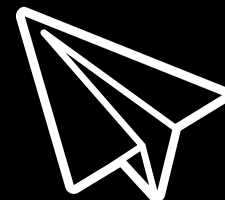


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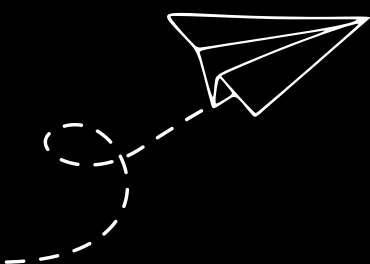


GOVERNORS' CONFERENCE 2026

**Governing for
Impact: Finance,
Transitions and
Leadership**



**3 October
2026**



Conferences | by **BDSIP**

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**WELCOME
AGENDA**



SPEAKERS

MATT MILLER

GILLIAN BRATLEY

HELENA BROOKS

SARAH CARPENTER



**UPCOMING GOVERNORS
TRAINING**



**CPD: MAKING SENSE OF THE IDSR
BDSIP SERVICE OFFER**

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WELCOME

Welcome to the Governors' Conference 2026

Theme: Governing for Impact: Finance, Transitions and Leadership

We are delighted to welcome you to this year's Governors' Conference. It is wonderful to gather with colleagues who share a deep commitment to strengthening our schools and improving the lives and opportunities of the children and young people we serve.

As governors, you bring insight, challenge and strategic leadership to your schools. Your role is more important than ever. In a demanding and changing educational landscape, effective governance helps schools make sound decisions, use resources responsibly and create the conditions in which every pupil can thrive. Today is about building confidence, sharpening our questions and learning from one another.

Throughout the conference, we will explore three areas that sit at the heart of effective governance:

Financial governance – understanding the school's financial position, recognising key pressures and connecting spending decisions to pupil outcomes and improvement priorities. We will consider the information governors should expect and the strategic questions that support challenge, assurance and value for money.

Inclusive transitions – every transition matters, especially for vulnerable pupils. Together, we will reflect on the key points in a child's journey, how schools can plan and adapt support for different groups, and the questions governors should ask to ensure that no pupil is left behind.

Leadership succession – when a headteacher leaves, governors have a vital responsibility to secure the school's future. We will explore how to plan a robust recruitment process, identify the school's needs, make well-informed appointments and support a successful induction.

None of this work happens in isolation. We would like to thank our expert speakers, colleagues and partners whose knowledge, guidance and support continue to make such a difference to governors and schools across Barking and Dagenham.

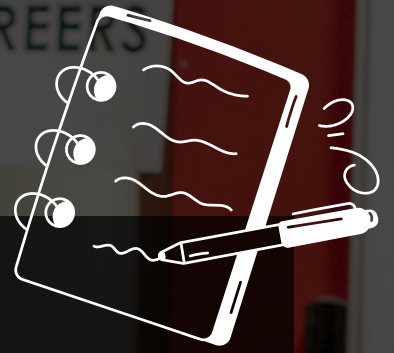
This conference is an opportunity to step back from the immediate pressures of governance, share experience and focus on the decisions that will have the greatest impact. By working together, we can help our schools navigate change with clarity, confidence and ambition.

Thank you for being here; for the time and dedication you give; and for the difference you make to your schools and communities.



Sarah Carpenter
Senior Education Adviser
BDSIP

AGENDA



9.00am Refreshments and networking

9.25am Welcome

9.30am Workshop 1: Governance – It's All in the Numbers! with Matt Miller and Gillian Bratley

10.45am Break

11.00am Workshop 2 - Paving the Way for Effective Transition: Smoothing the Journey for Vulnerable Pupils, with Helena Brooks

12.00pm Break

12:45pm Workshop 3 - Paving the Way for Effective Transition: Help! Our Headteacher's Leaving! with Sarah Carpenter

1.00pm Close



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MATT MILLER MBE CONSULTANT AND CHAIR OF GOVERNORS



WORKSHOP

**GOVERNANCE – IT'S ALL IN
THE NUMBERS!**

Matt Miller is a retired senior detective in the Metropolitan Police Service and highly experienced in leading and managing school based investigations.

He is one of the team commissioned by the National College for Teaching and Leadership to deliver external review of governance training. He has conducted reviews of governance in many different types of school settings and is considered an expert in this field.

He is the strategic lead for governance in Enfield and delivers governor training across London and the south of England. He is also licensed by the Home Office to deliver 'Prevent' training.

He is the Chair of Governors at Highlands Secondary School since (outstanding Ofsted judgements 2011 & 2014 and subject of Ofsted 'from coasting to soaring' case study 2012) and was also appointed by the Secretary of State in June 2013 to chair an Interim Executive Board in a struggling primary school.

Matt was awarded the MBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2016 for services to education.



GILLIAN BRATLEY **ADVISORY TEACHER** **PRIMARY ICT, BDSIP**

WORKSHOP

GOVERNANCE – IT'S ALL IN THE NUMBERS!

I am the Advisory Teacher for Primary Computing with over 30 years' experience in primary education. I believe that all children deserve a high-quality education to help them learn and thrive. With technology having such an impact across the workplace and at home, I believe schools should also be making the best use of technology to help children learn.

I have been with BDSIP since its inception in 2017 and worked for the Local Authority prior to BDSIP. My role is very varied and ranges from working with subject leaders to develop and implement the computing curriculum, to working with senior leaders to organise and embed assessment processes. I also work with schools on developing their online safety curriculum, which might include delivering online safety workshops to parents. I feel very lucky as I get to work with a wide range of people in schools, including teachers, subject leaders, SLT and technical staff. I also work closely with other teams within BDSIP and manage some of the IT Services contracts for BDSIP schools. I am also a governor at a local primary school.

The world of technology is constantly changing, and so I am always keen to attend CPD to widen my knowledge of new technologies, and to share this with schools. I am a CEOP Ambassador, Professional Development Lead trainer for STEM Learning and Computing at School Community Leader. I am also on the Teaching and Learning advisory board for LGfL. I find the evolving nature of technology very exciting, and enjoy delivering CPD on all aspects of technology, from early years computing, using micro:bits for physical computing, to accessibility tools in technology and exploring AI in the curriculum.

HELENA BROOKS

SENIOR EDUCATION ADVISER



WORKSHOP:
**PAVING THE WAY FOR
EFFECTIVE TRANSITION:
SMOOTHING THE
JOURNEY FOR
VULNERABLE PUPILS**

Helena brings over 15 years of experience in education, blending deep expertise in inclusion with strong leadership across both special and mainstream settings. From her early work supporting children in residential SEMH environments to leading schools as Head of School, Helena has always been driven by a commitment to create learning spaces where every child can thrive.

As a Senior Education Adviser, working alongside Sarah Carpenter, Helena guides and supports a skilled team dedicated to improving inclusion and educational outcomes across schools. She works closely with schools to develop inclusive practices tailored to their unique contexts, supporting leaders, teachers and practitioners to enhance provision for pupils with SEND while strengthening whole-school development.

Helena believes in a collaborative, tailored approach that balances strategic planning with the practical realities of school life. She designs bespoke training and offers hands-on guidance that empowers educators at all levels to grow in confidence and effectiveness. Her qualifications, including NASENCO and NPQH, underpin her ability to bridge leadership and inclusion seamlessly.

Passionate about evidence-based approaches and partnership, Helena feels privileged to contribute to BDSIP's mission by helping schools build welcoming, inclusive communities where every young person has the opportunity to succeed.

SARAH CARPENTER

SENIOR EDUCATION ADVISER



WORKSHOP:
PAVING THE WAY FOR
EFFECTIVE TRANSITION: HELP!
OUR HEADTEACHER'S LEAVING!

With over 25 years in education, Sarah has developed a rich understanding of child development and adaptive teaching, having worked across the full primary age range from nursery to Year 6. Her leadership experience spans deputy and head of school roles in a variety of settings, from growing village primaries to urban schools serving diverse, often deprived communities.

Sarah's career journey led her from classroom teaching into advisory roles where she specialised in science, gifted and talented provision, and early years education, with a particular focus on communication, language, and literacy. Her experience as a SENDCo and School Improvement Adviser for SEND strengthened her passion for rapid improvement and strategic school development.

Beyond the UK, Sarah has worked internationally, delivering tailored support aligned with a range of curricula, gaining deep insight into curriculum design and its vital role in school improvement. Most recently, she has focused on literacy and numeracy as the School Improvement Adviser for Primary Maths and English, leading CPD and overseeing standards across primary schools.

As a Senior Education Adviser, working alongside Helena Brooks, Sarah guides a dedicated team of advisers committed to supporting schools through clear, practical, and impactful advice. She is known for her ability to translate complex challenges into actionable solutions that improve teacher practice and pupil outcomes.

Sarah remains as passionate about education today as she was with her very first class, embracing the power of supportive, practical guidance to help schools create inclusive, high-quality learning environments. She is proud to contribute to BDSIP's mission to ensure every child receives the best possible education.

GOVERNORS TRAINING

2026-27

CPD by BDSIP

- 06/10** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP)
Module 1: Roles and Responsibilities of Governors - “Knowing my school”
-
- 10/11** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP)
Module 2: How data supports school improvement and self-evaluation in schools - “What governors need to know and why”
-
- 09/12** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 3:
Safeguarding - ‘Understanding and promoting a culture of vigilance’
-
- 02/02** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 4:
Enabling equality, diversity and inclusion: ‘A fairer system for all’
-
- 02/03** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 5:
Building relationships: ‘Managing conflict and the art of challenge’
-
- 25/03** Governor Accredited Programme (GAP) Module 6:
Preparing for Ofsted - ‘How to demonstrate impact of governance to inspectors’

 [Register now](#)



Making Sense of the IDSR: A Governor's Guide to Strategic Challenge and School Improvement

CPD by BDSIP

**Helping governors
develop confidence in
interpreting the IDSR
and using it to ask
strategic questions and
identify potential school
improvement priorities.**



19 Jan 2027



5.30pm - 7pm



Online via Zoom

The Inspection Data Summary Report (IDSR) is one of the key sources of information used by inspectors when preparing for and carrying out school inspections. It summarises a wide range of information about a school's context, attendance, behaviour and outcomes, helping to identify strengths, risks and emerging trends. However, many governors find the IDSR complex and are unsure how to use it effectively.

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Understand the purpose and limitations of the IDSR.
- Identify the key sections most relevant to governors.
- Recognise patterns, strengths and potential risks within IDSR data.
- Use the IDSR to support strategic challenge and accountability.
- Generate meaningful governance questions from performance data.
- Consider how IDSR findings can help shape school priorities.

 **Register now**



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