

### Active Governance in a Time of Challenge

For Barnsley Governors Association Spring Conference 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Active Governance

### Active Governance at work



### Active Governance gone badly wrong



### So what should good Active Governance be like?

- Strategic Direction
- Critical Friend
- Monitoring and Evaluation



Active Governance

### What will OFSTED expect from governors?

Leadership and Management

"Effective work by the governing body that acts as a critical friend and hold senior leaders to account for all aspects of the school's performance"



# What aspects of school performance?

Four key judgements:-

- Achievement
- Quality of teaching
- Behaviour and safety of pupils, inc. attendance
- Quality of leadership and management

*plus* Overall effectiveness



#### Governance -Extract from supplementary OFSTED guidance

- In assessing the role and impact of the governing body, take account of how well the GB:-
- Knows the school
- Supports and strengthens school leadership
- Provides challenge to school leaders; particularly with regard to the quality of teaching
- Works efficiently with the school

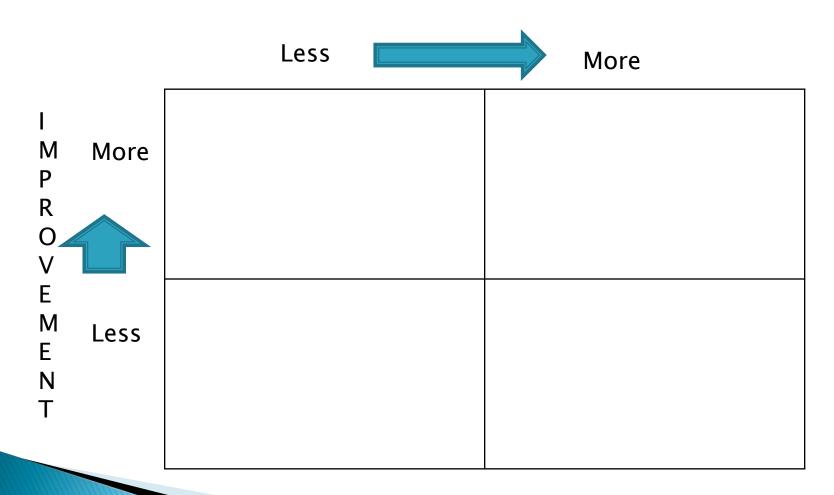


# What else will OFSTED expect from governors?

- They will expect to see 'active governance' and evidence of governing body as critical friend, offering challenge and support
- Minutes and other evidence which reflects the above



### Time versus Improvement



# Summary of Key issues for Active Governance

- Agendas which focus on school improvement
- Minutes which record governor challenge in detail
- Records of time spent in school, particularly in secondaries
- In depth knowledge of school performance data
- Focus on the quality of teaching and support for robust performance management
- Look for outcomes rather than inputs



#### The importance of self-evaluation



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