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**Dear Governor, Trustee, Headteacher and Clerk,**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first governance snapshot of 2019.

Like many of you I found myself running out of steam towards the end of last term and so a new year resolution for me is to ensure that I get a bit of perspective in my work/life balance! As governors, trustees and clerks we have a duty to take care of ourselves, our boards and colleagues and to support leaders in schools as much as we can. I know there is much information out there on well being and it is worth having a read of some of this and asking the question - do I need to do this or do I want to do it? There is much to be said for being more curious but not at the expense of perspective!

I hope that you the links and articles useful - some of you may have seen some of them already - but the snapshot is designed to form part of your governance libraries.

Thank you for reading.

**Fiona Stagg**, National Leader of Governance

North Staffordshire

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### **Headline Article**

#### **Working with Parents to Support Children's Learning**

This EEF guidance report reviews the best available research to offer schools and teachers four recommendations to support parental engagement in children's learning.

<https://educationendowmentfoundation.org.uk/tools/guidance-reports/working-with-parents-to-support-childrens-learning/>

Parent-child reading to improve language development and school readiness

[https://eprint.ncl.ac.uk/file\\_store/production/246226/A4CEC782-7954-4E85-9513-037E194A19FB.pdf](https://eprint.ncl.ac.uk/file_store/production/246226/A4CEC782-7954-4E85-9513-037E194A19FB.pdf)

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## **MATs**

Just a very few articles this month

<http://www.forumstrategy.org/7-pillars-of-improvement-at-scale/>

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/academies-annual-accounts-2017-9-things-weve-learned>

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## **Publications from the DfE**

Complaints and model procedures

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/school-complaints-procedures/best-practice-advice-for-school-complaints-procedures-2019>

This is research to understand successful approaches to supporting the most academically able disadvantaged pupils date November 2018

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/approaches-to-supporting-disadvantaged-pupils>

Schools causing concern - always good to be forewarned

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/754974/Schools\\_causing\\_concern\\_guidance-November\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/754974/Schools_causing_concern_guidance-November_2018.pdf)

Other articles of interest

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/school-security-draft-guidance>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-backs-young-musicians>

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/deal-for-schools-hiring-supply-teachers-and-agency-workers>

These two documents are worth reading as they provide some really good background statistics.

Key stage 2

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766017/Key\\_stage\\_2\\_text\\_v8.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766017/Key_stage_2_text_v8.pdf)

SEN

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/766017/Key\\_stage\\_2\\_text\\_v8.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/766017/Key_stage_2_text_v8.pdf)

[t\\_data/file/709590/Statements\\_of\\_SEN\\_and\\_EHC\\_plans\\_England\\_2018\\_Main\\_Text.pdf](#)

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### **Leadership**

I was sent this link to a podcast on leadership via twitter...<https://soundcloud.com/user-89976499/ascl-leadership-podcast-oct-2018> - you are free to draw your conclusions.

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/forbescoachescouncil/2018/12/04/10-leadership-strategies-to-discourage-grouphink-on-your-team/>

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### **Safeguarding**

A focus on e-safety <https://www.esafety-adviser.com/latest-newsletter/>

This is from safeguarding in schools and is a checklist for volunteers - raises some interesting questions for those of us who are safeguarding link governors

<https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/Risk-Assessment-Volunteers-v.1.2-DRAFT.pdf?>

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### **Mental Health and well-being**

Some articles to share with others

<https://theadventuresofnqtlife.wordpress.com/2018/11/17/learning-when-to-stop/>

<https://www.tes.com/news/exclusive-call-schools-do-more-teacher-mental-health>

<https://www.thersa.org/discover/publications-and-articles/reports/a-whole-school-approach-to-mental-health>

<http://www.sec-ed.co.uk/best-practice/teachers-are-you-looking-after-your-wellbeing/>

<https://schoolweek.co.uk/how-can-schools-reduce-teacher-sickness/>

At last confirmation!!

<https://www.theemotionmachine.com/the-drawing-effect-how-doodling-can-improve-your-thinking-and-memory/>

From a governor's perspective

<https://blog.governorhub.com/2018/12/14/what-time-of-day-do-you-do-your-governance-work/>

This is interesting

<https://amp.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/13/school-deprived-pupils-extra-hour-classes?>

From Safeguarding in Schools <https://www.safeguardingschools.co.uk/mental-health-and-behaviour-in-schools-november-2018/>

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### **Ofsted**

The new framework is due to be published imminently and I will publish an interim newsletter as soon as I have information!

<https://www.gov.uk/government/speeches/commentary-on-curriculum-research-phase-3>

The annual report is published

here [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/761606/29523\\_ofsted\\_annual\\_report\\_2017-18\\_041218.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/761606/29523_ofsted_annual_report_2017-18_041218.pdf)

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### **Conferences and Events**

Finding affordable CPD is not easy. If you have an event planned which you would like me to share eg conferences, workshops, *leadmeets* or *teachmeets* please email me.

<https://knste-shaw.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/4th-April-Conference-Flyer.pdf> - this conference is on Informing and Challenging Our Practices and Pedagogy and whilst not specifically aimed at governors I am sure that there will be much to take away.

### Stoke on Trent Research School

<https://stokeontrent.researchschool.org.uk/category/events/> these events are open to people from outside the City!

One of the events planned by the Research School is specifically for governors and trustees and is on May 3rd. Please have a look at this link (which is correct as the event

is repeated from

October) <https://stokeontrent.researchschool.org.uk/2018/08/22/supporting-the-work-of-governors/>

Other events are planned at Teaching Schools (if you are in the West Midlands for example you can find information here <https://tscouncil.org.uk/west-midlands-teaching-schools/>) and whilst these are mostly related to teaching why not email and ask what your local teaching school is doing for governors - we are a key part of the school improvement after all!

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### **Random articles...**

<https://www.churchofengland.org/more/media-centre/news/lead-bishop-education-calls-government-rural-strategy>

<https://smithsmm.wordpress.com/2018/11/19/trust-you-gotta-have-it/>

<https://schoolsweek.co.uk/ofsted-could-do-more-to-reward-schools-for-being-inclusive>

<https://durrington.researchschool.org.uk/2019/01/09/the-fundamentals-of-challenge-expectations-and-cognitive-load/>

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/gb/reports/policy/It%20all%20starts%20here.pdf>

<https://rebeccaallen.co.uk/2018/12/01/poor-attainment-data-often-comes-too-late/>

<https://www.theguardian.com/education/2019/jan/13/drive-aims-increase-number-men-early-years-education>

<https://www.theguardian.com/society/2019/jan/08/rise-in-children-taken-into-care?> The background data is here

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/757922/Children\\_looked\\_after\\_in\\_England\\_2018\\_Text\\_revised.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/757922/Children_looked_after_in_England_2018_Text_revised.pdf)

I found this really interesting and gave me some background which helped me understand the context of some of the conversations I clerk.

<https://www.cafcass.gov.uk/grown-ups/parents-and-carers/care-proceedings/>

<https://www.nga.org.uk/News/Blog/January-2019/How-confident-and-effective-do-you-feel-in-your-go.aspx>

### **Nominate for an honour**

My colleague Martin Matthews is waging a struggle to get more governors nominated for Honours - if you have someone in mind who you think is deserving please do have a think about nominating them. <https://ignoratus.wordpress.com/category/volunteers/> Martin has written this guide which is easy to follow.

The Clerk's Elbow had something to say about the New Year's Honours List - which it must be noted was wrong when it was first published - a few more governance related recipients were found by the department that awards the honours and who were missed off the list - you couldn't make this stuff up!

<https://clerkselbowski.wordpress.com/2018/12/29/honour-where-its-due/>

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The Governance Snapshot is prepared and is available **free of charge**, emailed approximately monthly to governors, trustees, headteachers and clerks. The snapshot could complement your existing CPD activities and the views expressed are my own. If you refer to it at a board meeting - thank you!

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Feel free to contact me on [fiona@sbwgovernance.co.uk](mailto:fiona@sbwgovernance.co.uk) - I will get back to you and would love to hear from you

**As an NLG I am able to support your board in a variety of ways so do please contact me if you think either myself or an NLG colleague could be of assistance.**

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