At NGA, our expertise and leadership has helped to develop and support excellent governance for more than 12 years. This is just one of the reasons why the Department for Education (DfE) has chosen us to deliver our Leading Governance Development for Boards programme.

This is a consultant-led programme tailored to your board’s circumstances to improve practice. It is designed for schools in DfE specified areas of England rated by Ofsted as requiring improvement.

Programme delivery
The chair or future chair of the governing board will join a development programme for chairs and work closely with a consultant analysing an online board self-evaluation, the results of which will inform an action plan for the governing board’s development. The consultant will engage with the whole board and senior leaders so that any further support such as coaching, mentoring and subject specific training needs can be identified and provided. This programme runs over a period of approximately three terms.

What’s included in the programme?
Designed to suit each board’s circumstances and development needs, this programme will include:

- development for two governors: the chair, vice chair, or an aspiring chair
- evaluation of the board’s strengths and weaknesses
- engagement with the board and senior leaders
- support with creating a board action plan
- additional training, coaching and mentoring support as required

Benefits of the programme
This programme aims to develop governance by:

- developing chairing knowledge, leadership skills and networks
- ensuring that the board knows its own strengths and weaknesses
- supporting the creation of an action plan which is both realistic in scope and will ensure impact on governance practice and therefore pupil outcomes
- targeting areas where knowledge gain is required
- monitoring and evaluating progress

Eligibility
The programme is designed for boards of schools in DfE specified areas where the school is rated by Ofsted as requiring improvement.

Programme outcomes
The board will have a clearer understanding of effective governance as follows:

- board leadership will be strengthened
- the board will be knowledgeable about governance structures, effective delegation, and how best to work with the clerk or company secretary
- the board will be confident to carry out its role in ensuring school improvement and value for money
- the board will be able to assess their own effectiveness and impact

Why choose NGA Leading Governance?
NGA Leading Governance programmes:

- build on NGA’s experience of effective training and development programmes
- utilise NGA’s online self-evaluation tools
- are informed by governance research
- work with industry-expert facilitators and consultants
- are quality assured
- are delivered in your area
- provide valuable evidence for Ofsted

COSTS AND REGISTRATION
The programme is fully-funded, and at least £2,500 of funding is available per eligible trust or board. Please contact NGA to enquire about eligibility for funding.

0121 237 3780 (option 4)
leading.governance@nga.org.uk

Development for Clerks
To strengthen your board’s effectiveness we recommend that this programme is taken alongside NGAs Development for Clerks programme. Please contact NGA to find out more.

www.nga.org.uk/leadinggovernance
The chair undertakes leadership development

The chair (or future chair) develops their governance competencies and through group work, builds and experiences the benefits of networking for establishing sustainable self-led development and support.

Board evaluation

The board, senior executive leaders and the clerk complete an online board appraisal. The NGA consultant will work with the chair to:
- analyse the appraisal to identify strengths and determine areas for development
- create a governance action plan which includes engagement with the whole board and will therefore result in a step change in the quality of governance

Board engagement

The NGA consultant engages with the board by either:
- observing a board meeting and feeding back to the chair
- carrying out a facilitated self-review session
- delivering a training session focused on a specific area
The chair observes another board meeting on a peer review basis.

Coaching and mentoring

The NGA consultant will act as coach mentor to ensure that the governance action plan is a live document and is amended as necessary so that:
- it specifically addresses any emerging issues
- progress is being made
- the nature of the changes will impact on outcomes for children

Evaluation

At the end of the programme, the NGA consultant evaluates and assesses progress made by the chair and the board in carrying out the action plan. The chair completes an impact assessment which is updated two terms after the programme has ended.

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