

City of York governors e-learning their way to the top of the hill

When City of York Council wanted to improve the cost effectiveness of their school governor training, while increasing flexibility and providing speedy access to tailored material they chose Modern Governor. Sue Pagliaro, Head of Governor Support explains why:

Tell us about your involvement in governor training

School governors come from all walks of life. Some may have been out of education for some time and we needed to present all governors with options on how to best meet their individual training needs. On behalf of City of York Council we were able to attract some support from Higher York who were keen to help us with the development of the accreditation programme.

What are York's plans for governor training?

In conjunction with York St John University, we've just launched an accredited governor

Sue Pagliaro is Head of Governor Support at City of York Council

training programme. The programme involves a blended approach to training that incorporates all the benefits that e-learning provides with traditional classroom-based learning. Modern Governor offers a wider range of high quality courses at an extremely attractive cost of £5 per governor per year. As a result, we have been able to buy this provision for all our governors and target the rest of our training budget to a more focused face-to-face programme.

We're delighted that this programme meets the needs of new governors, chairs, aspiring chairs, leaders, and clerks to governing bodies in a way that offers high quality, innovative and cost effective training.

Our training scheme offers a broad and flexible opportunity for governors to access training in the way which best suits them – or mix and match as they wish.

Why did you choose Modern Governor?

Governors need a wide range of training if they are to play an effective role in improving education for all children and young people. If all the training were done face-to-face, this would take a considerable amount of time and money. We recognise that governors are busy people and we are keen to offer training in a way which is accessible, convenient and flexible.

This flexibility is invaluable to those who may work full-time or are parents. For example, one of our governors had difficulties in arranging childcare cover to allow her to attend the face-to-face sessions. She was

Modern Governor costs an average of £5 per governor which compares to £44 for face-to-face training



delighted when she received details of Modern Governor and once she'd signed up she was able to choose which module she wanted to do first. Clearly, another big factor for us was about saving money. One classroom-based session for eight governors would cost around £44 per head per course, which compares to the cost of Modern Governor of £5 per head per year for access to multiple courses. Ultimately, we've been able to target our limited resources more precisely and effectively. The fact that Modern Governor's modules have been created with help from experts in Governor Services and are easy to access and well presented factored in our decision.

How did you introduce e-learning to the learners?

We recognised that getting off to a good start would be critical to the success of the project and help us secure early adoption. With that in mind, we held a launch event which was opened by the Chief Executive of City of York Council, Kersten England. Having herself been a chair and vice chair of governing bodies in Bradford in the 90s, Ms England recognised the role that high quality training has to play in the development needs of school governors.

During the launch, school governors were given the opportunity to have a go at the Modern Governor modules, with help on hand should they need it. It was an extremely successful event – the IT suite was packed out, some governors taking the opportunity to log on for the first time and explore the modules available.

What has the reaction been among your governors?

Governors have been delighted with the ability to log in to the e-learning when and where it suits them. Plus, the bonus of obtaining a certificate on completion of each module means that they can build up both their own and the school's training profile. Everyone wins.

As some school governors have been out of the workplace and education for some considerable time, being able to learn in the informal, relaxed atmosphere of their own homes, was an added benefit. They can break off at any time and the programme 'bookmarks' where they get to and returns them to that point when they log in again, no matter how long it has been.

How does Modern Governor benefit the school?

After accessing the e-learning, many governors

feel much more confident in expressing their views and asking questions during meetings.

They now feel that they have more to offer the governing body and the school and would recommend these courses to any governor.

What next?

**Contact elaine@moderngovernor.com
or call 0207 101 9383 to hear more
about City of York's comprehensive
e-learning programme and to discuss
how Modern Governor can help you
make your training budget work harder.**

Case Study