

# THE BURY GOVERNOR

## The Joint LA, BGA and BGD Governors' Newsletter Spring Term 2019

### Latest News from BGA & BGD

Dear Governor

Happy New Year from the BGA and BGD.

At the end of the Summer Term, it was decided that in the short-term the BGD Board would continue to offer governor training within Bury.

A full programme was put in place for the Autumn Term and a timetable for the Spring Term has now been completed.

The Board is concerned about the amount of reserves that have been accrued over the last few years, particularly since the move away from Seedfield, this is due to falling overheads.

This position was outlined at the November BGA meeting along with a proposal to return some of the monies back to the schools. After a discussion, the Board felt that it would be better to retain the money and to explore ways of spending it on training for the schools. A formal proposal to this end was passed by 32 votes to 2 with 1 abstention (the officers of the BGA, BGD and facilitator did not vote). Wendy Jackson (Quality Standards and Performance Officer Education and Inclusion Team) then presented on school improvement and the role that governors play in asking challenging questions - her presentation is available on the BGA/BGD website.

Both the BGA and BGD will be meeting in January to consider how best the money might be spent. We will be looking at the training programme, conferences and would welcome any suggestions from governors.

Please do not forget that all governing bodies that have bought in have access through the website to the NGA online training.

If you would like to become involved with the running of the BGA please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards

Richard Ainsworth chair BGA  
&  
Mark Lockwood chair BGD

## **The Prince's Trust Achieve Club – Free resources, support and training for teachers working with disengaged pupils**



Achieve is a fully funded programme which helps to equip 11 to 19 year olds with skills for life. It gives them the opportunity to develop the skills and confidence they need to engage and succeed in education, so they can reach their full potential.

*'The Prince's Trust Achieve programme is uniquely designed to provide a practical approach to support disengaged young people back into mainstream education, while supporting their health and wellbeing'*

Achieve Club allows young people to access a varied curriculum of engaging, relevant activities as well as enrichment opportunities and the option to work toward a qualification in **Personal Development and Employability Skills**. The qualification can be completed at different levels, and the curriculum includes topics such as skills for school, active citizenship, life skills, and preparation for work, amongst others.

Achieve offers training, support and resources for your school staff delivering the programme. It aims to provide an engaging, informal way of learning that helps young people to improve their attainment, attendance, and personal social development.

### **More information?**

**Contact: Holly Baxter:** [Holly.Baxter@princes-trust.org.uk](mailto:Holly.Baxter@princes-trust.org.uk)

### **Summer 2020 National Citizen (NCS) Programme**

This exciting programme takes place over three to four weeks during the summer school holidays for Y11 leavers. The curriculum includes outdoor team building exercises, a university-style residential for participants to learn and practice life skills, a Bury-based social action project and an end of programme celebration event. NCS have delivered assemblies in half of Bury schools with the other half due to be engaged in the New Year. Schools that sign up 50% will receive an award of £1000 for their Year 11 School Council to use to celebrate their success.



**To find out more contact:** [Leanne.cooper@growthco.uk](mailto:Leanne.cooper@growthco.uk)  
and also visit [www.wearencs.com](http://www.wearencs.com)

## Dates for your Diary

Chairs of Governors' Briefings:	14/01/20	23/04/20	09/09/20	6:45pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governors' Association meetings:	03/03/20	09/06/20	12/11/20	7:00 pm Peel Room Town Hall
Bury Governor Development Group—board meetings:	30/01/20			12.30pm St John's Training Room

### Governor Helpline

If you need help with governance issues, please contact the Governor Support Team either by phone or email on:

0161 253 5688 OR 0161 253 5617

[Governors.Support@bury.gov.uk](mailto:Governors.Support@bury.gov.uk)

Or visit our website:

[www.bury.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.bury.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

### For Training Courses

To book a course or for further information:

[www.burygd.co.uk](http://www.burygd.co.uk)

### Bury Governance Development Group

Chair—Mark Lockwood

[M.lockwood@philipshigh.co.uk](mailto:M.lockwood@philipshigh.co.uk)

### Bury Governor Association

Chair—Richard Ainsworth

[r.ainsworth@holcombebrookprimary.org.uk](mailto:r.ainsworth@holcombebrookprimary.org.uk)

## Corporate parenting champions



Statistics show that children in care and care leavers are less likely to have the same access to opportunities and support networks as their peers [*Children Looked After in England, Department of Health, 15 November 2018*]. In order to ensure that this gap is reduced, council employees and elected members should be both aware of and exercising their responsibilities as Corporate Parents. To help develop this further, the Corporate Parenting Champions programme was launched in summer 2019 across Bury Council and Bury CCG. The role is voluntary and not intended to take up extra time, rather just ensure that the needs and aspirations of children and young people in care and care leavers be a consideration in a champions daily work. There will be events and activities that champions can take part in and help run but these will be on a voluntary basis. The programme has the fully backing of JET and is included in the supported employee volunteering policy.

There are now 52 corporate parenting champions signed up to the programme. There are champions across the organisation in various teams. Several events have taken place since the programme started including corporate parenting week, the launch of the supported volunteering scheme for staff, skills sharing sessions held by champions and a highly successful Christmas donation of gifts appeal led by corporate parenting champions. This is great and shows the difference a good corporate parenting offer makes to children and young people in care and care leavers.

If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Jacqui Waite on 0161 253 7340 or [j.waite@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.waite@bury.gov.uk). There will be no obligation to sign up.

### **Corporate Parenting Week**

Corporate Parenting Week took place in Bury from 18<sup>th</sup> – 22<sup>nd</sup> November. The aim of the week was to raise awareness of corporate parenting to all employees of the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Group. Corporate parenting week will take place every year.

During the week a daily email was sent to all employees of the Council and CCG to offer information about how to be a good corporate parent, what it means and some opportunities to get involved.

There were information sessions across the week and an event for staff and young people to celebrate corporate parenting in Bury, find out more, sign up as a Corporate Parenting Champion and make a pledge as a corporate parent.



### **Care Leaver Offer**

The care leaver offer outlines all the support, guidance, entitlements and advice available to for care leavers. This has been coproduced with care leavers and offers a vast range of information about housing, finances, health and wellbeing and training to name a few. The care leaver offer is now available online with its own website hosted by the Bury Directory. This has allowed more information to be added including links to useful sources of information, events pages and feedback pages.

The website was officially launched in September 2019 with the Mayor, Cllr Trevor Holt in attendance.

The care leaver offer can be found at [www.theburydirectory.co.uk](http://www.theburydirectory.co.uk)



## **BURY2GETHER**

BURY2GETHER is a forum for Parents/Carers who have a child/young person with SEND, who access services in Bury. We have been running for over 2.5 years and have over 800 members! To grow our membership further, Bury Council have kindly given us some Max Cards to distribute to all Parent/Carers who sign up as members.

### **What is BURY2GETHER?**

We are primarily an independent, advocacy group, made of up Bury Parent/Carers. We work with Bury Council and Bury CCG, to gather the views of Parent/Carers, which help to shape SEND services.

### **How will Parent/Carers benefit?**

Benefits include:

- Regular newsletters.
- Opportunities to feedback into live consultations.
- Invitations to feedback sessions and focus groups.
- Invitations to our monthly Drop-In sessions, where Parent/Carers get the opportunity to meet parent/carers in similar situations and meet professionals who want to help.
- Signposting to other organisations, services and help.
- Access to workshops such as The National Autistic Society – Managing Anger and Anxiety, a sleep course ran by Together Trust, Posture and Mobility workshops, Sensory workshops and many more!
- AND – invitations to our many social events for children and young people with SEND. For example, we run adapted, inclusive events such as Messy Play, Ranger Robs Animal Adventures, Kids Rock, Halloween Party, Light Night, Bookable (no queue Santa), Girls Friendship Group, Program a Drone, Make your own Rap music, Make your own Musical Instrument, Mako Create who do animation and coding... and much more!

How will your School, Nursery, College benefit?

- This will help parents to support the belief, that you run a supportive, inclusive provision.
- This will provide evidence for Ofsted, that you support the SEND agenda.
- This will help to build positive relationships with Parent/Carers.

If you have any queries, please contact us at [BURY2GETHER@gmail.com](mailto:BURY2GETHER@gmail.com).

Thank you for your continuing support.

Rhiannon Walton

Chair of BURY2GETHER

## SEND Events and Free Resources

Hi all

I wanted to share some interesting events/ activities that are happening this month, and share some useful information and resources.

### Activities

1. Savanna Pool and Snooker club is launching a young person's group on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> January, 5-8pm. This is for **all** young people but has been supported to ensure it is inclusive and accessible for SEND children and young people. The cost is £3 per child  
Further details can be found at [www.savannapool.co.uk](http://www.savannapool.co.uk)
2. Run Together Whitefield is a running club that has couch to 5k sessions alongside longer distance runs, which meets every Tuesday at 7pm. Run Together Whitefield is for people of all ages (though children must run with an adult) and recently launched a 'mental health ambassador scheme' to make sure you have someone to talk to for support. It is a friendly and very inclusive group. You can find further information here: <https://groups.runtogether.co.uk/WhitefieldRunTogether>
3. There is a great Pokémon club on Monday nights in Bury (<https://www.pokemon.com/us/play-pokemon/pokemon-events/leagues/6233437/>) but it is almost at capacity. Due to its popularity, Bury2gether is setting up a SEND Pokémon club where young people can play the trading card game in addition to battling and trading on consoles such as the Nintendo Switch and DS. Updates will be shared on their Facebook page: [https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=375069816225687&ref=br\\_rs](https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=375069816225687&ref=br_rs)

### Events

1. Supporting Neurodivergent Young People in Schools 28<sup>th</sup> January 2019 – This NHS England North regions funded event is free for delegates to attend. You will hear from:
  - a. Schools in the North East where changes in policy have led to improved teacher and pupil outcomes
  - b. Young people autism acceptance and how it feels to be in school
  - c. How Parent Carer Forums have worked with schools and supported parents
  - d. Recommendations from the DfE Timpson review around behaviours that challenge
  - e. Young people with lived experience with an offer to support to school to make reasonable adjustments

You can book on to the event here:

<https://www.events.england.nhs.uk/events/learning-disabilities-and-autism-programme-warrington>

## Resources and Information

A common theme with young people is that they feel they do not understand their diagnoses and what they mean, or that they hate being 'different'. As a result, I have been working with others to create and collate resources which can help young people to understand their diagnoses and to help them to accept and be happier with their differences:

1. The Umbrella Gang – a free comic for 6-12 year olds focused on neurodiversity acceptance: <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Hi-RES-ADHD-Foundation-Umbrella-Gang-comic.pdf>
2. Stories That Never Stand Still – ADHD Guide for teens with ADHD, by teens with ADHD: <https://www.borntobeadhd.co.uk/stories-that-never-stand-still/>
3. Two guides about ADHD for young people and many other fantastic resources can be found on the ADHD Foundation website: <https://www.adhdfoundation.org.uk/>
4. "Welcome to the Autistic Community" the post diagnostic guide for autistic adults can be found here: <https://autisticadvocacy.org/2014/02/welcome-to-the-autistic-community/>
5. A free eBook for older children and teens about 'reframing anxiety': [https://www.playingwithanxiety.com/download\\_ebook.html](https://www.playingwithanxiety.com/download_ebook.html)

Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any comments, questions or would like further information on anything mentioned above.

Kind regards  
Andy Smith  
Inclusion Ambassador/ SEND Advocate  
Bury Council  
0161 253 6409



## GOVERNOR TRAINING

**Chairing effective meetings**, Tuesday 14/01/2020  
12:30pm-3.00pm @ Elms Bank Hub

**Chairing effective meetings**, Tuesday 14/01/2020  
6:00pm-8.30pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**National Induction Course for New Governors**, Tuesday 04/02/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ St John's Training Room

**National Induction Course for New Governors**, Tuesday 04/02/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**Knowing Your School through Effective Visits**, Tuesday 25/02/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ St John's Training Room

**Knowing Your School through Effective Visits**, Tuesday 25/02/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Elms Bank School

**SMSC Briefing for Governors**, Tuesday 03/03/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**SMSC Briefing for Governors**, Tuesday 03/03/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**Providing Effective Challenge**, Thursday 12/03/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ St John's Training Room

**Providing Effective Challenge**, Thursday 12/03/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Elms Bank School

**Understanding the Quality of Teaching & Learning**, Wednesday 18/03/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ St John's Training Room

**Understanding the Quality of Teaching & Learning**, Wednesday 18/03/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Elms Bank School

**Refresher for Experienced Governors**, Wednesday 25/03/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**Refresher for Experienced Governors**, Wednesday 25/03/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Hazel Wood High School

**Handling School Complaints**, Thursday 26/03/2020  
12.30pm-3.00pm @ St John's Training Room

**Handling School Complaints**, Thursday 26/03/2020  
6.00pm-8.30pm @ Elms Bank School



## **You are invited to A day in our Shoes.....**

We are a group of children and young people, supported by Bury SENDiass. We have been given some money by the government to explore what matters to us and now we want your help.

Wednesday, 05/02/20 @ 10.00am – 2.45pm  
Red Hall Hotel, Manchester Road  
Walmersley  
Bury  
BL9 5NA

We want the best for all children and young people with Special Education Needs or Disability in Bury.

If you work in the Bury area, please come along and spend the day with us as we show you what matters in education, health and social care.

To request a place, please email [Bury.Sendiass@barnardos.org.uk](mailto:Bury.Sendiass@barnardos.org.uk)



## Get Information About Schools

All maintained school governing bodies and academy trusts have a legal duty to provide all of the governance information requested on this page in so far as it is available to them. This will increase the transparency of governance arrangements. It will enable schools and the department to identify more quickly and accurately individuals who are involved in governance, and who govern in more than one context. The information requested says nothing in itself about a person's suitability to govern. However, it is essential information for the department to be able to uniquely identify an individual and in a small number of cases conduct checks to confirm their suitability for this important and influential role. You should provide all of the information requested insofar as it is available to you. A minimum set of information needs to be provided before a record can be saved.

To check your school is complying, please visit the following webpage:  
[www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk](http://www.get-information-schools.service.gov.uk)

### **Bury Safeguarding Training Dates**

**Think Family**, Wednesday 29/01/2020  
9:30am-1.00pm @ Bury Business Lodge

**Managing Allegations**, Thursday 06/02/2020  
9:00am-12.30pm @ New Kershaw Centre

**Think Family**, Thursday 16/04/2020  
1.00pm-4.30pm @ Bury Business Lodge

**Trio of Vulnerabilities**, Monday 27/04/2020  
9:00am-5.00pm @ Bury Business Lodge

**Neglect and GCP2**, Wednesday 29/04/2020  
9:00am-5.00pm @ Bury Business Lodge

A full list of courses can be found at:  
[www.buryscbglobal.net/AvailableCoursesList.asp](http://www.buryscbglobal.net/AvailableCoursesList.asp)

**To book a course:** - Log on to the training website and select New Account to create an account. Each person requiring training must have their own account. If you already have an account and have forgotten your login details, please contact June Short at [j.short@bury.gov.uk](mailto:j.short@bury.gov.uk)  
Please note: You can book onto a course that is already fully booked to go on a waiting list.