

Shaping Governance - News July 2025

Dear Colleague,

With the end of term in sight, but very much not here yet; I know many of you, including staff and governors, are still deep in the demands of work life, juggling priorities and pushing through to the finish line. It's a busy, intense time, and your continued commitment doesn't go unnoticed.

As you look ahead to a well-earned break, just a reminder that I'll be around over the summer. Whether you're reflecting, planning for September, or in need of a little support, I'm here if you need anything.

And, some exciting news; after months of development and testing I'm launching the *Shaping Governance: Skills and Confidence Map*! It's a simple, powerful tool to help governors reflect on their strengths, spot development opportunities, and feel even more confident in their role. And as a valued member of my community, you can access it before anyone else and also at a discounted rate. Read more below.

Take care, and have a great summer when it arrives.

Su



Shaping Governance: Skills and Confidence Map

A different, people-centred approach to governor mapping and development

I created the Skills and Confidence Map because I kept hearing the same thing from governors:

“We’re fed up with spreadsheet audits that tick boxes but tell us nothing about who we are, what we bring, or where we want to grow.”

"Traditional skills audits weren’t designed for us in local governance; they miss the nuance of our role, the value of our community insight, and the difference we make on the ground."

That’s why I created something better; a **tool designed *for governance in all its forms***, and bespoke to every context. It reflects the people behind the roles, values local insight, and recognises the nuance of working in and across MATs. It **builds confidence, sparks meaningful conversations**, and gives **boards the insight they need to grow stronger together;** *all without a spreadsheet in sight.*

Developed from real insight and years of experience working with boards, the *Skills and Confidence Map* is an **easy-to-use tool** that helps individual governors assess both their skills and their confidence across key areas of governance.

You complete, we analyse.

Governors fill in their own map, and we do the rest: turning responses into clear, board level analysis with actionable insights. It’s a supportive, people-centred way to understand where your board is strong, and where it can grow.

The result? Clear, human-centred insight that boards can use to support development, strengthen teamwork, and lead more effectively.

What is the Skills and confidence Map?

The *Skills and Confidence Map* is a simple, supportive tool that helps individual governors reflect on both their skills and their confidence across key areas of governance. It’s designed for personal reflection *and* collective insight; offering a depth of understanding that goes far beyond a traditional skills audit. In fact, it’s way more than that!

We offer versions tailored for **single schools** and **federations**, as well as a **special edition for multi-academy trusts**. The MAT version includes both **local** and **board-level maps;**

and, crucially, shows how they connect and strengthen governance across the trust.

What governors and headteachers are saying

We've **tested** the *Skills and Confidence Map* with **serving governors and headteachers**; and here's why they love it:



Tired of one-dimensional skills audits or endless Excel checklists?
Try it now at a special rate

What you get

- **An interactive Skills and Confidence Map** for individual governors to complete; helping each person reflect on their confidence and experience in key areas.
- **A board-level insight summary** that identifies collective strengths, emerging patterns, and areas for development.
- **A tailored report with actionable recommendations** to support team development, inform CPD planning, and guide succession strategy

The **Skills and Confidence Map** isn't expensive, and as a valued member of our community, you can access it at an **exclusive discounted rate of just £75 per board per year***. Talk to us about your **MAT Map** pricing.

Whether you're a **Chair, Trustee, Governor, CEO, Headteacher or Clerk**, now is the perfect time to **reflect, reset, and get ready for a confident start in September**.

Still want to know more? Take a look at our FAQs, covering those questions that we have been asked so far. Can't see an answer to your questions, ask Su .

We'd love you to join our mapping community.

** valid until 31st July 2025.*

Contact Su to use the Skills and Confidence Map

Now Live: Three ways to strengthen your governance

I'm excited to share that the *Skills and Confidence Map* now joins our line-up of three practical, people-centred ways to strengthen your governance:



Map it: Use the *Skills and Confidence Map* to reflect on strengths, build confidence, and uncover development opportunities.

Shape it: Dive into a Shaping Governance Improvement session to shape the way your board works, thinks, and leads.

ERG it: Join our *External Review of Governance* (ERG) process for independent insight and assurance into your board's practice.

Not sure where to start?

As a guide, use ***Map it*** to understand your team, ***Shape it*** to strengthen your collective knowledge and how you work together, and ***ERG it*** to gain external assurance.

Wherever you are on your journey, there's a solution to help you move forward with confidence and clarity. Ready to get started? I'm here over the summer if you'd like to talk it through.

Contact Su



Clerking with Clarity, Confidence, and Care

A high-quality Governance Professional does more than take minutes; they bring structure, insight, and assurance to every meeting. They help your board stay organised, compliant, and confident in its decision-making.

At Shaping Governance, we do things differently. Our approach is trusted and valued because we provide:

- ✅ Clear, concise minutes that capture what matters
- ✅ Expert governance advice, tailored to your board
- ✅ Proactive, caring support that keeps you on track

Plus: All of our clerks are from educational backgrounds; either working as a Headteacher or School Business Manager; or in governance roles.

If you're reviewing your clerking arrangements, get in touch to discover how our **clarity, confidence, and care** can strengthen your board's impact.

Shaping Governance - here to help

Interested in finding out more about how we can help you improve your governance - get in touch using the button below

Contact us

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