

**DERBYSHIRE SCHOOL  
GOVERNORS'  
ASSOCIATION**

**and**

**DERBYSHIRE  
LOCAL AUTHORITY**

**FRAMEWORK  
FOR  
CONTINUED  
EFFECTIVE  
PARTNERSHIP**

**DSGA**



**D** DERBYSHIRE  
County Council  
Improving life for local people

# DERBYSHIRE SCHOOL GOVERNORS ASSOCIATION

AND

## DERBYSHIRE LOCAL AUTHORITY

### FRAMEWORK FOR CONTINUED EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIP

#### STRATEGIC OVERVIEW

This agreement is designed to secure a structured approach to ensuring the quality and effectiveness of school improvement strategies through a working partnership between the autonomous and independent Derbyshire School Governors' Association and the Derbyshire Local Authority.

School governors have a key role to play, alongside other stakeholders, as champions to improve outcomes for children based on coherent local visions for Children and Younger People and appropriate strategic decision making at school and community levels.

Governors are unique as a wholly volunteer workforce carrying a high degree of responsibility and accountability.

The Association and the Local Authority recognise that school improvements and the achievement of high standards are supported by sound strategic planning on the part of school governing bodies and by the Local Authority.

Thus the Association and the Derbyshire Local Authority share a number of key purposes and aims.

Collectively therefore, we have agreed to work together with common purpose and method to:

- Promote school improvement and high standards of educational achievement.
- Promote high standards of governance and recognise the importance of governors' collective views presented by the Association.
- Promote mutual trust, transparency and communication through partnership working.
- Encourage and develop school governors' understanding and ownership of support for outcomes for children, including the relationship to extended service provision and Children's Centres.

- Encourage, support and promote cooperation between governing bodies to further the interests of all children attending Derbyshire schools, disseminate good practice, and provide regular updates on strategic policy and exchange of information.
- Support and encourage the provision of information, research advice and high quality training for governors and governing bodies in Derbyshire.
- Hold meetings, seminars, workshops, courses, exhibitions or conferences, as appropriate to inform school governors and advance the provision of high quality public education in Derbyshire.
- Facilitate and encourage every Derbyshire school governing body to maintain active interest and participation in Association activities and functions.

Both are learning organisations committed to active, responsive, working partnership.

Derbyshire Local Authority will work with Derbyshire School Governors' Association to secure governor representatives to sit on statutory committees, fora and reference groups as appropriate. The LA will use DSGA as a consultative body on all school related issues as appropriate.

### **PLANNING AND STYLE OF WORKING**

Derbyshire Local Authority and Derbyshire School Governors' Association are committed to working closely and cooperatively, but with rigour and challenge.

#### **They aim to:**

- Have an honest dialogue which supports informed debate, problem solving and planning.
- Share and celebrate joint achievements and successes.
- Seek to conduct their business in an open and consultative manner.
- Ensure all departments and elected members are informed of the partnership agreement and develop and sustain clear channels of communication.

### **JOINT WORKING**

There will be many informal opportunities for working together on issues of mutual concern. However both organisations are committed to meeting formally in the following forums:


Collectively, we agree to work together using the following methods:

- A continual review of partnership arrangements
- Dissemination of information and the sharing of examples of good practice
- A collaborative approach to raising the profile of the respective roles of the Authority and the Association
- A collaborative approach to identifying priorities
- Regular exchanges of information and updates on strategic policy and service changes
- A joint approach to raising awareness of school improvement and promoting governance issues
- To have agreed arrangements in place to ensure a consistent, collaborative, co-ordinated approach to governor systems
- The joint provision of high quality training opportunities closely linked to the identified needs for the governing bodies
- To sustain the independence of the Association. Funding to the organisation will be considered by the Cabinet Member and Director of Children and Younger Adults on an annual basis
- Monitoring and evaluation of the effectiveness of services to schools through Best Value review and feedback to the Authority on the quality of service
- Association representation, where appropriate, on Authority committees and working parties
- Association to be nominating body for governors for election to statutory committees where appropriate
- The need to formalise arrangements to ensure that future partnership is sustainable and continues seamlessly following any changes of personnel at DSGA or LA.

**EVALUATION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THIS PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT**

Both organisations are committed to an ongoing review of the effectiveness of the partnership and will hold an annual evaluative review meeting from the agenda and working practices for the forthcoming year will be agreed.

**Paul Mason, Chair of Derbyshire School Governors' Association**



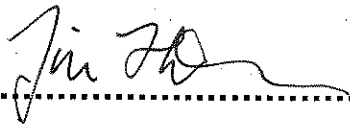
Signed: .....

**John Partington, Secretary, Derbyshire School Governors' Association**



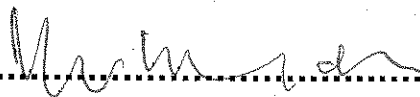
Signed: .....

**Jim Hickman, Assistant Director**



Signed: .....

**Councillor Mike Longden, Cabinet Member for Education**



Signed: .....