



Local Governing Board to The Learning Partnership

CONGLETON HIGH SCHOOL LGB

MINUTES – Part I



Date: Wednesday 17th September 2025

Present:

Mr R. Benson (Chair)-(RB)
 Prof T. Sadat-Shafai (TSS)
 Mr J. Green (JG)

Apologies:

Mr S. Worthington (SW)
 Prof. P. Horrocks (PH)
 Mrs J. Turner (JT)
 Mr P. Turner (PT)
 Mrs K. Powell (KP)

Absent: n/a

In attendance:

Ms H. Thurland – Headteacher (HT)
 Mrs L. Darling – Deputy Headteacher (LD)
 Mrs L. Salt – Deputy Headteacher (LS)
 Miss J. Boulton – Assistant Headteacher, Head of 6th Form (JB)
 Mr R. McQueen (RM)- Assistant Headteacher
 Mr C. Capey (CC)- Assistant Headteacher (Quality of Education)

Clerk: Mrs S. Pomeroy

Administration

1. Welcome, Quoracy, Apologies and Declarations

One expression of interest had been received for the role of Chair of the LGB from Rich Benson. His appointment would be formally approved by the Governance Committee as Chair of the LGB for a period of one year, or until the first meeting of the LGB in the autumn term 2026. Jane Turner, James Green and Paul Horrocks were re-appointed as Vice Chairs of the LGB for a period of one year, or until the first meeting of the LGB in the autumn term 2026.

The Chair welcomed everyone and confirmed that the meeting was quorate. Apologies were received and accepted from SW, PH, JT, PT and KP. There were no Declarations of interest declared with the business of the meeting. Unless stated otherwise, all papers and policies had been uploaded to Governor Hub (GH) prior to the meeting.

2. Minutes of the previous meeting

- a) The part one minutes of the CHS LGB Meeting held on 18th June 2025 were approved as a correct record of the meeting.
- b) There were no matters arising.

3. Membership update:

- Justin Marsh had resigned from the LGB.
- There is one vacancy on the LGB for an appointed governor.
- James Green and Torfeh Sadat Shafai had been re-appointed by the Governance Committee until 31.08.2029.
- There are no terms of office due to expire before the next meeting of the LGB.
- The Clerk was requested to provide a report on governor attendance 2024-25. **ACTION**

4. Declarations and Confirmations

All governors except PT had updated their declarations and confirmations. The clerk had sent a reminder email to PT.

5. Governor Link Monitoring Roles

The link roles were confirmed as:

Role	Governor
Careers	Pete Turner

Safeguarding	Katy Powell
SEND	Rich Benson
Student Performance	James Green
Welfare	Rich Benson
Student Engagement	Sam Worthington

The Chair would contact those governors who had been unable to attend this meeting to confirm their agreement to the above monitoring roles. **ACTION**

Strategic Direction and Progress Against Priorities

6. SIP and SEF

School Improvement Plan (SIP) and Self Evaluation (SEF)

a) Summary of 2024-25 progress

- HT referred to slide 7 from her Headteacher's report "Progress against SIP Summary Impact" which detailed the progress against 2024-25 priorities.
- She informed governors that the Trust DCEO and Director of Secondary had visited school today and had acknowledged the improvement in Year 11 and Year 13 results in 2025. The Key stage 5 outcomes are the best in the Trust, and the school is in the top five in Cheshire East.

Governors asked whether the 32% decrease in suspensions from HT 1 to HT 6 was the result of an improvement in pupil behaviour or a different approach being used. HT responded that it was a combination of both. Staff are now adopting a consistent approach and have shared high expectations.

b) Approval of priorities for 2025-26

- The SIP Priorities for 2025-26 were shared on Slide 5 of the Headteacher's Report.

Governors challenged on whether the plan contains enough detail and clarity on the quality of teaching as this has a significant impact on pupil progress and attainment. **HT responded** that the Quality of Education section of the plan addresses teaching and learning and that this is the terminology used by Ofsted. The CPD programme is all about embedding the "Learning Ready" classroom principles with a focus on adaptive teaching, assessment and key knowledge. The principles are based on well-researched programmes. The Teaching and Learning Policy will be refreshed and will model excellence. The Behaviour and Attitudes section also links to the quality of teaching. The Quality Assurance process will ensure that staff know what they are being judged on through lesson drop ins, intervention drop ins etc.

It was agreed that a presentation would be delivered at the next LGB meeting on Teaching and Learning.

ACTION

Governors asked whether the school is confident that all teaching would be judged as good if Ofsted were to carry out an inspection now. **HT responded** that the SLT is confident about the strengths and weaknesses in teaching quality and that there is a plan in place to address any issues. The DCEO had discussed strengths in different subjects with the Headteacher and there is a risk register in place which captures contextual information.

Resolved: Governors approved the SIP Priorities for 2025-26.

Quality of Education

7. 7. Report on exam results: Year 11 and Year 13

Year 11: LS referred to slides 8-12 from the Headteacher's report and highlighted the following:

- The results are the strongest over the past three years.
- The school had focussed on the matching strategy which had involved progress meetings looking at individual children.
- There has been an increase in the percentage of pupils achieving 9-4 in English and Maths from 58.5% in 2024 to 63.1% in 2025.

- There has been a 6% increase in pupils achieving 5 standard passes including English and Maths.
- Attainment of pupils with SEND has improved.
- Disadvantaged students achieved FFT 20 targets.
- There is more work to do to increase the attainment of boys.
- Between mock 1 and mock 2, the forecast for 7+ was not met.
- The school needs to move closer to achieving the FFT 20 targets. (As shown on slide 9.) It is more difficult to move middle ability pupils to the FFT 20 target. Only 25% of subjects are achieving this.
- There is a one grade gap across the board between the attainment of boys and girls. This has increased from 2024-25. The next cohort is boy heavy so there is a focus on raising their attainment and interventions are already in place.

Governors requested further information on the plan to close the gender gap. RM informed them that interventions have already started, and engagement from the boys has been good. The mentoring programme will also be key. The school has secured another mentor for assertive mentoring which can involve academic mentoring. Pupils select an area to focus on, realistic timetable and targets are set, meetings held, and parents involved. The school will maintain a focus on the attitude, attendance and behaviour of boys.

Governors asked how close the school was to meeting its predictions. **HT responded** that it was a mixed picture. It was closer this year than last. The SLT is working with the different faculties to unpick the gap between outcomes and predictions to identify any issues. Forecasting is still an area that the school needs to work on.

Governors questioned whether the school is considering the attainment of sub-groups such as PP and gender. **HT responded** that there are different subgroups which the school analyses. PP outcomes have increased by half a grade. The restructure of the school day has helped and the RADY approach has changed the attitude of staff and raised expectations for PP pupils.

Slide 12 shows Pupil Progress at Key Stage 4 across all subjects. Blue indicates where the subject met the FFT 20 target. The school is not complacent and has produced a risk register and will continue to drive improvements, even in a subject such as Sports Studies which is blue across the board.

Governors challenged whether the improvement in results was due to a less challenging cohort. **LS responded** that there were fewer outliers in this cohort: three students did not achieve any grades due to external factors, and the school had worked hard to reduce the number of outliers. Pupils generally want to be in school. Attainment 8 data demonstrated how pupils have improved. This cohort had lower prior attainment, so the school has added value.

HT commented that the quality of teaching is improving but the school is still on a journey. It was important to reverse the decline in the school's results, especially when entering an Ofsted cycle. Faculties are carrying out question level analysis to identify areas to work on to improve future performance.

Year 13: JB referred to slides 14-22 from the Headteacher's report and provided an update:

- There was a significant improvement in results in 2025.
- Average A Level grade was C+.
- A*-A was up from 9.6% in 2023-24 to 26.7% in 2024-25. This was above Cheshire East.
- The average points score was lower for this cohort.
- The number of students with U grades decreased from 9 last year to 3 this year. These students had demonstrated that they could cope with the exams at mocks and so had been entered.
- The average grade at Applied General was Merit +.

- The ALPS score improved to 3 from 8.
- 2024-25 had been challenging year with the death of a sixth form student. The school had provided pastoral care and mentoring support for the students and is proud of their results.
- Girls-from mock 1 to mock 2 at A Level there was a 0.8% increase across all A Level Grades. Boys-46% increase.
- Average grade for disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged pupils was C+.

Governors commended the school on a solid set of results and asked for their thanks to be passed on to the staff.

8. Student Destinations

Year 13-shown on slide 23.

JB commented that a similar number of pupils had gone on to university as in previous years. The school had provided support with Russell Group applications. Many students had chosen universities in the Northwest. More students had chosen to go into employment this year.

Governors asked whether there had been an increase in the number of students securing apprenticeships. JB responded that there had been a dip in numbers this year.

Year 11-verbal update-JB

69 students had stayed on into the sixth form. A higher number of students had chosen to go to Sir John Deanes College. The reasons given for their choice included a change of scene, a wider range of courses such as law and graphic design and higher grades.

Governors noted that there are challenges for schools with sixth forms but also opportunities for CHS to develop its offer.

9. Admissions and Pupil Numbers

- Year 7 numbers stand at 180 which is below the 190 predicted. However, there are 30 in-year admissions in process. The school will track the pupils from the point of admission as mobility can have an impact on attainment data and behaviour.
- There are many new houses being built in the area and pupil numbers are expected to grow from 2027.
- There are 89 students in Year 12 and 85 in Year 13.

Governors asked whether the school has the capacity to admit more pupils in future years. HT explained that the school had already expanded and has a new block and adequate canteen provision and so can accommodate more students in the future.

LD arrived at 6:00 pm.

Personal Development

10. Summary Report on Attendance 2024-25-Slide 26

- Whole school attendance improved by 0.6% compared to 2023-24.
- Persistent absenteeism (PA) reduced by 2.97% over the same period.
- Gains and focus groups are outlined on slide 26.
- The Trust had carried out an attendance inspection today and were happy with the school's approach. Attendance letters are issued sooner.
- Attendance is currently around 1% lower than at this point last year. This is due to some children being on holiday and two pupils waiting for alternative placements.
- The school still wants to improve attendance and is looking at individual children to see where gains can be achieved.

11. Rewards and Behaviour 2024-25- Slide 27

- Suspensions fell by 32% from 2023-24.
- 50 of the 160 suspensions occurred in the first half term 2024.
- For the remainder of the year there was an average of 22 suspensions per half term, with a spike at the end of the year. The school has taken a pre-emptive approach with students who have been suspended and looked at factors such as seating plans and personality clashes to de-escalate the situation.

- Assertive mentoring will be utilised across all year groups.

Welfare

12. Safeguarding-Paper 12

- The paper provides an update from September 2025.
- The focus has been on ensuring that staff are compliant.
- A trust compliance visit took place on 17.09.25 and there were no areas of concern.

Governors requested information on areas of concern in relation to Safeguarding. **LD explained** that mental health and suicide are two main areas of concern. There is a lack of immediate support from outside agencies and lengthy waits to access support.

Local Matters and Stakeholder Engagement

13. Polices

Local Policy Approval

- RSE
- PSHE
- RBFL
- Attendance
- Safeguarding
- SEND

HT explained that the yellow highlights in the polices indicated where changes had been made. JG had some minor queries regarding policies which he would forward to LD. **ACTION**

Resolved: Governors approved the policies, subject to any minor changes being made.

Trust Polices

- Governor expenses Policy
- Governors noted the policy.

14. Governor Training Update

- It was noted that KP, JT and PT need to either complete safeguarding training or update their training record on Governor Hub if they have already done this. JT and PT also need to complete Prevent training. The Trust is asking governors to renew Safeguarding and Prevent training every two years.
- The Trust will provide training for governors this year on analysing pupil performance data.

15. Governor Biographies-The clerk would check whether all governors had completed their biography.

ACTION

16. Stakeholder Engagement – Parents/Carers

- Events listed on slide 30.

17. Stakeholder Engagement – Wider Community

- Events listed on slide 30.

HT would forward the updated list of events for this half term to the clerk for circulation on Governor Hub. **ACTION**

18. Communication to Trust

The clerk was requested to forward the following items to the Trust:

- Information on the exit strategy when governors leave.
- How risk is managed and whether individual schools require a risk register.

19. Communication from Trust

- The clerk had emailed the Headteacher and Chair with feedback from the Education, Standards and Performance Committee recognising the improvements in results at Key Stage 4 and 5 in 2025.

20. AOB

- **Governors requested** a glossary of educational terms and acronyms. The clerk would provide links to the glossaries included in the Trust Governance Handbook. **ACTION**
- **Governors requested** information on the vacant SENCO role. **HT informed** them that Gill Josephs from the Trust is currently supporting the school for three days per week. The school is looking to recruit a full-time, experienced SENCO.

There were no part two items for discussion at this meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:00 pm.

Summary of actions

Agenda item	Action	Assigned to	Deadline
From the meeting held on 17.09.25			
1	To provide a record of governor attendance 2024-25	Clerk	Sep-25 (sent to chair 22.09.25)
4	Remaining governors to update declarations and confirmations. (Email reminders sent 16.09.25)	PT, JT	Sep-25
5	To write to governors not at the meeting to confirm link monitoring roles.	Chair	Sep-25
6	To deliver a presentation at the next LGB on Teaching and Learning.	HT/SLT (clerk to add to agenda)	Jan-26
13	To send queries re the SEND Policy to LD.	JG	Sep-25
15	To check whether all governors have provided a biography.	Clerk	Sep-25-(Clerk confirmed that all have been done)
17	To update the list of half- termly events and send to the clerk for publication on G Hub.	HT	Sep-25
18	Clerk to email Director of Quality to raise 2 matters from the LGB: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What is the Trust's exit strategy for governors who resign? (interviews, return of lanyards etc) What is the Trust's position on risk registers for individual schools? Can LGB's escalate risks to the Trust Board? Are LGBs informed if their school is elevated on the Trust Risk register? 	Clerk	Sep-25 (Clerk emailed AH 22.09.25)
AOB	To include link to acronyms document in each meeting folder.	Clerk	ongoing