

Media release

From the Barnsley Governors Association

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New governors association gets off to a good start

A new association for all school governors in Barnsley has been successfully launched. The Barnsley Governors Association (BGA), which is the first of its kind in the borough, held its first annual general meeting recently.

The BGA is an independent, non-political body which aims to support, promote and improve school governance, and is committed to raising attainment, achievement and aspiration for all school students in Barnsley.

For the last year a small steering group has been preparing the ground for the new body, and at the AGM a constitution was approved and a committee and officers elected. Patricia Astwood MBE of the National Governors Association and Barnsley's Director of Children's Service, Judith Harwood, both spoke at the meeting and welcomed this important development.

All governing bodies of schools in Barnsley are invited to join the BGA, and at the AGM over a quarter of them were represented.

Michael Sanderson, chair of the Association, said "Governors play a key role in our schools as the voice of local communities. We are the largest single group of volunteers, nationally over 300,000 of us giving our time and energy to improve the life chances of young people. In these very challenging times for schools, governors need high quality support, and the chance to exchange experiences and knowledge."

"Communication with governors is a key priority for us and will be a focus of our early work. We have already launched a website - www.barnsleyga.org - which provides a wide range of useful information for governors, and a place where they can exchange views and ideas."

“Over the next year the BGA intends to help governors to be well-informed and be kept up to date with the rapidly changing world of education. Working with the local authority we want to ensure that there is high quality training for their responsibilities and roles. And we hope to be able to encourage more people to volunteer for this vital and rewarding work.”

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