



BARNSELY  
GOVERNORS  
ASSOCIATION

## Barnsley Governors Association Chair's Report 2022-23

Our 2022 AGM was held at the Holiday Inn, followed by an expert panel who answered questions from the floor on 'Being or Becoming an Academy'

The BGA organised a range of Forums throughout the academic year on a number of topics. Our Forums are events which are free of charge to all governors, trustees, and local governors of Barnsley schools, and include a presentation and the opportunity to meet other governors, network and ask questions. Forums have been well-attended and feedback has been very positive.

Forums in 2022-23 included: SEND, Finance for Governors of Maintained Schools and Academies, Safeguarding for Governors, SEND in school, Health & Wellbeing, Being Strategic, and Stakeholder Engagement. We are immensely grateful to colleagues who have done presentations, some pro bono, to help us in our aim to give governors the professional development in order to carry out their role.

Members of the BGA Executive Committee have continued to be the voice of governors on the Barnsley Alliance, the Schools Forum and TEG. We appreciate hearing our members' views so that we can speak with confidence and legitimacy.

Sometimes parents and members of the public contact us to make complaints about a particular school. We always recommend that they look on schools' websites for their complaints policy and follow it.

We are however keen to campaign for educational improvements – please let us know if there is anything we should be lobbying for that might encourage better governance.

We are a very small Executive Committee and are keen to encourage governors in Barnsley to join us.

I should like to thank our current Executive Committee: Stephen Gallagher (Vice Chair & Secretary), and Molly Beever (admin extraordinaire). They are very experienced governors at every level, and work tirelessly and creatively to improve governance. John Gostelow is our treasurer and webmaster.

Please spread the word about the BGA and encourage your colleagues to send us their email address so that we can let them know about upcoming events.

We have used the Holiday Inn as a venue for our training sessions and Forums over the last few years and have been very pleased with their offer. However, our finances are stretched and so we'll be using HCAT HQ for events this academic year. It's very comfortable and accessible, and has free parking. There is a map on our website or ring us on 01226 790460 for details.

Our next event is on **7<sup>th</sup> November 2023** when Peter Bell (BMBC and Chair of Governors at Milefield Primary School) will be leading a session on **Governor Development Planning**.

**Website: [www.barnsleyga.org](http://www.barnsleyga.org)**