

Committee(s)	Dated:
Education Board	3 March 2016
Subject: Governor database	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

This report outlines the process for ensuring the City of London Corporation has access to suitably qualified individuals from outside the organisation, whose skills are relevant and appropriate to support City associated schools as governors. It also proposes that when individuals express an interest in becoming a governor at a City school, they should also be signposted to SGOSS so that they are aware of, and able to access, opportunities to become a governor at non-City schools.

Recommendation(s)

Members are asked to endorse the proposal that when individuals express an interest in becoming a governor at a City school, they should also be signposted to SGOSS so that they are aware of, and able to access, opportunities to become a governor at non-City schools.

Main Report

Background

1. The Education Board is responsible for the oversight and monitoring of the City of London Corporation's sponsorship of its academies, including the appointment (or nomination) of governors. It is the City Corporation's usual practice to nominate or appoint to those positions (as relevant) elected Members or suitably qualified individuals from outside the organisation, whose skills and experience (and where appropriate independence from the City Corporation) are sought on the relevant school's governing body.
2. It is important that the City Corporation is able to identify sufficient individuals who have the experience and a variety of skills to become governors and thereby to support City associated schools, in particular the growing number of sole-sponsored academies which will be run by the expanded multi-academy trust, the City of London Academies Trust (the MAT).
3. SGOSS¹, Governors for Schools, is an independent charity dedicated to recruiting volunteers to serve on school governing bodies across England. The City of London Corporation is a founder member and funder of SGOSS.

¹School Governors' One-Stop Shop

Current Position

4. In order to ensure that the City Corporation has access to suitably qualified individuals from outside the organisation, whose skills are relevant and appropriate to support City associated schools, the Education Unit has developed a database of individuals who have expressed an interest in serving as a governor at a City school. When an expression of interest is made the individual is asked to complete the City Corporation's governor skills audit. Once completed this, and any supporting information, is added to the database and the individual is informed that they will be contacted when a vacancy arises to see if they would like to be considered for the position.

Proposals

5. Holding a database of individuals who would like to serve as a governor at a City school will enable the City Corporation to fill future vacancies on its governing bodies and ensure that they have a balanced and appropriate range of skills.
6. The City Corporation currently has more expressions of interest in becoming a governor than it has governor vacancies. It is therefore proposed that when individuals express an interest in becoming a governor at a City school, they should also be signposted to SGOSS so that they are aware of, and able to access, opportunities to become a governor at non-City schools in addition to having their details held in relation to future vacancies at City schools.
7. SGOSS provides a dedicated service to recruit governors for schools in England. As a founder member and funder of SGOSS the City Corporation should use its connections with City businesses and workers to encourage people interested in becoming a governor to use this service.

Conclusion

8. In addition to maintaining a database of individuals who have expressed an interest in becoming governor at a City school, it is recommended that Members support the proposal to provide those individuals who express an interest in becoming a governor with information about SGOSS so that they are also able to explore opportunities to support schools in their local area.

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