

# Annual Report for Governors 2017



Our LLG Schools Partnership of 26 schools, established in 2011 has again maintained a successful track record this year with our schools continuing to work together, promoting high standards in leadership, through a mix of challenge and support and raising standards of attainment and achievement, working innovatively in pastoral and curriculum development and enrichment. 96% of our schools are now good or better in terms of their Ofsted categorisation.

This year we have developed our model further. Wendy Hughes has acted as our Chair and each of our three smaller local areas has elected two board members.

Following our previous Director's retirement we appointed a new Director, Lisa Morgan, in January 2017, who is again equally qualified for the role having a strong and positive track record in securing school improvement in her previous role in a neighbouring authority. Lisa will, focus exclusively on school improvement, working in classrooms and schools alongside senior staff and school leaders, developing their leadership skills whilst Diane Martindale will continue to fulfil an administrative/business manager role in organising other facets of the consortium delivery plan.

As we all know self evaluation is a fundamental part of the process of continuing improvement to which we are all committed and below there is a brief outline of actions and the impact of various aspects of our delivery plan which was developed by our headteachers working collaboratively at the start of the year at our annual conference. There is also an indication of how we see the company developing next year

A major function of the company is to execute the responsibility for school improvement delegated to each consortium through the LA model. LLG are in a strong position – 25 of our schools (96%) are classed as good or outstanding by Ofsted. The Wigan LA categorisation model however seeks to be proactive in that it identifies schools thought to be potentially vulnerable in some aspect either because of their data or as a result of a poor Ofsted judgement.

Part of the Consortia model that Wigan LA adopted devolves responsibility for providing support for these schools to each consortium. Schools receive funding depending on the level of anticipated support needed so for example a category 3 school receives more funding than a 2B school. Support is provided by consortia Lead Headteachers, again identified through the categorisation system.

This year we have five Headteachers identified as 'Lead heads' based on the performance of their schools over time but we also have a wealth of headteacher expertise and skill within the consortium which we are able to utilise.

We recognise that the systems are not perfect and that data does not always tell the true story so we also have, through the collaborative working of our headteachers, the added insight of local knowledge and understanding of contextual aspects that can impact on the perceived performance of schools and in many ways this allows us to focus on educational impact rather than pure statistical evidence which can paint a false picture.

This year all identified schools have been well supported both by our Lead heads and other LLG colleagues. Our school leads have worked with vulnerable schools to offer support and guidance and met regularly to review progress made. Since January, our Director has visited every school, at least once, to establish a picture of needs within the consortium, undertake school reviews, work with school leaders and give further time to schools where needed. Next year we will build on this further.

Our business manager, Lucy Evans, based at St Thomas CE Primary has provided financial support this year helping us to cost out our development plan and manage resources to achieve best value.

Meetings this year have been as last year with one area, one board and one full partnership meeting each term planned to fit in with the hectic schedule of life in school. Area meetings have facilitated moderation and local issues to be addressed whilst full partnership meetings have allowed collaboration across the consortium in many areas as well as a platform for visiting speakers and for the group to challenge representatives of services accessed by our schools.

Helen Ahmed, Head at Sacred Heart RC Primary, has led our learning mentor meetings. This group is well established and has received training from many agencies this year helping colleagues to support some of our more vulnerable children and their families. In addition they have built a strong network of support and regularly share good practice.

Similarly our Business Manager's group has operated very successfully under the chairmanship of Donna Coburn from Leigh CE and worked together to promote best value in lots of aspects of their work. For example sixteen of our schools worked together to procure an excellent deal for the provision of school meals. We hope to build further on this success in other areas moving forward.

EYFS moderation has taken place across our LLG schools for several years now and again is well established. Led by Clair Gornall, Deborah Catchator and Alison Davies, all experienced LA moderators. This year we have worked in collaboration with the Children's Centre in order to fulfil the expectation of the LA and encourage partnerships with the private and voluntary sector to ease the transition of pupils of private nurseries many of which feed into our schools

This year schools have worked in area groups to moderate writing with meetings led by experienced staff from within LLG schools whilst we have employed a consultant to manage moderation meetings in maths. The opportunity to work alongside a wider range of colleagues has given much needed support to our teachers in this challenging time as schools embed a new curriculum and assessment systems. We have plans to develop this further next year and to exemplify standards for children of differing abilities.

Within LLG there is a strong collegiate and supportive network that schools can 'tap into' but heads new to the role face greater challenges. We have ensured that newly appointed heads have had a named personal mentor.

Developing leadership capability is an essential part of the work of the consortia and to this end heads and deputies have had access to training and opportunities. We have worked with a leadership coach this year with several colleagues going on to access a further professional qualification.

Heads have also had the opportunity to pair up with a leadership partner to share practice at a more intimate level whilst others have worked in smaller groups to organise learning walks in their schools adopting the role of critical yet supportive colleagues.

We have a newly formed Deputy Heads group and hope to address the needs of this group of colleagues next year.

Subject leaders in English, Maths, Science and IT have had opportunity to meet up, share and develop practice supported by experienced staff from within LLG and further afield. This is an aspect of our work that we aim to focus on further next year and one that we feel is fundamental to school improvement.

Following evaluation of last year's work this year we introduced a training programme and a series of sessions for LLG Teaching Assistants which again has been well received and helped to develop the skills of this group of colleagues whose role is increasingly fundamental in delivering high quality provision back in school.

Teachers new to the profession and to the reality of the day to day challenge that life in school brings have also specific needs and had access to training this year. We have had a training programme for NQTs, co-ordinated by one of our headteachers, Julie Anne Hewitt, with sessions delivered by several of our own LLG headteachers and

again this has been very well received and helped to facilitate and establish professional relationships and support for this group of teachers.

Our programme of sporting and competitive events across the consortium has been a great success this year. Steve Hardaker, Head at St Luke's has managed this project which he is planning to develop further next year. The plans for next year are really exciting offering children of all abilities the opportunity to experience different sports (including sailing and new age curling!) and Steve is forging very positive partnerships with other local clubs and organisations. The impact of this work so far is that more schools have achieved the Schools Games Award, many at the highest Gold standard, facilitated by this project and this has led to school improvement and increased opportunities for our children.

We have had a successful year and there is clear and exciting potential for the company to continue to grow further.

Next year our plan is to continue with those aspects established and working well and to focus on how we can, through challenge and support, further promote school improvement and raised standards for our children which is ultimately our fundamental purpose and moral responsibility to those families and children in our care

Thank you for your support.

Lisa Morgan (Director) Diane Martindale (Assistant Director) Wendy Hughes (Chair)