

GOVERNANCE
SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE
2024/25



Learn
Sheffield

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GOVERNANCE SUBSCRIPTION SERVICE

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Introduction

The quality of school governance has never been as important as it is now. Having an excellent governing board can make the difference between a school or academy being judged 'outstanding' or not by Ofsted. It can also have a profound impact upon the outcomes of children attending school. Sheffield has high ambitions for its schools and their governance. Learn Sheffield's School Governance Improvement Service (SGIS) aims to play a key role in delivering those ambitions.

Learn Sheffield prides itself on providing a responsive service tailored to the needs of Governing Boards. We want to ensure that your governing board or trust board has access to the latest information about good governance and what is expected of them.

Working closely with Learn Sheffield's experienced team of School Improvement Partners, one of the key features of the School Governance Improvement Service is the ability to offer a fully joined up approach to support governors and school leaders.



Feedback from the Governance Survey

In autumn 2023, Learn Sheffield started an evaluation of the range of services that had been offered to schools and governing boards since the Schools Company was formed in 2015. This independent impact review involved the full Learn Sheffield team, the Trust Board, all members and stakeholders. The result of the full review was published in February 2024.

Included within this exercise was a full review of the service provided by the School Governance Improvement Service (SGIS). The results of the review, including comments from stakeholders, are now being used to shape the service offered to governing boards from 2024/25.

Feedback on the governance service provided since 2015 was positive, with 89% of those who responded to the questionnaire confirming that they recommend Learn Sheffield. One experienced chair of governors typically commented that: 'The Governance Service is brilliant. Members of the governance team are very helpful and can't do enough for you.' The success of the governance service can be seen in the growing number of settings subscribing to the governance service, both within the City and in the wider area across South Yorkshire and the North Midlands.

Here are a few comments that we have taken from the recent Governance survey as part of the [Learn Sheffield Independent Evaluation](#) process.

92% of leaders agreed that Learn Sheffield acts with integrity and reflects the values that schools have for children and young people.

86% of leaders who responded to the questionnaire either value or highly value the Governance Service, including clerking.

85% of leaders who responded to the questionnaire either value or highly value the Governance training offered by Learn Sheffield.

Leaders feel that the Learn Sheffield team understands the challenges that individual schools are facing, meaning that they can offer appropriate support.

Offer 1 - Core

This service ensures that your governing board or trust board has access to the latest information about good governance and what is expected of them.

Learn Sheffield prides itself on providing a responsive service tailored to your needs. This support can be via our telephone helpline, email, or via online or face-to-face meetings where needed.

Working closely with Learn Sheffield's experienced team of School Improvement Partners, one of the key features of the service is the ability to offer a fully-joined-up approach to support governors and school leaders.

Offer 1 is:

- £1,785 per board
- Discounted price of £1,250 available for MATs that purchase a package for every Governing Board within the Trust

The Core Support & Advice Offer includes:

- ✓ Comprehensive support and advice service
- ✓ Board management support via the secure online portal and resources available through GovernorHub
- ✓ All the resources available via standard membership of NGA
- ✓ Unlimited access to online training via NGA Learning Link
- ✓ Face to face and online Learn Sheffield Governance Training
- ✓ Termly Governance Briefings
- ✓ Annual Learn Sheffield Governance Conference
- ✓ Support for boards with governor and Chair recruitment
- ✓ Half-termly Learn Sheffield Governance Newsletters
- ✓ Annual business planner to help boards plan termly agendas



Advice helpline for Governors

Advice helpline for governors – by phone, email, face to face or video call.

All schools will be provided with GovernorHub - a dedicated and secure online portal for all your governing board or trust's needs - including document storage, calendar, information about your board, healthcheck tools and much more.

Full GovernorHub subscription

Standard National Governance Association membership

The Core Support and Advice Service includes standard membership of the **National Governance Association (NGA)**. Includes:

- Online access to practical resources including guidance, templates, checklists and insights
- Copies of 'Governing Matters' magazine, plus weekly e-newsletter
- Free access to NGA conferences and events, leadership forums, webinars and podcasts

Unlimited access to [NGA Learning Link](#), a suite of 70+ online courses covering a wide range of topics relevant to the roles and issues faced by governors and trustees. Governors are able to access training at a time and place to suit them.

Online training via Learning Link

Governance Training & Briefings

Governance training includes:

- Live training sessions, either face to face or via video conference
- Half termly governance briefings followed by an annual governance conference
- For non-subscribers, governance training can be purchased on a pay as you go basis or for £600 per year per board.

Support with governor, trustee and chair recruitment – Learn Sheffield works with local and national partners to provide a joined up local service to support boards with the recruitment of new members.

Recruitment Support for Boards

Regular email communications & half termly newsletters

Half-termly Sheffield Governance Newsletter and regular email communications.

Annual Governing Board and Trust Business Planner – helping Boards to make the most of their termly meetings.

Annual Governing Board and Trust Business Planner

Offer 2 - all the benefits included in Offer 1, plus meeting support

This service level includes everything contained within Offer 1, but also includes meeting support which means that you have everything you need in order to have an efficient and effective governing board:

- A well-trained and dedicated governance professional to offer support and advice within your meetings, who is backed up by an experienced office team to ensure that the business of the board is properly conducted.
- 6 hours' worth of regular meeting support from a trained and dedicated governance clerk per year. Less frequent meetings such as exclusions, appeals, disciplinary meetings, complaints etc., are not included within the package but can be arranged as a supplementary service.
- The service provides reassurance that the business of the governing board and committees is carried out efficiently and effectively, thereby demonstrating that the board is fulfilling its core functions.
- Where appropriate, you will be provided with, or signposted towards, specialist advice needed by boards.

Offer 2 is:

- £2,175 per board
- £1,640 per board (MATs subscribing all schools)
- Full Support Service includes a discounted price for MATs who purchase a package for every Governing Board within the Trust.



Supplementary Services

Meeting Support

Activity	Price
Clerking of Regular Meetings	£65 per hour (pro-rata)
Schools can purchase extra clerking support in addition to the 6 hours included in Offer 2. This covers meetings such as extra Full Governing Board meetings, regular committee meetings etc.	
Extraordinary Meetings	£85 per hour (pro-rata)
This covers meetings such as permanent exclusion meetings, governing body disciplinary meetings, complaints, appeals etc. For services not listed, please contact us.	

- For clerking services for non-subscribing boards, please contact us with your needs and we will provide pricing.

GovernorHub Knowledge

Activity	Price
Access to GovernorHub Knowledge	£250 per board per year (normal price £275-£845, depending on school size)
Schools can buy GovernorHub Knowledge (previously known as The Key for School Governors).	

Governor Training (stand-alone package)

Activity	Price
Governance Training (stand alone package)	£600 per board per annum
Non-subscribing governing boards can purchase the governor training package as a stand alone service.	

All prices in this document are exclusive of VAT and may be subject to change.



If you have any questions or would like to discuss the Governance Subscription Service please contact governance@learnsheffield.co.uk

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