

## **A Warm Welcome to Mark Wyatt**

We are delighted to have been able to make contact with Mark Wyatt who is joining the Authority in May as the new Director for Children's Services. He has been kind enough as to produce an introduction which we reproduce verbatim below.

"I am grateful to Brian Patterson for providing the opportunity for me to write a short piece for your newsletter. As you will have read, I am to take up the post of Director for Children's Services in Dudley in the near future. At present I work in Wolverhampton and prior to that have worked in Telford and Wrekin, Birmingham, London and Bedfordshire.

The roles and responsibilities for governors in our schools are unique to this country and strengthen our school system. I am grateful to all of you who give of your time to this vital work. Children's Services are much in the news at present; this can give rise to concern, but importantly does reflect how serious the work is that we all do for the future generation. We don't need reminding that safeguarding children and young people is something for which we are all responsible, whether it is protecting a child from abuse or ensuring access and opportunity. I trust we all share the wish to make children and young people in Dudley safe and healthy, that they can enjoy and achieve, as well as promote opportunities for them to make a positive contribution and achieve economic well-being.

At the heart of our school system is the critical role governance plays for our leadership and management teams, providing much needed critical friendship for the challenging work undertaken in our schools. If we all share a common sense of purpose for the future of our children and young people, then it is constantly necessary for us all to embrace change, shaping a future that will be different from the present. We need to continually seek to improve on our previous best, seeking transformation grounded upon the knowledge of strengths of the past, something good teachers encourage youngsters to do everyday. An intellectual curiosity is useful here and many governors are both experienced and well used to this; making use of school leadership team evaluations of developments supported and promoted by the governing body to inform future planning at the school, and some governing bodies, I know, seek out similar schools within the borough and beyond to share experience and further inform their debate.

Finally, relationships, or partnerships as seems to be the popular term at the moment, are key within and beyond any successful institution. I know that Jane Porter and her team have been working hard recently to clarify the sense of purpose for Building Schools for the Future within Dudley. There is much to do. We need to engage with the many important partnerships across Dudley to shape a strategic vision for Children and Young people in Dudley that makes sure we can all make the best use of the resources available and deliver the very best outcomes for every child and young person in our care.

I am delighted to be joining Dudley at this time and look forward to working in partnership with you over the coming years.

***Mark Wyatt*** “

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**From:** BrianASPatterson@aol.com [mailto:BrianASPatterson@aol.com]  
**Sent:** 19 March 2009 11:55  
**To:** Mark Wyatt  
**Subject:** Dudley School Governors

Dear Mark

I am Chair of the Dudley Association of Governing Bodies (DAGB) and, being aware that you are due to take up your new position within Dudley in May, I wonder if you would be prepared to write a short piece for our next DAGB Newsletter, to introduce yourself and to say whatever you would like to school governors within Dudley. I fully realize that this is very short notice - and I apologize for that.

As far as time scales are concerned, I really do need copy by no later than the end of next week (March 27th) and length can be, perhaps 400 - 500 words - but we could accommodate more if that would suit you better.

On a related matter, DAGB's Chair has traditionally met regularly with the Director (as I was doing with John Freeman) and I hope that you would be willing to continue that practice - typically once each term. I am meeting, separately, with Liz Walker, the current lead Member for Children's Services.

Sorry to spring this on you completely "out of the blue" but I trust that you will endorse that governors play an important role within the system and that it does make sense that we should engage with you earlier rather than later.

Many thanks

Brian A S Patterson  
Chair of DAGB