

This will be the last update from me for the Summer Term.

- a) Urgent Matters - DAG arrangements until the end of term ( All ) : Workforce Remodelling Questionnaire (CoGs)
  - b) Volunteers Sought - parent governors ( Parent Governors!! )
  - c) Consultations - Devon Governor Services ( All ) : Audit Commission Survey ( CoGs ) : Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business ( Personnel / Child Protection )
  - d) Meetings in the future - Autumn Term Area Meetings ( All ) : DAG/DGS Conference ( All )
  - e) Arrived in schools (i) paper (ii) by e-mail
- NB Governors are reminded that they can access information about the weekly distribution of e-mails / paperwork to schools by going in to <http://www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/distribution/index.html>
- f) New Items on Websites (i) DAG ( [www.devon.gov.uk/dag](http://www.devon.gov.uk/dag) ) ( ii ) others
  - g) Papers available from me
  - h) Brief items - Management Allowances ( Finance /Personnel ) : Healthy Schools Award ( All ) : Child Protection Governor : Governor Insurance ( All ) : Queen's Speech ( All ) : Job Evaluation ( Personnel )

..... and finally ..... and finally, finally

a) Urgent Matters

( i ) This e-mail address and contact will shut down from June 11<sup>th</sup> to the end of the summer holiday!! Our entire address book ( !!! ) will receive a message on that date because, although our walk does not start quite yet ( first photos due on the website on June 21st ) we have to focus final days on preparations. If you have any urgent queries and/or responses to this update you should contact Devon Governor Services and/or Governorline ( 08000 722 181 ) about general matters and the DAG Chair, Leon Winston ( [winston-tideway@supanet.com](mailto:winston-tideway@supanet.com) ) about specific DAG issues.

( ii ) Workforce Remodelling Questionnaire - details in last update. This brief form should be returned to the LEA by the school by the end of this week ( June 10th ) and a senior governor is required to countersign the document.

b) Volunteers Sought

As mentioned in the last update arrangements for a postal ballot of eligible parent governors to elect two representatives for the next 4 years have been sent to schools. Simon Howes is standing down as the representative for primary schools. Full details about the election and nomination forms will be sent out, direct, to all parent governors in the week beginning 13 June 2005. Prospective candidates will then have until 4 July 2005 to return their nomination papers. Ballot papers will be sent out direct to all parent governors during the week beginning 11 July 2005, to be returned by Monday, 25 July 2005. Votes cast will be counted on 27 July 2005. If you are interested in standing and wish to know more about what is involved please contact Gerry Rufolo at [gerry.rufolo@devon.gov.uk](mailto:gerry.rufolo@devon.gov.uk)

c) Consultations

( i ) Devon Governor Services - consultation on the service level agreement 2006/07. An e-mail has been sent to all schools with notification of possible changes to the way DGS charges for their service ( [www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/docs/may05/0523038.doc](http://www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/docs/may05/0523038.doc) ). They need your views, so please e-mail your responses to the proposals as soon as you can to [governor@devon.gov.uk](mailto:governor@devon.gov.uk) or write to: Devon Governor Services, SLA Consultation, Education, Arts and Libraries Directorate, Room 120, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter EX2 4QG.

( ii ) The national internet-based school survey by the Audit Commission is now open. The survey asks for school views about the strengths and weaknesses of the LEA and its effectiveness in supporting the management of the school and the programmes for school improvement, and for delivering the "Every Child Matters" outcomes. Jane Phillips ( former Chair of NASG ) comments: " I've received a press release from the Audit Commission relating to their annual survey of schools' perceptions of their Local Authority. They really want a high level of participation. What I really want is for governors to be involved in filling in the survey - very often the Head does it without consulting any governor - even though some questions relate specifically to governor support. Can you bring it to the attention of anyone you think appropriate?" The press release is in the NASG section of the DAG website.

The Audit Commission asks for a single response from each school but the survey form can be printed and copies taken, so that colleagues may take part in deciding on elements of your school's response. The survey will be open until Monday 27 June 2005 at: [www.audit-commission.gov.uk/schoolsurvey/](http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/schoolsurvey/)

To gain access to the survey the steps are:

- click on "enter the 2005 survey" on the home page named above
- on the survey welcome page which follows, enter the Devon LEA number (878) and your school number and then click on "enter survey"
- check the details about your school and then enter your email address and create your password
- click on "begin survey" and you will be taken to the main survey menu.

Using your password you will be able to enter the survey to review, add or alter entries as many times as you like during the survey period, until the point at which the headteacher clicks on "sign off and submit your survey as

complete".

( iii ) Making Safeguarding Everybody's Business: A Post-Bichard Vetting Scheme - details were given in the last update. The NGC briefing paper and questionnaire can be found in the Consultations section of the NGC website. DfES Deadline July 5 2005. Deadline for comment/questionnaires to NGC 24 June 2005.

d) Meetings in the future

( i ) The Autumn Term Area DAG Meetings will take place for the following Local Learning Communities from 7.00 - 9.00p.m. on the following dates / venues ( those in brackets straddle 2 areas for convenience of access ). Governors in those LLCs will receive initial notification but meetings will be open to any governor interested. Details will follow at the beginning of the Autumn Term.

Tues. Sept. 27th The Park School, Barnstaple - Barnstaple, Bideford, Braunton, Ilfracombe, (South Molton), Torrington

Wed. Sept. 28th Tiverton High School - Culm Valley, (South Molton), Tiverton

Wed. Oct. 5th Clyst Vale CC - Clyst Vale, (Crediton), (Exmouth), Exeter

Thur. Oct. 6th The King's School, Ottery - Axe Valley, (Exmouth), Honiton, Ottery-St-Mary, Sidmouth

Other areas will have meetings in the Spring Term

( ii ) Autumn Term Major DGS/DAG overnight conference on the theme ' The Child at the Centre ' ... an investigation of the Every Child Matters agenda. Fri. Oct 14th 6.00p.m. to Sat. Oct. 15th 4.00p.m. National speakers. Full details in Devon Governor. Book early to be assured of your place.

e) Arrived in schools (i) paper (ii) by e-mail

NB Governors are reminded that they can access information about the weekly distribution of e-mails / paperwork to schools by going in to <http://www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/distribution/index.html>

( i ) On paper

Fortnightly ' Headlines ' summary of key issues for HTs

Monthly DfES Spectrum

Summer Term Devon Governor

Bulletin from Devon Audit Services including information on Music Tuition in Schools : Fake Health & Safety Agencies : Missing Income? : School Visits & Off-Site Activities : Are you Registered under the Data Protection Act?

( ii ) By e-mail

An invitation to all schools to take part in fund-raising activities for Hospiscare and Children's Hospice SW linked to our walk in the Pyrenees this summer ( details at [www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/docs/may05/0521015.doc](http://www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/docs/may05/0521015.doc) ). We very much hope that lots of Devon schools will combine to create a sort of ' Trek Relief ' fund-raising effort. If each Devon school were able to raise just £20 that would contribute nearly £7,500 to our 2 chosen Devon charities. If contributions can be GiftAided that raises even more money.

f) New Items on Websites

( i ) DAG ( [www.devon.gov.uk/dag](http://www.devon.gov.uk/dag) )

- in the NASG section ' Audit Commission Statement on 2005 Schools Survey '

- in the NGC Bulletin Section ' June Bulletin '

( ii ) others - none

Items will continue to be placed on the website whilst I am away

g) Papers available from me - none

h) Brief items

( i ) An important message from NGC about Teaching and Learning Responsibilities / Allowances " The Fourteenth Report from STRB recommended that management allowances be abolished and Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLRs) introduced. Teaching and Learning Responsibilities are not direct replacements for management allowances. All schools will have to carry out a complete review of their staffing structures by 31 December 2005 in order to introduce TLRs. This review is mandatory as set out in the Education (Review of Staffing Structure) (England) Regulations 2005. Any changes as a result of the review must be implemented in full by the end of 2008. The DfES and the Rewards and Incentives Group, who provide joint evidence to STRB and proposed the idea of TLRs, undertook to provide guidance to schools on how to carry out the Staffing Review. That guidance has now been published and is available on GovernorNet via the attached link. Annex C to the document provides a checklist for governing bodies.

<http://www.governornet.co.uk/publishArticle.cfm?topicAreald=4&contentId=1067>

( ii ) The Healthy Schools Award - a message from David Duttson. " You are a Governor of a school that has been accredited with the Healthy Schools Award. You yourself have been involved in the award and know how important the experience has been for the children, the staff and the school as a whole. What you may not know is that a committee exists at County level to oversee the work of Healthy Schools; representation on it includes those from Education and Health but Governors and Parents play a vital part too. If you would like to know more with a

view to joining this committee as a Governor representative, please contact David Duttson. E-mail [david-jo@duttson.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:david-jo@duttson.freeserve.co.uk) "

( iii ) Child Protection Governor A governor raised this query " When there is a child protection issue or complaint against a school should the Governing body be informed? " The reply back from DGS was as follows " My initial reaction would be not. Every GB should have a named Child Protection Governor - usually the Chair - who would be informed. The governing body could be informed once the issue has been resolved. However, they ought not to be informed while an issue or complaint of this nature is ongoing. Governors will want to be informed annually of the number of child protection incidents the school has dealt with over a year, but should not be privy to details of individual cases. " Has your school got a named Child Protection Governor?

( iv ) Governor Insurance. I received this comment from a primary school governor: " In order to receive a discount on our insurance against staff absence, we need to be a member of the National Governors Council. " Rest assured - provided your school subscribes to DGS you are automatically members of DAG and, hence, the NGC.

( v ) Queen's Speech The Queen's Speech indicated that there will be another Education Bill published later this year, possibly preceded by an Education White Paper. The main points of the new legislation are:

- successful schools to be given more autonomy and 'more flexibility in the structure of the governing body'
- primary schools to be given the same fast-track opportunities as secondary schools to obtain foundation status
- parents to be given powers to trigger Ofsted inspections
- Ofsted to be given more powers to intervene in struggling schools, possibly including the power to close failing schools
- New education providers, which could be parent groups, faith groups, community organisations or businesses, to be given the power to set up state schools.

( vi ) Job Evaluation. In the light of recent problems encountered by Devon & Cornwall Police the County Council JE team have circulated the following message:

" Performance & Reward (P&R) activities and the Job Evaluation (JE) Project have reached a critical stage in their development and as a result it is essential that we keep employees fully informed of key developments as they unfold. It is clear that the potential for confusion and misunderstanding arising out of a project of both this size and nature (and one which is working to a tight deadline) is considerable, hence the need for a communications strategy. Effective consultation and communication is paramount if we hope to avoid a similar debacle as that that recently unfolded at Devon and Cornwall Constabulary in the handling of their own Pay Review. Over the next twelve months we will provide employees with access to regular updates and we are committed to being 'at hand' to answer any queries as they are raised. We plan to do this via all the usual routes including the development of a dedicated web-site (which will incorporate the current JE site) and regular bi-monthly payslip updates. We will also look to work with all of the Directorates and UNISON to ensure that newsletters and DCC publications also contain regular updates. In addition, we intend to run a series of Roadshows across Devon in the last week of June (27th June - 1st July) and are therefore looking to secure corporate support in order to ensure that all employees are given the opportunity to attend. I am of course aware that the release of front-line staff during working hours does create resourcing issues but ask that you plan a pragmatic approach that suits your service eg one person attends and cascades the information back at the work-place / to their team. Roadshow Diary attached for information and cascade: <http://www4.devon.gov.uk/eal/docs/may05/0523012.doc> One last plea. The P&R Activity Groups are being well supported right across the organisation - and appreciation is hereby recorded and acknowledged. However, the mechanics of JE - conducting Evaluation Panels, the negotiation of a Collective Agreement, Appeals Procedure and, of course, the Pay and Grading structure itself - are here to stay for the next 12 months. This heralds an era where the level of demand for union involvement – and therefore time - is unprecedented. As a result your corporate support has never been needed before as it is now and I ask for your sympathetic consideration of any related request for union time off. Thank you "

..... and finally ..... a few of you rose to the challenge of the Washington Mensa Team and I received  
Sopissticated - an upper class drunk  
Giraffiti - vandalism spray-painted very, very high  
Hipatitis - terminal coolness  
Glibido - all talk and no action

But my favourite, in the light of our plans for the summer, has to be ...  
Pyreknees - the joint effect of climbing several mountains!

So finally, finally, may I thank you for all your interest and support over the past academic year, wish you a very pleasant summer and invite you, once again, to log on to [www.godfreytreks.co.uk](http://www.godfreytreks.co.uk) to share our highs and lows on the GR10 during June, July and August. Normal service begins on September 1st!!!!!!