



centre for public scrutiny annual conference 2005

citizens, scrutiny and public governance

the role of non-executives in enhancing accountability and improving public services

23rd June 2005, Victoria Park Plaza, London SW1

Non-executives make a major contribution to public accountability by scrutinising the activities of public bodies on behalf of the wider population. These 'citizen governors', from government department board members to school governing bodies, face many challenges: not least working with limited resources to challenge powerful executives and operating in a complex, crowded governance landscape.

Within this environment, how can non-executives ensure they have maximum impact in improving service delivery and providing value for the public they represent?

The Centre for Public Scrutiny's Third Annual Conference will give non-executives and their support officers the opportunity to share learning with peers from their service area and across the public sector. Attendees will gain an insight into the common principles binding their activities and innovative insights into how to make public governance work in practice.

Who Should Attend

Non-Executive Directors from public bodies:

- Chairs
- Vice-Chairs
- Board Members

Citizens involved in the governance of:

- Education
- Health and Social Care
- Criminal Justice
- Public Utilities
- Transport
- Housing and Regeneration

Non-executive elected members from:

- Local Government
- Central Government
- Regional Government
- Devolved Government

Scrutiny Support Officers:

- Scrutiny Officers
- Clerks
- Board Secretaries

Governance Professionals

- Policy Makers
- Researchers
- Academics concerned with governance
- Inspectorates
- Auditors
- Performance Managers

Keynote Speaker

Hazel Blears MP,

Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety, Home Office (2003-2005)

Conference Chairs

Jon Snow,

Channel 4 News

Dr Tony Wright MP,

Chair, Public Administration Select Committee (1999-2005)

Other speakers include

Sir Derek Higgs, Author of the Higgs Report (*A review of the Role & Effectiveness of Non-executive Directors*)

Anna Coote, Director of Patient & Public Involvement, The Healthcare Commission

John Adams, Chair, National Association of School Governors

Richard Sumray, Chair, CJS Task Group, Association of Police Authorities and Member, Metropolitan Police

Steve Freer, Co-Secretary to the Commission, Good Governance Standard for Public Services

for further information and to register online please visit:

www.neilstewartassociates.com/publicgovernance



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Purpose of the Conference

The conference offers non-executives and their support officers the opportunity to overcome the key challenges they face in their scrutiny role. Specifically, participants will examine practical ways of:

- Ensuring non-executive scrutiny activities complement existing audit and inspection mechanisms
- Working with limited resources and support to challenge powerful executives
- Overcoming the tensions of performing hybrid roles that often combine executive and non-executive functions
- Having maximum impact in improving service delivery and providing value for the public they represent

Participants will also examine evolving accountability arrangements across the public sector – at all tiers of government and in diverse policy areas: education; criminal justice; health and social care; housing and regeneration; transport; utilities. Expert speakers will guide attendees through key issues:

- How can scrutineers working within each field coordinate activities for maximum public benefit?
- How effective have recent reforms been – for example the creation of foundation trust hospitals and the modernisation of local government into distinct executive and non-executive functions - in ensuring citizens are able to participate in scrutiny processes?
- Across government, how will this emerging 'citizen governor' agenda evolve and how will it contribute to improving public accountability?

Agenda (subject to change)

09.00 Registration / exhibition

Plenary One

10.00 Opening Address

Dr Jane Martin, Executive Director,
Centre for Public Scrutiny

10.10 Welcome by Conference Chair

Jon Snow, Channel 4 News

10.15 Citizens as scrutineers

What are the governance implications of the current disconnection between the public and politicians and what democratic innovations might allow citizens to play an increased role as scrutineers?

Ferdinand Mount, Vice-Chair, POWER Commission

10.30 PANEL - Partnerships in public governance

How can all of the various partners involved in public governance - from lay scrutineers to professional inspectors - work together for maximum public benefit? This session shares practical examples of joined-up working:

The new healthcare assessment system: working with overview & scrutiny committees and patient & public involvement forums

Anna Coote, Director of Patient & Public Involvement, The Healthcare Commission

'Future Services': taking the voice of users to the heart of the public service reform debate

Philip Cullum, Deputy Chief Executive, National Consumer Council

The voluntary & community sector: working with local government to combat domestic violence

Cllr Robin Stonebridge, Chair, Performance & Scrutiny Overview Committee, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council

11.15 Refreshments / exhibition

Seminar Sessions I (11:45-12:45)

- 11.45 Public Governance in Practice - Specialist sector workshops**
A series of seminar sessions, designed to share innovative scrutiny practice within sectors. Delegates should choose to attend one seminar. Some seminars have limited places so delegates are encouraged to make their choice early.

1a & b. Scrutiny of the executive
(local, regional, devolved, central government)
TWO PARALLEL SESSIONS - Speakers include:
Baroness Sally Hamwee, Deputy Chair, The London Assembly
Representative, English Regions Network
Cllr Ian Stewart, Chair, Strategic Overview Committee, Cumbria County Council
Ann Jones AM, Chair, Local Government & Public Services Committee, Welsh Assembly

2. Transport
Chair: **Cllr Martin Booth**, Chair, Economic Regeneration & Transport Scrutiny Committee, Middlesbrough Council
Panel: **Stewart Francis**, Chair, Rail Passengers Council (RPC)

3. Utilities
Chair: **Cllr Kim Humphreys**, Chair, Overview & Scrutiny Committee, London Borough of Southwark
Panel: **Allan Asher**, Chief Executive, Energywatch

4. Education
Chair: **Cllr Mitz Green**, Chair, Lifelong Learning Scrutiny Sub-Committee, London Borough of Harrow
Panel: **Peter Williams**, Chief Executive, Quality Assurance Agency
John Adams, Chair, National Association of School Governors

5. Criminal Justice
Chair: to be confirmed
Panel: **Richard Sumray**, Chair, Association of Police Authorities (CJS Task Group) and Member, Metropolitan Police Authority
John Raine, Chair, Derbyshire Probation Board & Probation Boards Association

6. Health and Social Care
Chair: **Cllr David Rogers**, Chair, Community Well-Being Board, Local Government Association
Panel: **Linda Phipps**, Chair, East Leeds Primary Care Trust
Sir Thomas Boyd-Carpenter, Chairman, Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS Foundation Trust

7. Housing and Regeneration
Chair: **Cllr Stuart Bodsworth**, Chair, Regeneration, Housing and Development, Services Scrutiny Committee, Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Panel: **Richard Hewgill**, Chair, Tenant Participation Advisory Services
Peter Dixon, Chairman, Housing Corporation

12.45 Buffet Lunch / Exhibition

Seminar Sessions II (13:55-14:55)

- 13.55 Public Governance in Practice - The Principles of Effective Scrutiny**
A series of led discussions, asking how public governors can move towards achieving the four principles of effective public scrutiny. Delegates should choose to attend one seminar. Some seminars have limited places so delegates are encouraged to make their choice early.

8. Providing 'critical friend' challenge
How can non-executives most effectively provide constructive, robust and purposeful challenge that will prompt executive reflection on policy development and decision making?

9. Reflecting the voice and concerns of the public
How can scrutineers ensure their activities focus on issues of community concern and involve an ongoing dialogue with the public, which is heard and responded to?

10. Leading and owning the scrutiny process
How can non-executives most effectively champion the value of scrutiny among colleagues and the public, and proactively build towards a credible, independent scrutiny function?

11. Making an impact
How can scrutineers ensure their activities are having an impact on service delivery and resulting in improved community well-being?

14.55 Refreshments / exhibition

Plenary Two

15.20 KEYNOTE PRESENTATION: Government Policy & Practice
Hazel Blears MP, Minister of State for Crime Reduction, Policing and Community Safety, Home Office (2003-2005)

15.40 Questions to the Minister

15.45 PANEL - Making Public Governance Work

- What are the key barriers to and opportunities for effective public governance across the public sector?
- How can we make public governance work?

Led by:
Dr Tony Wright MP, Chair, Public Administration Select Committee (1999-2005) & Centre for Public Scrutiny
Panellists to include:
Sir Derek Higgs, Chair, Partnerships UK & Author, Higgs Report (A review of the Role & Effectiveness of Non-executive Directors)
Steve Freer, Chief Executive, CIPFA and Co-secretary to the Commission, The Good Governance Standard for Public Services

16.30 Closing Comments

16.30 - 17.30 Refreshments & Networking



