

# Academy Quality Council: Councillor Recruitment Pack

September 2022

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## 1. What is The Prospect Trust?

The Prospect Trust came into being in June 2017 as a multi-Academy trust. Its main purpose is to enable strategic collaboration between educational organisations in order to maintain and improve standards. It is an exempt charity.

**Vision**      **The Prospect Trust** is the dynamo at the core of an effective, efficient educational hub; supporting, enabling and driving excellence in all our Academies

**Mission**     **Our aim** is to provide outstanding education for 5-18 year old learners through our family of local academies:

The Trust's core values are these:

- **Partnership**      working together we can deliver better, and more effectively, than working alone
- **Restlessness**    the current state is never good enough
- **Trust**              open and transparent in everything we do
- **Quality**            aspire to be the best in everything we do

The Trust's **strategic priorities** are to:

1. Develop skilled and effective teachers to implement our pedagogic priorities and deliver outstanding education and outcomes for all of our learners
2. Improve progression opportunities for all our learners, raising aspirations and smoothing transition cliff edges
3. Embed a culture of collaborative working and sharing good practice across all Trust academies
4. Develop an innovative, inspirational workforce with outstanding opportunities for career progression
5. Build on strong purposeful relationships with business and community partners
6. Expand the Trust, creating a business model for operation which is efficient and financially sustainable

## 2. What is an Academy Quality Council

In a multi-academy trust, the Board of Trustees (Board) is legally accountable for all decisions made in its academies. At the Prospect Trust, the Board delegates some of its powers to advisory committees. At academy level, these advisory committees are known as Academy Quality Councils (AQC's).

The AQC's ideally comprise ten to twelve councillors including stakeholder representatives eg staff, parents and the local community, including the Diocese (in the case of a Church Academy). The AQC's meet, on average, six times a year and work to levels of authority set out in the Scheme of Delegation.

### 3. Councillor Role Description

#### Key Responsibilities

- Act as a critical friend to the Academy Principal, providing feedback and constructive challenge to the Academy and Trust leadership in relation to the Academy's performance, ethos and local reputation.
- Ensure that the Academy operates in support of the mission and ethos of the Trust
- Contribute to the Trust's key strategic priorities
- Comply with the Scheme of Delegation set by the Trust Board
- Approve the Academy's annual Quality Improvement Plan (prepared by the Principal) for agreement by the Trust Board
- Monitor progress against agreed performance targets for the quality of teaching and learning, attendance and behaviour
- Engage with wider Academy activities as a means of monitoring overall quality
- Safeguarding of learners and staff
- Deal with any appeals regarding learner exclusion or staff disciplinary matters as appropriate.<sup>1</sup>

#### Contribution to the Academy Quality Council

Councillors should ensure that they are making a positive and meaningful contribution to the AQC by:

- attending meetings, reading papers and preparing questions for senior leaders in advance
- establishing and maintaining professional relationships with senior leaders and colleagues on the AQC
- getting to know the academy, including visiting the academy occasionally during working hours
- undertaking induction training and developing knowledge and skills on an ongoing basis.

#### Skills and experience

##### Essential:

- Critical listening and ability to ask effective questions
- Strategic thinking
- Excellent communication
- Problem-solving and analysis

##### Desirable:

- Understanding of data
- Knowledge of education
- Leadership and management skills
- Risk management skills

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<sup>1</sup> Staff Councillors will not deal with any appeals regarding learner exclusion or staff disciplinary matters.

## 4. Benefits

Governance is a key part of the accountability system in education and for some years it has been recognised as part of leadership. Being an Academy Quality Councillor is a great opportunity to:

- contribute to school/college improvement
- take part in civic leadership and give something back to your local community
- build relationships and networks in you locality
- support children and young people
- develop new skills that can support your personal and professional development
- access training that can aid career progression.

## 5. How to apply

If you are interested, please complete contact our Trust Governance Advisor, Sarah-Jane Ashworth, for an application form via phone on 07514 733 924 or via email at [sarah-jane.ashworth@theprospecttrust.org.uk](mailto:sarah-jane.ashworth@theprospecttrust.org.uk)

## 6. FAQs

### **What is the term of office?**

The standard term of office for an AQC Councillor is two years.

### **What is the time commitment?**

There are usually six meetings a year which is around 6-8 hours per month, term time.

### **Will I be expected to know everything straight away?**

No you will be provided with a thorough inductions and on-going training to support you to develop into the role.

### **Will I be expected to bring up issues on behalf of parents/colleagues?**

No, as a Staff or Parent Councillor you are not responsible for bringing staff or parent issues to the AQC's attention. You would bring a valuable staff/parent perspective to the AQC, but otherwise, you have the same role as other Councillors.

### **Are only teachers eligible to be Staff Councillors?**

No, all staff employed at the academy at the time of election are eligible to stand. This includes teachers, support staff, senior leaders and part-time staff.