



Cheshire West
Governance Association

Annual Report June 2023 to June 2024

The Executive of the Association is pleased to report that membership of governing bodies in the Association continues to be high, with 70% of CWAC schools in membership.

During the year, we have championed the cause of governance. We can summarise our involvement as follows.

- Work with the Local Authority – We hold meetings of the Executive of the Association, and, at many meetings, a senior member of the Local Authority team attends to talk about issues in their particular area of expertise. This allows the Executive to understand and influence policy. The Executive wishes to place on record their thanks to the senior managers of the Local Authority for attending these meetings.
- Events – We have provided members with four networking events this year. In the autumn term, we held online networking meetings for chairs and vice chairs, and for new governors and trustees. In February, we held our fourth online conference where we were able to hear from some inspirational people from inside and outside the world of governance. Our final networking event of the year being held in July, will provide members with the opportunity to hear from CWAC's recently appointed Head of the Virtual School, as well as a guest speaker from the National Governance Association (NGA). We have seen strong attendance at our events in 2023/24.
- The Association retains links with Cheshire West Education Improvement Board (CWEIB), a board of system leaders whose purpose is to ensure that all learners in the area are given the opportunity to achieve their best through strong partnership working that keeps the outcomes for children and young people at the forefront of all educational activity.
- The Association is a local association member of the NGA. The membership supports the Executive Committee to develop professional governance and keep up to date and compliant. The affiliation with the NGA provides opportunities to network with other local associations
- We have continued to use the services of our part-time freelance administrator to reduce the administrative burden on the Officers of the organisation and ensure prompt and professional communication with our members, to include updates via LinkedIn, Facebook, and X. Further information can be found on our NGA affiliated web page <https://www.nga.org.uk/Membership/CWACAGB.aspx>

Recruitment is always a priority for the Association and the Executive recognises the importance of having a wide range of skills and experiences so that we can continue to deliver events that appeal to our members and remain at the heart of school governance and system leadership in CWAC. We are always looking to attract members to the Executive, and we hope to receive more nominations and expressions of interest.

Debbie Tomkinson, Chair – Cheshire West Governance Association [July 2024]

CWGA 'supporting the work of governors, trustees & clerks'