Offer either directly or via the Sheffield City Council subscription, the cost of this event will be met in full (excluding any cover and travel costs). For delegates from non-subscribing schools the cost is £200.00 per person.
 - **RESERVE A PLACE:** Please email teachingschool@wickersley.net clearly stating your name, school, contact details, and the reference number of your preferred cohort to reserve a place. Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

* * * * *

Ofsted – New Framework Updates for Governors

Cohort 1: 24th September 2015, 6-8pm held at The Source Skills Academy, Meadowhall (Ref: LFONF01)

Cohort 2: 12th November 2015, 6-8pm held at The Source Skills Academy, Meadowhall (Ref: LFONF02)

Under the new Ofsted Inspection Framework for schools, the expectations placed on school governors continues to grow and Ofsted have sharpened their focus on effective governance at inspection.

A governing body must now be highly skilled and able to commit the time needed to perform an effective role. As a result, the challenge of effective governance is more crucial than ever before.

The course will:

- Clarify the Ofsted governance expectations in the new framework and what evidence you will need to provide at your next inspection
 - Understand what the changes mean for your school
 - Look at practical ways to prepare for & implement the changes.
- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Governors
 - **COST:** For governors from schools/academies subscribing to Learners First Governor Offer either directly or via the Sheffield City Council subscription, the cost of this event will be met in full (excluding any cover and travel costs). For delegates from non-subscribing schools the cost is £50.00 per person.
 - **RESERVE A PLACE:** Please email teachingschool@wickersley.net clearly stating your name, school, contact details, and the reference number of your preferred cohort to reserve a place. Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

* * * * *

Understanding School Data

Cohort 1: 22nd October 2015, 6-8pm held at The Source Skills Academy, Meadowhall (Ref: LFUSD01)

Cohort 2: 26th November 2015, 6-8pm held at The Source Skills Academy, Meadowhall (Ref: LFUSD02)

This session will be led by Helen O' Brien, Headteacher of Rawmarsh Community School and John Brennan, a National Leader of Governance who also has previous Ofsted experience.

The session will provide an opportunity to explore the use of data in its widest sense. Through practical examples, it will consider how governing bodies use pupil performance data, including some background on assessment without levels and the new Ofsted criteria for achievement. It will also look at the construction and use of other data indicators that lie beyond the academic performance of pupils.

- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Governors
- **COST:** For governors from schools/academies subscribing to Learners First Governor Offer either directly or via the Sheffield City Council subscription, the cost of this event will be met in full (excluding any cover and travel costs). For delegates from non-subscribing schools the cost is £50.00 per person.
- **RESERVE A PLACE:** Please email teachingschool@wickersley.net clearly stating your name, school, contact details and the reference number of your preferred cohort to reserve a place. Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

* * * * *

Governing Body Skills & Experience Audit

Cohort 1: 2nd December 2015 and 7th March 2016, 6-8pm held at Wickersley School & Sports College (Ref: LFSEA02)

Strong governance is essential for good schools. In many schools though governing bodies are not as effective or confident as they would like to be. The key role of governing bodies is to support and challenge headteachers in order to ensure pupils receive the best possible education. In the changing educational landscape governing bodies need support and challenge too. Conducting a skills audit is challenging for a governing body so at Learners First we are offering to train a maximum of two candidates from each school on how to conduct a governing body skills and experience audit. The course consists of two evenings:

1) The 20 questions

The 20 questions activity enables every governing body to challenge its own practice. Candidates will be trained to lead a discussion based on what evidence is available to governors and what actions can be taken by governors that impact on school improvement.

2) A skills audit

This exercise trains candidates to identify the life and work skills of governors and match them to the skills required for school governance. Based on the findings from the two parts of this activity the candidates will be given guidance on how to construct an action plan that encompasses the governing bodies training needs.

- **TARGET AUDIENCE:** Governors
- **COST:** For governors from schools/academies subscribing to Learners First Governor Offer either directly or via the Sheffield City Council subscription, the cost of this event will be met in full (excluding any cover and travel costs). For delegates from non-subscribing schools the cost is £100.00 per person.
- **RESERVE A PLACE:** Please email teachingschool@wickersley.net clearly stating your name, school, contact details, and reference number to reserve a place. Please note places are limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis.

* * * * *

Holding Leadership to Account & Performance Management

There is a clear requirement for governors to have a role in holding leadership to account and in performance management. In response to feedback Learners First will be offering twilight training for governors on these areas during the autumn term. Further information and booking details about these sessions will be made available in the very near future. To express an interest in attending this course please send your name, school and contact details to teachingschool@wickersley.net.

* * * * *

Spring/Summer Term dates will be circulated in the second half of Autumn Term

CONTACT US

Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Learners First team if you have any questions regarding the offer or would like additional information about these events. Regular updates about all Learners First opportunities will be circulated to schools on a regular basis and will also be made available on the Learners First website.

 (01709) 542147 or 731272

 teachingschool@wickersley.net

 www.learnersfirst.net

The Mission

*All students making at least good progress; No underperforming cohorts;
All teachers delivering at least good learning; and All schools moving to at least the next level of successful performance*