

By: Corporate Director Education, Learning and Skills
To: Governor Appointments Panel – 22nd November 2013
Subject: AMENDMENTS TO THE GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS
Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report provides recommendations for changes to guideline 2 to include additional family members who are directly related to a child in the school to which they are seeking appointment.

FOR DECISION

Background

At the Governor Appointments Panel meeting held on 4th October 2013 it was noted that the Guidelines for Appointment make clear that the panel are unlikely to appoint a candidate if they are parents of children in the school to which they are seeking appointment. One of the applicants during this meeting was a Grandparent of a child in the school however and the panel recognised that this relationship could be inappropriate for an independent and impartial Local Authority representative.

The Current Guidelines

2.1 The existing guidelines were created in 2012 following changes to the right of appointment of LA Governors. Although the base principles of these guidelines remained the same, the wording was amended to make them clearer and particularly in the case of parents of children attending the school to which they are applying. The guidelines read;

A person is unlikely to be successfully nominated to a school if he/she is:

2. Is a parent of a child at the same school. This is because they can already apply to become a parent governor at their school.

Stakeholder Representation

3.1 Although the stakeholder model of representation on Governing Bodies has been watered down and replaced with a new skills based model under The School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2012, there is still a post for Local Authority representation on every Maintained School Governing Body. There is no set purpose for the Local Authority representative and the regulations provide no specific criteria or requirements as to who should be a Local Authority Governor. Kent's approach is to find volunteers that are external representatives without ties to the day to day school community.

The exclusion of parents was due to a clear personal conflict between the interests of the individual's child and the interest of the Authority. The same could also be true of Grandparents and as a result the guidelines should be amended to take account of this relationship.

Recommended amendment

Recommendations

4.1 Members are recommended to amend the existing guidelines to read;

A person is unlikely to be successfully nominated to a school if he/she is:

2. Is eligible for election as a Parent Governor or is Grandparent of a child at the school they are applying to.

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*Background Documents; GUIDELINES FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF
LOCAL AUTHORITY GOVERNORS - SEPTEMBER 2012*