



SIG Steering Group Sponsor: Role Description

The following is an outline description of the functions, responsibilities and benefits relating to Steering Group (SG) sponsors for individual Mercian subgroups/SIGs.

Preamble

While the idea of assigning a sponsoring member of the SG to each special interest group (SIG) has been discussed for some time, only the Conference Group has previously been assigned one¹. Following this successful trial, it has been agreed to expand this sponsorship function to incorporate all Mercian SIGs².

The intention is not to exactly replicate the role of the group Chair and SG sponsor being the same individual, but to capitalise on the communication, advocacy and representation benefits to groups and the Mercian Collaboration alike. As previously, the Mercian Collaboration Development Officer (MCDO) will continue to function as the primary communication, liaison and representation conduit.

SIG Benefits

- Representation of SIG activities, interests and concerns to SG and Directors
- Early recognition of future support (finance, resource etc.,) needs
- Provision of a strategic sounding board for ideas, opportunities or future activities
- Greater engagement, recognition and buy-in from Directors for group activities

Mercian Collaboration Benefits

- Enhancement of effective governance and reporting structures
- Ensuring SIG mission alignment with Mercian goals enhanced
- Broader strategic oversight and awareness of all Mercian activities with SG

Sponsor Responsibilities

- To ideally be present at one SIG meeting annually, or at least make a written representation
- To remain cognisant of group email traffic and current topics of interest
- To be available for discussions with SIG Chairs, as required
- To keep the MCDO aware of all discussions and matters of interest from within the SIG
- To report to and appraise the Chair and SG of current topics of concern from within SIGs, during Steering Group meetings

Likely, all these above requirements would only apply for the higher-level activities, with the MCDO handling all operational and everyday communication and support activities for groups as he currently does.

¹ This was in part to support and guide an active group through a time-sensitive project, but was also to explore the benefits to more closely aligning SIG activities with the SG

² Proposed: (SG: 11th May 2017, 17/12(b)), Agreed: (SG: 11th August 2017, 17/19(b))



Groups and Sponsors: 2017-2019

- Conference Group (CG): Emma Walton
- Mercian Disability Forum (MDF): Phil Brabban
- RDM Support Group (RDMSG): Fiona Parsons
- Staff Development Group (SDG): Diane Jobs