



21st Century Governance: The Conference 09.02.11

We would like to offer a huge thank you to all of those who attended our first conference and for making it a tremendous success. For those who could not attend a brief outline.

Ian Parry made breaking news by announcing the change in his career, moving from Children's Services to being responsible for Finance and Transformation. He went on to talk about Governing Bodies, their training, Governor Mark and recruitment. Ian thought that employers should be looking to provide staff to do community work as governors, asking employers to take responsibilities in the wider society.

Also touched upon was how schools would be facing budget cuts and that they should be developing a more business like model for buying in services and products. Ian reminded us all that governance is fundamental to improve the outcome for children, Staffordshire has a large number of outstanding and good schools, very few failing, all can move upwards and onwards with the help of governors.

Lord Stafford compared the world of business to that of governor's. He spoke of his journey into governance via a village school and then as Chairman of Keele University. He stated that the role of governor's is to challenge, to support and to move schools forward, that the Chair needs to have a good relationship with their team and able to run meetings effectively. Effectively requiring meeting to start and finish on time, that all have their say without any one person taking over, and that no decisions are made until all issues are fully and rigorously debated.

It would be prudent, he went on for Chairs to have meetings with governors to ensure they are happy with their roles and responsibilities. But most of all governors must enjoy what they are doing the ending: "A happy organisation is a successful organisation".

Delegates then went to the various workshops before an excellent meal and time to chat with fellow governors and visit the Governor's Market where various organisations has stands to discuss areas of education, then back to further workshops and finally to finish Clare Collins the Chair of the N.G.A. outlined the work of the N.G.A. and their work on our behalf with various Government Departments to represent School Governors.

The feedback we have had has been most heart warming and received with grateful thanks. The SGA is there for you, we will take on board the negative and positive thoughts noted on questionnaires about this conference and suggestions made for future events and hope they will all be as successful as this. The overwhelming call is for events more often!