

#GfSConference21



Governors
for Schools
Conference
2021.

University of Manchester School Governor Initiative Impact Report

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The Impact of the School Governor Initiative

Alison Gregory, The University of Manchester

Jess Lister, Public First

History

- Governors for Schools partnership
- Academic year 2011/12 – staff
- Alumni 2013/14
- Social Responsibility agenda
- Making a difference to schools and local communities
- School Governor staff network has provided support to staff through meetings, conferences and information sharing and resources

Where are we now?

- 10 years placed over 1300 governors, staff and alumni
- An active staff network of 220 UoM governors
- Alumni network continues to grow at pace – 85 placed by GfS in 2020, 76 so far in 2021
- 4300+ current vacancies advertised with Governors for Schools
- Hundreds more exist nationally
- We've modelled what the HE sector can do to fill the gap

220 Staff Governors

- Contributing over 18,000 hours of volunteering
- Impacting 98,000 children
- Estimated financial value £340,000 (based on median hourly rate)

Why this 10 year impact report?

- Wanted to take stock and understand the impact the University of Manchester has had on governor vacancies and on governing boards
- To look forward we needed to look back
- Our achievements can be repeated, improved and multiplied
- To encourage other universities who are still undecided to take the challenge
- Our model can help you forecast what is achievable given the size of your university and other determinants

Launching our report today

Report

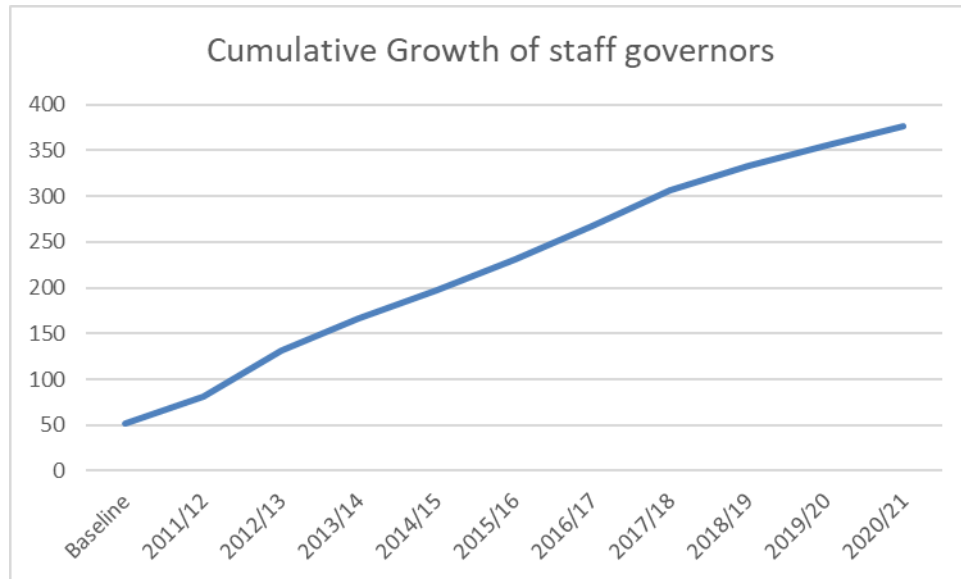


Key findings

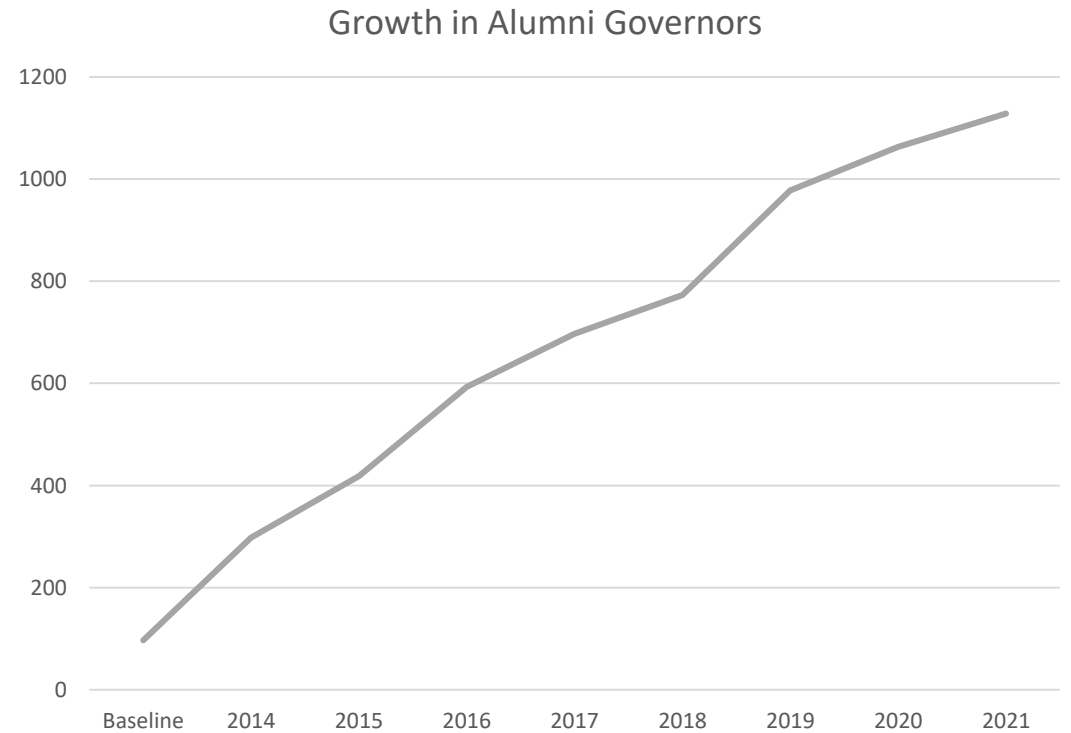
- Growth of School Governors
- Locality of placed governors
- Skills & Professional background of governors
- Impact on diversity
- Overall impact on schools

1. Growth of Governors

STAFF



ALUMNI



2021

- 58% of staff have governed for more than 4 years
- 77% staff and 83% of alumni have taken on additional responsibilities since becoming a governor eg. Chair/Vice-Chair
- 88% staff and 91% alumni feel they make a difference

2. Locality

- Our biggest impact is in the North West
- Staff 94%, Alumni 38%
- London and South East
- Areas of disadvantage – are we making a difference in the right area?

3. Skills and background

- Skills schools requested are in Finance, education HR and legal
- The majority of alumni governors are working in education, finance or medicine
- The largest skills set of staff governors are finance, education, ICT
- Demand for skills in marketing, mental health, SEND

(Taken from Governors for schools vacancy data)

4. Diversity

- Nationally low participation by governors from a minority ethnic backgrounds, only 6%
- Staff governors is 12.5% BAME
- No information available for Alumni
- Nationally, only 11% under 40
- Staff governors 22% under 40
- Alumni governors 31% under 40

5. Impact on schools

- University staff have a breadth of skills and knowledge to contribute
- Staff and alumni bring a different perspective of education to your board
- Alumni bring a diverse set of skills from different industries and professions
- Staff governors can bring many unexpected benefits to your schools eg. Links to staff, information, opportunities, resources, visits
- Governors from any professional background can bring additional support to schools. Our case studies highlight this.
- University staff and alumni can help increase diversity on your board



Forecasting

Jess Lister, Public First

What would happen if more universities ran a school governor initiative?

- University of Manchester have successfully encouraged a) staff and b) alumni across the country to become school governors.
- We modelled the impact if a similar scheme was run by universities across the country.
- Our estimate is that **2400** new school governors could be placed from staff and university alumni networks a year – **12,000** over five years.

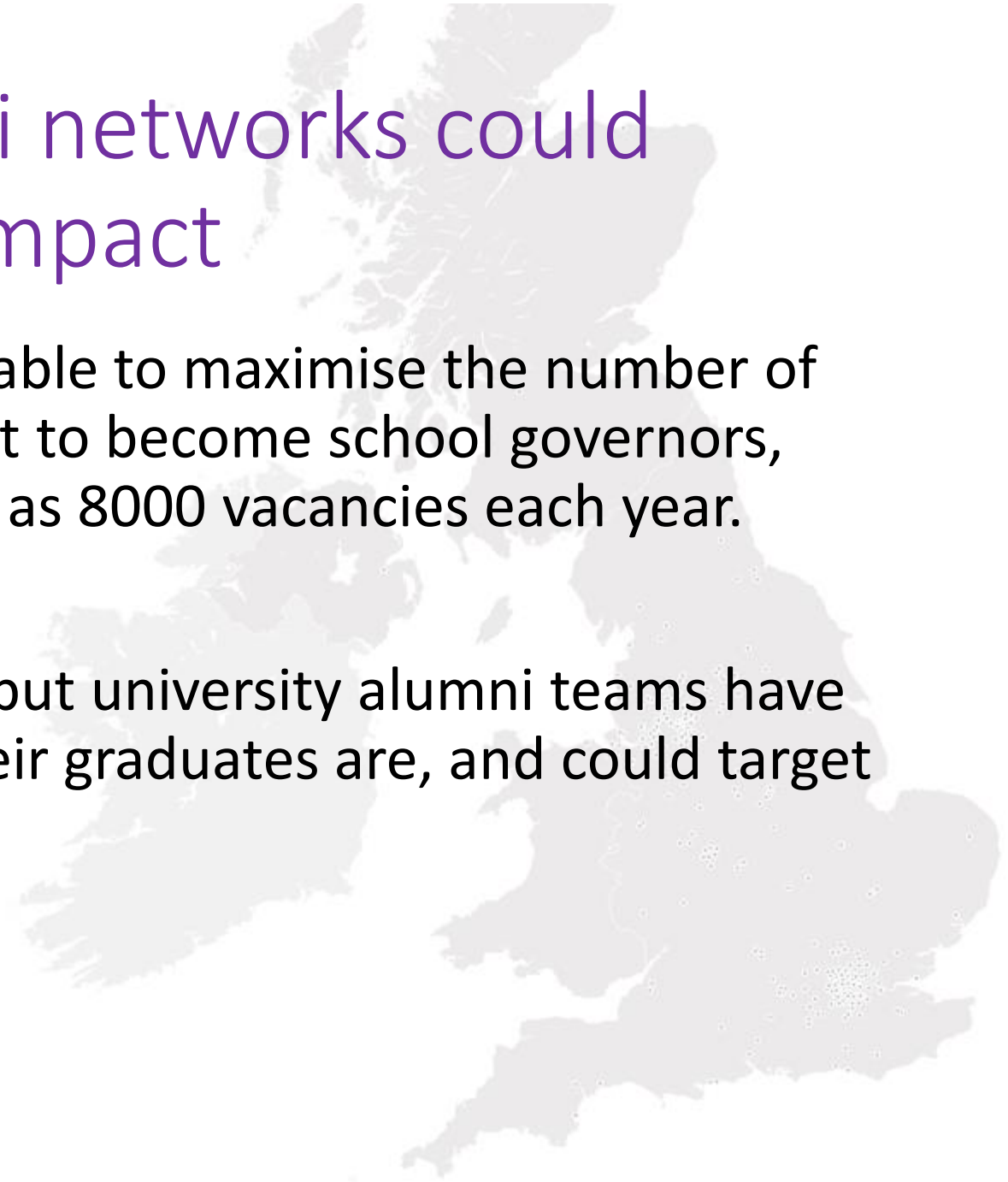
University staff have a range of skills that could be helpful to schools

- Not just academic skills – but also in facilities management, HR, in finance and payroll.
- University staff tend to have stronger links in their communities than alumni who can be more transient.
- Running a school governor initiative with staff alone could have a huge national impact, not just in London.

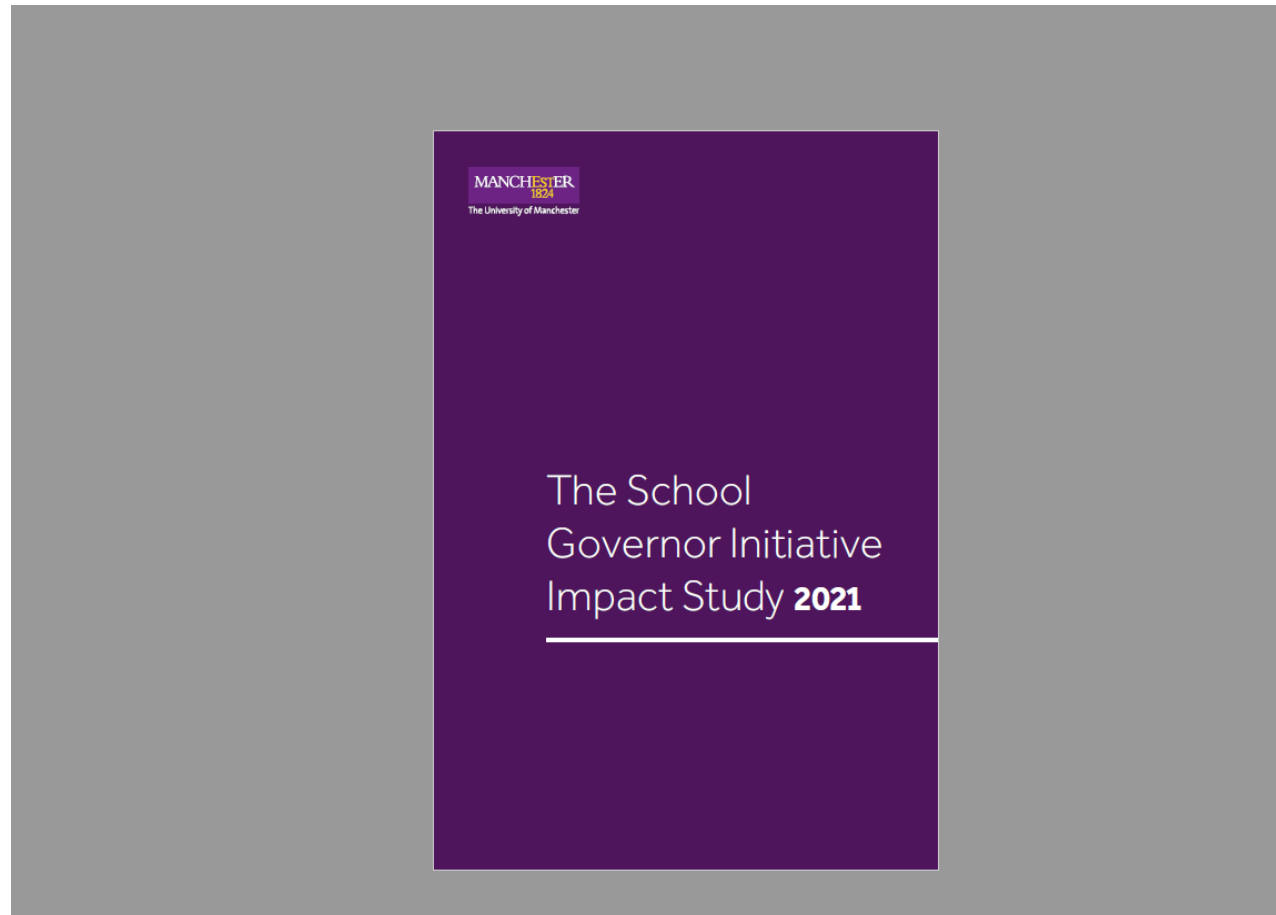
Region	One Year	Five Years	Ten Years
North East	52	259	517
North West	111	555	1,109
Yorkshire and Humber	82	412	825
East Midlands	56	282	564
West Midlands	69	345	691
East of England	77	383	766
South East	138	689	1,378
South West	82	409	818
London	221	1,106	2,213
Wales	54	272	544
Total	942	4,712	9,425

Utilising their full alumni networks could accelerate universities impact

- We estimate that if universities are able to maximise the number of alumni they can contact and support to become school governors, they have the potential fill as many as 8000 vacancies each year.
- This is harder to model than staff – but university alumni teams have increasingly good data on where their graduates are, and could target this to particular areas of need.



Our recommendations are contained within the report



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Thank you for attending, we hope you enjoyed the
session

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