



**BARNSELY  
GOVERNORS  
ASSOCIATION**

## **Chair's Report to the Annual General Meeting 2020**

I reflect on the fact that the BGA has been active in the Borough since Academic Year 2010-2011. We have been here for 10 years and throughout the focus has been supporting and improving governance in Barnsley schools. We remain committed to these core values today.

We are of course in a quite different world. We can now see the full impact of the Academies Act 2010. The model of education provision and consequently the demands of governance have changed radically.

As members of the Executive, we are proud to work for and with school governors in Barnsley. Ultimately this is about improving governance which in turn will drive the improvement of the educational offer at each school in the Borough, whatever its status and however it is deemed to be performing currently. This is all about giving children in Barnsley the best of opportunities and the confidence and resilience to seize those opportunities. If we as governors remember this, we can hold schools to account and ensure this is what they offer uniformly.

Governance and the principles behind it involve much wider considerations and disciplines.

These are strange and worrying times. Our contribution and skills are needed more than ever to support senior leadership and in ensuring the schools remain at the centre of the localities each serves. I firmly believe that schools will provide a community focus to help people ride the storm by supporting their children and a force for change when we come out of this pandemic.

Training, working in conjunction with the Local Authority remains a key commitment. We have learned that this must change in its focus and in the way it is delivered. We are moving from traditional provision of class and seminar, to open forum and debate (much as we are moving to today). We listen constantly and will change to meet demand.

Details of the offer are available on our website at [www.barnsleyga.org](http://www.barnsleyga.org).

We have over the last year resurrected our E Mail Newsletter, and this will continue to be circulated as widely as possible. We hope this informs governors of the work of the Association and current developments in school governance. We hope governors find it useful. If anyone has ideas or material, they think we should be talking about please feel free to contact us.

All member organisations are entitled to nominate potential candidates for membership of the BGA Executive. We are anxious to build on this and widen the scope of experience. If you feel you can support this work, please step forward. You will be most welcome. This is a genuinely open invitation.

As ever, the profile of the organisation continues to change. We need to change as the education climate changes and that process needs to continue. I would like to encourage all of you to consider whether you feel that you have something to give to the wider debate and as such whether you might wish to join the Executive Committee. You would be most welcome.

We remain committed to partnership working. Members of the BGA Executive Committee have continued to promote and represent the views of governors at the Schools Forum, Barnsley Alliance Board and the Children and Young People's Trust Executive Group and continue to advance the voice of governors. This work will continue for as long as you as individual members want to see this happening. We believe the voice of governance should be heard.

Can I thank all the members of the Executive Committee who work so hard on behalf of the Association. Each of them remains driven by their wish to see better educational attainment and achievement in Barnsley.

I would also like to express my personal thanks for the support offered to me by the various colleagues that I work with in my role of Chair of the Association. I feel proud in the trust that has been placed in me. and remain committed to seeing continued improvement both within the Association but more importantly the standard of governance within all Barnsley schools (whether directly maintained or an Academy).

I remain committed to self-improvement I believe that each year we all re-dedicate ourselves to the principle of self-improvement focused in improving the lives of children and young people in this Borough.

As an Association we remain anxious to provide a framework for such discussions and focused, relevant training and would encourage everyone to let us know what we can do for them to facilitate such improvement.

**Stephen Gallagher**  
**October 2020**