Summary of the November Update provided for Schools Governors by the Department of Education

DfE Governance Research Project: DfE has commissioned National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to conduct a research project looking in greater depth at governance practice and the challenges faced by the sector. If you are randomly selected by NFER – contact will be made by Chairs and Headteachers around 18th November.

Funding Factsheet for Governors and Trustees: Provisional funding allocations to Local Authorities were made on 11th October regarding the National Funding Formula for the 2020-21 academic year. This includes a variety of information regarding the current approach to school budgets and National Funding Formula for the 20/21 Academic Year. More information regarding local arrangements will be released in due course. Part of this update also includes updated guidance and templates in relation to Pupil Premium expenditure and how to make the best use of this. The Pupil Premium templates being promoted can be found here.

Financial Planning Training: School Business Professionals, School Leaders and Governors are being promoted to undertake the fully funded short course on integrated curriculum and financial planning (ICFP). It is envisaged that this will help understand the basis of ICFP through a course of either one hour webinars or half day workshops running at a range of times and locations until March 2020. To find out whether this could benefit you and your school and book a place on the course – please contact: training@isbl.org.uk.

Teacher Recruitment and Retention Strategy: This strategy sets out how the DfE seeks to work together to ensure the right climate for Headteachers and school leaders to establish supportive school cultures, reducing unnecessary workload and increasing opportunities for flexible working. The Department for Education Workload Reduction Toolkit can be found here.

Career guidance for young people: Secondary School Governing Bodies have statutory responsibilities in relation to providing clear advice and guidance to children and young people. The Careers and Enterprise Company have completed a governors guide to this particular area of responsibility. Secondary schools should also note that their careers leaders are eligible for face to face training. An introduction to careers leadership online course is linked in the DfE update which can be completed by link governors for careers and careers leaders alike. The introduction to careers leadership training can be accessed here.

Early reading and the education inspection framework: Gill Jones, Deputy Director for Early Childhood at OFSTED has published an interesting blog article regarding Early Reading, particularly in relation to the September 2019 Education Inspection Framework. The blog post can be found here.