

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 4/08

1 April 2008

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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

NGA Conference – Whose curriculum is it anyway? – Unlocking the Curriculum (sponsored by the QCA): Saturday, 21 June 2008, Wolverhampton Racecourse Conference Facilities – download a booking form from the NGA website <http://www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx?cardid=35>

NGA/CSN/NCOGS Conference – Effective Governance in a Changing World: Monday, 2 June 2008, Woburn House Conference Centre, 20 Tavistock Square, London, WC1H 9HQ. The cost for this Conference is £165 + VAT.

NGA Annual General Meeting: Saturday, 8 November 2008, London

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News

NGA website: The members' area of the website is ready. Please remember to contact the NGA office with names, addresses and email addresses of your association's executive committee so that they will be able to log into the members' area and receive copies of the new NGA magazine *Matters Arising*. And don't forget, if your association hasn't its own website, there will be the opportunity to have an easy to manage microsite within the NGA site.

Governance issues – update: NGA regional meetings aired the issues likely to figure in the coming consultation and associations are still holding meetings to discuss the governance matters flagged up in recent Bulletin Boards. Please share your views and those of your associations with NGA. NGA will respond to the consultation, but that will only count as one reply despite the numbers represented, so we need as many separate responses to DCSF as possible. Information about the consultation will be circulated as soon as NGA has details. So far there is a growing consensus that a governing body of only six (in line with the Interim Executive Board model) is impractical and there is general agreement in favour of mandatory induction training or at least for a strong steer from DCSF and Ministers that there will be an expectation that all new governors participate in induction training.

NGA/Defra - A Strategic Policy Framework for Governing Bodies, Catering and Food

Procurement Supplement: The NGA in partnership with Defra has produced a supplement to the Food Policy Document, looking at issues surrounding food procurement and sustainability. The document is available to download from the NGA website via the attached link.

<http://www.nga.org.uk/gdncedocs.aspx>

2 DCSF News

Education and Skills Bill: This remains on the Bulletin Board as a reminder. The Bill includes the raising of the school leaving age, and should be one to keep an eye on. For the Bill's timetable and the details go to <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/educationandskills.htm>.

3 Meetings Digest – a quiet month for meetings

Meeting of Heads', Education Officers' and Governors' National Organisations (HEG) (18.03.08): Issues discussed included assessment, single status agreements, school admissions and the development of Children's Trusts. NAHT advocated the Scottish system of assessment and testing, which was effective but much less burdensome. In regard to Single Status Agreements there was great concern that the failure of some local authorities to address the issue sooner was leading to a charge on schools' budgets in order to meet compensation payments.

Qualification and Curriculum Authority (QCA) Consultation Meeting (14.03.08): NGA was asked to gather a group of twelve governors to discuss the primary curriculum, currently under review by Sir Jim Rose, and to share views on what was needed to provide more flexibility and a curriculum better able to meet the needs of primary pupils. The group represented a wide geographical spread – from South West to North East. Discussion was lively and far ranging – and the facilitator was impressed by the quality of the debate.

NCSL Diversity Panel Meeting (3.03.08): The panel was concerned about the problems encountered in obtaining data from LAs on the number of senior posts held by those in minority groups. Research into the aspirations of BME teachers has been commissioned and three seminars on *Women into Headship* had been hugely oversubscribed and had been very successful. There is no data on diversity in governing bodies nor any to show how aware governing bodies are of diversity and recruitment issues. It was agreed that it was vital that governors' awareness was raised.

Other March events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Lancashire Clerks' Conference, DCSF Capital Strategy Group, NCPTA Awards meeting, ABI Arson Prevention Group, General Teaching Council, Mick Brookes (General Secretary of NAHT), Partnerships for Schools, Governors' Agenda Editorial Board, NCSL Seminars in Birmingham and London for aspiring female headteachers, New Relationships with School Consultative Group and Devon Governors' Conference.

4 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

This distance-learning programme has been very well received. It is suitable for both new governors and existing governors who require a refresher or update. It consists of a pack of four modules with accompanying questionnaires. The questionnaires may be submitted for assessment and a score of 70% on each questionnaire is rewarded with a certificate to evidence the achievement. The pack can act as an introduction to governance for a new governor and give the confidence to attend training courses to further develop knowledge. The Programme is administered and run by EduCare, experts in distance learning. *The pack of four modules is really good value at £9.50 + VAT (£11.16).*

Please note this can rise to £36.75 + VAT to include external assessment, feedback and advice and a Certificate. A link to the EduCare website can be found on the front page of the NGA website. Alternatively, email the office for a hard copy of the form – governorhq@nga.org.uk

5 Teachers' TV

Don't forget that governors who become Teachers' TV Associates can watch online previews of future programmes. Teachers' TV Associates are the channel's first point of contact at schools. By helping to promote the channel they get access to free previews, online discussion forums and invitations to special events, among other benefits. To learn more, go to www.teachers.tv/associates. Associates can access the previews through this web link.

Programme information can be found at: www.teachers.tv/programmeguide.

TTV can be found on Sky Guide 880, ntl 240, Telewest 240, Home choice 845 and Freeview 88. Freeview viewing time has changed; it is now from 11.00am until 1.00pm

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

6 Draft School Admissions (Alteration and Variation of, and Objections to, Arrangements) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2008

This one is for only the most dedicated ... The consultation seeks views on draft Regulations which extend the period in which objections can be made to the Schools Adjudicator, by local authorities, schools, parents and others, about school admission arrangements each year. The proposal is to bring these Regulations into force in May 2008, in time to affect admission arrangements being determined for entry to schools in September 2009. The consultation period is six weeks only, not the usual twelve weeks. The Regulations will apply to England only.

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: admissions.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: School Admissions Unit, DCSF, 3rd Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DCSF deadline 28 April 2008.

7 Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families has asked Sir Jim Rose to carry out an independent review of the primary curriculum. You are invited to provide evidence and comments to Sir Jim Rose on any of the five main aspects of the review set out in the consultation questionnaire.

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: primary.review@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Colin Seal, Independent Review of the Primary Curriculum, DCSF, 2nd Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DCSF deadline 30 April 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 14 April 2008

8 The path to citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system.

This Home Office Green Paper invites responses on its proposals regarding immigration and citizenship. The document is available on the Home Office website in Word or pdf format. Click on 'quick links', then 'Have your say – contribute to a public consultation' and then 'The path to citizenship: next steps in reforming the immigration system'.

Responses may be made by email to: ImmigrationReform@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Immigration Reform Consultation Responses, Border and Immigration Agency, 11th Floor, Apollo House, 36 Wellesley Road, Croydon, CR9 3RR.

Home Office deadline 14 May 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 26 April 2008

9 Raising Expectations

This is a joint consultation between the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on the transfer of planning and funding responsibilities for 16–19 year olds from the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to Local Authorities and on proposals for reforming the post 19 skills landscape.

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: Raisingexpectations.ENABLINGTHESYSTEM@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Consultation Unit, DCSF, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

DCSF deadline 9 June 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 19 May 2008

10 Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) Regulations 2008

This consultation concerns draft regulations prescribing the qualifications and experience required of the person responsible for co-ordinating SEN provision for pupils – the SEN Co-ordinator or SENCO. The consultation also sets out associated functions in relation to governing bodies, and outlines work to develop national accredited training for all newly appointed SENCOs.

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: SENCO.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: John Perryman, Special Educational Needs and Disability Division, DCSF, Area 2A, Caxton House, 6–12 Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA .

DCSF deadline 17 June 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 30 May 2008

11 Publications available from NGA

Items available include:

- ◆ *Welcome to Governance*: New edition now available. 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: Single copies – £4.00 to members, £6.00 to non-members. Discounts for multiple copies: 5% for 2–29, 10% for 30-99, 20% for 100-499 and 25% for 500+.
- ◆ *Food Policy in Schools – A Strategic Policy Framework for Governing Bodies*. The revised publication was launched in September to take account of the new standards for school food. Available free from NGA. <http://www.nga.org.uk/gdncedocs.aspx>
- ◆ *Extended Schools – a Guide for Governors I* is available free from NGA.
- ◆ *Papers*: The papers cover a wide range of topics providing detailed guidance and information on aspects of governance. Two revised papers were published in December 2007: *Governors who they are and what they do* and *Governors and Staffing*. *Governors and the Curriculum* and *Governors and the Role of Inspection* (revised February 2007) are also available. The other NGA papers are currently undergoing revision and will be available in 2008. Watch the website for more information. Price for all Papers: £3 to members and £4 to non-members.
- ◆ *School improvement through ICT – guidance for governors*. Hard copies of this guidance are available from NGA. It is also downloadable free from the NGA website. <http://www.nga.org.uk/gdncedocs.aspx>

12. Other useful publications.

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 ordered in hard copy from NGA (£7.50) and can be downloaded free from the NCSL website: www.ncsl.org.uk/publications

School Improvement Planning Framework: 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

Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors: This can be downloaded from TeacherNet or ordered online from the Training and Development Agency at: publications@tda.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference no: TDA279/05.07/BEL/158)