

David Marriott, Chair of NCOGS and Head of Governor Services at Wiltshire Council, talks to us about governor networks and communication.

David, As Chair of NCOGS what role do you see governor networks playing in the future?

“At a time where gaining efficiencies through collaboration is needed more than ever governor networks could be under threat as governors turn inward to protect their school from the effects of budget cuts.

COGS regional networks remain strong and some invite independent colleagues to participate but there is a fear that in a

more competitive context if people share ideas too freely then these may be exploited for individual or commercial profit.

As some COGs retire or become independent, COGS and school governors will still need to connect with each other and offer mutual reassurance. By sharing their experiences COGS and governors can learn so much from each other which, in turn, saves time and is also morale boosting.”

With the raft of changes being brought in by the Department for Education how do you foresee Wiltshire Governors being kept up-to-date with developments?

“The major challenge here is keeping the COGs networks up-to-

date and ensuring that the appropriate information is being shared with governors. In time it may be that some or all COGs disappear because of budget cuts and as school governors become more creative in accessing the information that they need to perform their role effectively.

If face-to-face training becomes too expensive and/or governor services shrink, Modern Governor can continue to support the changing role of governors and reduce the level of bureaucracy involved in building capacity.

School governors are massively overloaded so anything that makes life simpler is welcome. Other new ways that could be explored for keeping governors informed include social networking tools such as Twitter and Facebook.”

To talk about how Modern Governor can help you to keep your governors connected and up-to-date, call 0207 101 9383 or email elaine@moderngovernor.com