

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 6/09

1 June 2009

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*Bulletin Board contains dates for your diary, details of consultations and other papers in and out of the NGA office, for information and action, and a digest of some of the activities of NGA on current issues. Circulation currently is to NGA Member Associations and the NGA Board. Distribution is by e-mail and post. **Please share this information widely, through your email contacts and at local meetings, to keep governing bodies better informed of, and more involved in, current activities and national issues.***

FOR ACTION: NGA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Regional Meetings:

North East Summer Regional Meeting: Tuesday, 23.06.09; Durham County Hall; 7.00 pm. The minutes and further details can be found on the events section of the NGA website www.nga.org.uk

Autumn Regional Meetings: *advance information*

London: Saturday, 3 October; 9.30 for 10.00; venue tbc

South East: Monday, 5 October; 10.30 for 11.00am; London tbc

North East: Tuesday, 6 October; 7.00 for 7.30pm; Durham County Hall

East of England: Wednesday, 7 October; 6.00 for 6.15pm; Priory Hotel, Bury St Edmunds

South West: Saturday, 17 October; 10.00 for 10.30am; Express by Holiday Inn, Taunton

West Midlands: Wednesday, 14 October; 6.00 for 6.30pm; NGA Office

Yorks & Humber: Wednesday, 14 October; 6.30 for 7.00pm; Holiday Inn, Wakefield

East Midlands: date tbc; 10.30 for 11.00am; Rutland (*details tbc*)

North West: date tbc; Swallow Hotel, Preston; 6.00 for 6.30pm

Please note: elections for Regional Directors will be held in the South West and Yorks & Humber

National Events:

NGA Annual General Meeting: Saturday, 7 November 2009, Council House, Birmingham – Guest speaker will be Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools.

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News

Regional news: Dennis Roberts, who has been a Board member since 2002, and Regional Director for Yorkshire and Humberside since the regional structure was put in place, has stepped down from the post. The NGA Board has agreed that Patricia Astwood (Calderdale), the Assistant Regional Director, should fill the position until elections at the Autumn Regional Meeting. NGA would like to thank Dennis for his years of service and we wish him well in the future. The Board would also like to thank Patricia for taking over the role and to welcome her as Regional Director.

NGA Subscriptions: The Annual subscription invoices were issued on 20 April to all local associations with reminder letters issued on 22 May. Many thanks to those of you who have already paid or been in contact with the NGA about the subscription. If you have not received your invoice, or if there is some reason that the Association is not yet in a position to pay and you have

not already contacted the NGA, please contact Gillian Allcroft at gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk as soon as possible.

NGA website: The members' area: **please note we still lack details of the executive members of some associations. Please remember to contact the NGA office with names, addresses and email addresses of your association's committee** so that they will be able to log into the members' area and receive copies of the NGA magazine *Matters Arising*.

NGA Newsletter: Don't forget to look at the Newsletter on the NGA website for information, as well as reading the Bulletin Board. The Bulletin Board and Newsletter can both be found in the Briefing section of the website: www.nga.org.uk/newsletterandbulletin.aspx.

Legal Support for Governing Bodies: NGA has come to an agreement with a legal firm to provide some legal support for governing bodies. For details visit: www.nga.org.uk/resources.

2 Policies ~ a request to members

We are trying to collect copies of policies on pupil behaviour and discipline and on school uniform, and examples of Home-School Agreements. We should be very grateful if members would share these with NGA. *Please email to: gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk or send hard copies to the NGA Office.*

3 White Paper School Accountability ~ 21st Century Schools – *please note*

The White Paper to follow the DCSF document *21st Century Schools: A World-Class Education for Every Child* was to have been published in early May, as indicated on the May Bulletin Board. Publication has been delayed until June.

4 Governance Review

In May's Bulletin Board, the indication was that the long awaited report on the Governance Review would be published at the same time as the White Paper (*item 3*). The draft report has been circulated to members of the Ministerial Group so publication in June seems a reality. The indication is that the consultation will be held in the Autumn – at last. We'll alert members to the report and consultation dates. *Please respond to the consultation, late as it may be!*

5 Meetings Digest

NGA Summer Conference: Leeds, 9 May 2009 – a report on, and presentations from, the event can be found on the NGA website via the attached link <http://www.nga.org.uk/may09.aspx>

National Heads' Children's Services Officers' and Governors' Group (HEG) (12.05.09): Issues discussed included:

- *The STRB's proposed measures regarding Executive Head's contracts* were clearly interim and it was agreed that HEG members should lobby to ensure the issue was addressed properly as these posts grew in number;
- *21st Century schools:* NAHT had produced a document of all current and proposed initiatives, RAG rated for cost, workload implications and effectiveness. Particular concern expressed about workload, especially in regard to such things as reporting on behaviour partnerships, and complaints. It was determined that a jointly agreed complaints policy would be helpful;
- *SIPs:* it was agreed things were working better in the secondary sector where the SIP was less likely to be the link adviser as this confuses accountability. The SIP's brokerage role needed strengthening.

Toby Salt, Deputy Chief Executive, NCSL (14.05.09): Issues discussed included:

- *NPQH:* NGA expressed continuing concern about the quality of applicants (50% fail the pre-assessment module). It was agreed that NGA should be consulted on governance questions for the final assessment;

- *Training for Chairs of Governors*: It has been agreed that NCSL should work with DCSF and partners to help produce training for new chairs. However, funding, delivery and incentives have yet to be agreed. NGA wondered if there could be a role for Ofsted to ensure that governing bodies were trained;
- *National Standards for School Leaders*: It was agreed that the governance aspect of the standards remained problematic. The standards were due to be finalised this term, with the guidance completed next term. It may be that the governance aspect would be fleshed out in the guidance. NGA remained unsure that this was satisfactory and expressed concern that this was discussed at the Social Partnership to which NGA does not have access. It was agreed that NGA should be included in the relevant sub-group meetings.

Other May events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Nick Gibb MP, Geoff Friston, DCSF Governance Unit (Honours for governors), SE COGS, Chris Keates, General Secretary of NASUWT, Buckinghamshire Governors' Conference, TDA Governors' Group, DCSF (Developing sex and relationships education guidance for schools), DCSF (Developing drugs and alcohol guidance for schools), NCSL (re. new remit for Children's Services Directors), School Food Trust Stakeholder Meeting, Christine Gilbert, Ofsted HMCI, Local Government Ombudsman, Foundation Trusts Governors' Association.

6 **The NGA First Certificate in Governance**

Changes are to be made to this distance learning programme. As a consequence, current stocks of the full assessment package are available at the discounted price of £10 plus VAT. *A link to the EduCare website can be found under Resources on the NGA website, or EduCare can be contacted by telephone on 01926 436200.*

7 **Teachers' TV**

Just for Governors – online resources:

The governors' area of the website - www.teachers.tv/governors - includes expert advice, the 'best of the web' reviews, a poll of school governors and links to programmes. There is a wealth of additional material online designed to help improve the performance of school governors. These range from detailed lists of related websites, through downloadable supporting documents, to a new library of complete high-quality presentations addressing CPD issues. They are completely free to use, and have been extensively tested during development. They are ready to use 'off the shelf' in training or can be customised better to meet the needs of an individual school.

Governor presentations

Teachers' TV's governor training presentations provide useful material to facilitate 30-minute discussion sessions at meetings. Each presentation includes video clips and discussion starters to spark debate about good practice.

Programme information can be found by visiting the home page at: www.teachers.tv and clicking on *Full TV Guide* at the foot of the page. Every Monday night at 7pm is **Governors' Hour**.

TTV can be found on Sky 880, Virgin TV 240, Freesat 650 and Freeview 88 (4–6pm). TTV programmes can also be viewed online at: www.teachers.tv.

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

8 **The School Staffing (Consolidation) (England) Regulations 2009**

The School Staffing (England) Regulations 2003 have, over time, had a number of amendments made to them and in some places are written in a way that is neither up to date nor helpful to the end user. Therefore, in order to make necessary changes which will bring the Regulations up to date with current legislation and reflect what is required by new policy the DCSF is carrying out a consolidation and redrafting exercise. In accordance with Government policy, DCSF now wishes to consult formally with interested parties on this consolidation exercise.

The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses may be made online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: schoolstaffingengregs.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Marie Hepperle, DCSF, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 3BG.

DCSF deadline 24 July 2009

Deadline for comment to NGA 10 July

9 Curriculum Reform (of the Primary Curriculum)

The DCSF is proposing to reform the primary curriculum, following the publication of the independent review of the primary curriculum by Sir Jim Rose; revising the legal requirements for personal, social, health and economic education, following the publication of Sir Alasdair Macdonald's review of personal, social, health and economic education; updating the National Curriculum subject level descriptions; and updating the religious education guidance. As governing bodies are responsible for monitoring the curriculum, their views are important and account will be taken of these views. *The QCA has been asked to carry out this consultation, which is to be found on its website. Responses are invited online, but it is possible to download the material, print off and post it to QCA.*

The consultation can be found at: <http://www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation>. (Further details can be found on the QCA website and the consultation can be found also through the link on the DCSF website.)

Responses are invited online to: www.qca.org.uk/curriculumconsultation/. Written responses should be sent to: Qualifications and Curriculum Authority, 83 Piccadilly, London W1J 8QA.

QCA deadline 24 July 2009.

Deadline for comment to NGA 6 July 2009

10 Consultation on Giving Children and Young People a Right to Appeal

This is a consultation on giving children and young people a right to appeal decisions regarding exclusions, SEN statements and assessments, and to make disability discrimination claims in England.

The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses may be made online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: ypappeals.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be posted to: DCSF, Consultation Unit, Area Ground B, Castle View House, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ

DCSF Deadline 28 July 2009

Deadline for comment to NGA 6 July 2009

11 Handling Allegations of Abuse made against Adults who work with Children and Young People

Following the review of the implementation of guidance on handling allegations of abuse against those who work with children or young people, the Government made a commitment to publish additional practice guidance. This is supplementary to the guidance contained in Appendix 5 of *Working Together to Safeguard Children* and Chapter 5 of *Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education*. It sets out the statutory framework and underlying principles of handling allegations of abuse for those involved in dealing with allegations. It covers practical issues surrounding exercising professional judgement, information sharing and record keeping. It also explains the allegations process through to referral to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

Responses may be made online to: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: joanne.harker@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Joanne Harker, Safeguarding Children Policy Unit, Ground Floor, Area E, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 3BG.

DCSF deadline 7 August 2009

Deadline for comment to NGA 24 July 2009

Also see *Extending the Free Early Education Entitlement: discussion document on a new Code of Practice*. Views are sought on how best to deliver the extended free offer in a way, which will maximise its value in terms of improving outcomes for children and their families.. The consultation can be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations. Closing date: 8 July

12 Publications available from NGA

Items available include:

- ◆ ***What governing bodies should expect from schools leaders and what school leaders should expect from governing bodies***. The NGA has signed a national agreement with the Association of School and College Leaders and the National Association of Headteachers setting out how these important groups should work together. The agreement establishes ground rules for the relationship between headteachers and governing bodies. The document can be downloaded from the Guidance section of the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk
- ◆ ***Welcome to Governance 2008-09 Edition***. This popular guide for new governors provides an overview of, and introduction to, the role and responsibilities of a governing body, with sections on meetings, school budgets, policies, development planning, visiting the school and much more. Price: £8.00.

For other NGA publications, visit both the Publications and Guidance sections of the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk.

13 Other useful publications.

Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors (Revised Edition April 2009): A new and improved edition of the TDA's Extended Services Toolkit for governors – reflecting changes to the agenda, as well as the new duties on well-being and community cohesion – is now available.

The toolkit was created by the TDA in partnership with the NGA, DCSF and extended services delivery partners. It is designed to help governors working with their schools, whether the school has the 'full core offer' or not, to ensure that existing or planned services are meeting the needs of pupils, families and the community – and are aligned with the school's vision and priorities.

This can be downloaded from <http://www.nga.org.uk/TDA.aspx> or ordered online from the Training and Development Agency for Schools at: publications@tda.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference TDA0664/03.09/COL).

Recruiting Headteachers and Senior Leaders: This publication outlines a seven-stage process, which provides a governing body with the practical guidance needed to find success in recruiting a headteacher. The publication can be downloaded free from the NCSL website: www.ncsl.org.uk/publications

School Improvement Planning Framework (New Edition October 2008): To find out more about this useful tool visit the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website. The framework can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy: http://www.tda.gov.uk/leaders/schoolimprovement_framework.aspx