

# National Governors' Association

## BULLETIN BOARD

BB 8/09

1 August 2009

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*The Bulletin Board is circulated to NGA Member Associations and to Co-ordinators of Governor Services to advise on NGA's work and important consultations and publications.  
It is a membership benefit.*

*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

**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, 14 October; 6.00 for 6.30pm; Priory Hotel, Bury St Edmunds

**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

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

**East Midlands:** Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> October; 10.30 for 11.00am; Water's Edge, Rutland

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

**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. There will also be a presentation by the School Food Trust; other presentations to be confirmed.

**NGA Winter Conference:** Wednesday 27 January 2010, Russell Hotel, London. A departure from usual NGA practice, this event is not a members' conference, but an event for professionals who work with governing bodies. Aimed at governor services managers, school improvement partners and others whose professional role brings them into contact with governors, this event will celebrate good practice and allow people to peek over the walls of the professional silos and acquire a comprehensive understanding of the various groups who work with governors and governing bodies. For more information see under *Events* on the NGA website. [www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx](http://www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx)

### FOR INFORMATION

**1 NGA News** ~ *please note changes and additional items*

**NGA Board Elections:** The closing date for nominations to the NGA Board was 6.00pm on 31 July 2009. There are six candidates standing for election for nine General Director places. The candidates are, in alphabetical order: Colleen Arnold, Mark Blois, Clare Collins, Terry Douris, Frank Newhofer and Paul Rosen.

The candidates' 250 word statements will be placed on the *About Us* section of the NGA website during August. The ballot paper will also be downloadable from the website or available via email

from the office at [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk). The closing date for receipt of ballot papers is 2.00pm Thursday 5 November 2009: <http://www.nga.org.uk/NGA%20Board%20Elections%202009.aspx>

**NGA Subscriptions:** There are now only a few Associations who have either not paid their annual subscription or not contacted the office about payment. The NGA office has now written twice to Associations on both occasions asking them to get in touch if they need to defer payment (we know that some associations receive their own funds at different times). The Office will shortly be writing to all those associations who have either not paid or not been in contact with a final reminder. Failure to respond to this final reminder will result in the Association's membership being suspended.

**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:** The newsletter is taking a break for summer and will back in September.

**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](http://www.nga.org.uk/resources).

**Email Forum:** The Email Forum will be re-launched in a revised format from September. Further details will be issued in September's Bulletin Board, newsletter and *Matters Arising*.

## 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](mailto:gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk) or send hard copies to the NGA Office.*

## 3 White Paper: School Accountability ~ Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system

The White Paper was finally published on 30 June 2009. The NGA has produced a full briefing for members, which can be found on the website: [www.nga.org.uk/briefing](http://www.nga.org.uk/briefing). The briefing is in the members' only section of the website for which you will need your membership log-on number and password.

## 4 Governance Review

The ongoing saga continues. The change in Schools' Minister from Jim Knight to Vernon Coaker delayed matters yet further. As a result of a request by some members of the Ministerial Group, there is to be a final (!) meeting in September. This will, with luck, sign off the Report for publication.

As soon as it is published we'll alert members to the report and consultation dates. *Please respond to the consultation, late as it may be!*

## 5 Meetings Digest

*July has been quiet as the school holidays cut into it and almost all activity seems to pause at national level. And, of course, August will suffer yet more from this somnolence!*

**Meeting with Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners (24.07.09):** Great thanks are owed to Fred Manning, NGA's East Midlands Regional Director, who organised this meeting between the Minister and NGA's Chair and CEO, at the Constituency Offices in Nottingham. It was an opportunity to introduce NGA to the Minister and to raise issues – and all without Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) officials hovering. NGA thanked

the Minister for resurrecting the Governance Review, agreed that there was much to be positive about in the White Paper and that it was pleasing that the role and profile of governance was being addressed. However, concern was expressed that governance was being downgraded in the Department and that this did not fit with the current interest in governance and accountability. NGA also expressed NGA's on going concern that the National College for School Leadership (NCSL) is not addressing headteacher knowledge of governance and accountability.

**DCSF Children's Trusts Guidance Group (28.07.09):** This meeting was to consult on proposed guidance. Under provisions in the ASCL Bill (Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning) the range of Children's Trust (CT) partners is extending to include schools, and the CT will produce the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) not the LA. The CT will monitor the implementation of the plan, which must include: consultation and needs assessment; key improvement priorities; strategies for co-operation; and arrangements for early intervention and prevention. Formal consultation on the proposals will begin in October 2009; the Guidance will be published in March 2010; CT Boards will be set up in April 2010; and new CYPPs will be published in April 2011. NGA wonders if it will be proposed that governors should be members of the Children's Trust Boards.

Other July events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Sex Education Forum of the National Children's Bureau, NCSL Succession Planning Advisory Group, Partnerships for Schools ICT meeting, Ministerial Stakeholder Group on Behaviour and Attendance, NCSL Stewardship Group, National Centre for Social Research (General Teaching Council referrals), Training and Development Agency for Schools.

## **6 The NGA First Certificate in Governance**

Changes are to be made to this distance-learning programme. It will be available in its new form in mid-September.

## **7 Liberating leadership: not all leaders are teachers**

If you are a governor in the East Midlands, West Midlands or East of England, you may be interested in an NCSL Leadership Network event on 28 September 2009 (9.15 – 2.45) at NCSL's Learning and Conference Centre, Triumph Road, Nottingham, NG8 1DH. The event is aimed to headteachers, senior leaders and governors. To view the programme go to:

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/ln-liberating-leadership-programme-280910.pdf>

To register go to: [http://www.ncsl.org.uk/uaamanager.htm?act=r&target\\_server\\_id=33&pid=LNE0909](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/uaamanager.htm?act=r&target_server_id=33&pid=LNE0909)

For directions to the venue, visit the How to find us at:

<http://www.ncsl.org.uk/aboutus-index/findus-index.htm#findus-index-txt-nottingham>

## **8 Teachers' TV**

*Just for Governors* – online resources:

The governors' area of the website - [www.teachers.tv/governors](http://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 (Continuous Professional Development) 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](http://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](http://www.teachers.tv).

## **CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION**     *Note item 10 ~ Schools Forums*

### **9 Handling Allegations of Abuse made against Adults who work with Children & 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/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online to: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [joanne.harker@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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**

**Please copy your response to NGA**

### **10 Proposed changes to the Schools Forums (England) Regulations**

The DCSF has produced new draft Schools Forums (England) Regulations 2009 to give effect to recent legislation and policy developments. The proposed changes will bring academies into membership of forums, as well as making it compulsory to include non-schools members (representatives of 14–19 partnerships and early years providers). The consultation also asks for opinions on making early years PVI (private voluntary and independent sector) representation more effective and an option to change the composition of Schools Forums to reflect locality working from 2011. NB. The changes may affect the governor representation on forums. Views are invited on these proposals.

The consultation can be found on Teachernet at:

<http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/schoolfunding/schoolfundingframework/>

Responses should be sent by email to: [Schools.Forums@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Schools.Forums@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to Schools Forums, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

**DCSF deadline 28 August 2009**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 7 August 2009**

### **11 Science and Learning**

This consultation is carried out on behalf of the Science and Learning Expert Group, jointly hosted by the DCSF and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS). In order to create a scientifically literate society, it is imperative to provide the best possible science education to the next generation. This consultation seeks to establish the perceptions from both the science and education communities, and from young people and their parents, about the strengths and weaknesses of the current provision in science and mathematics.

The consultation can be found at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/)

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

**DCSF deadline 18 September 2009**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 1 September**

## **12 Amendment to the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003**

The DCSF is seeking views on proposed amendments to the Education (School Teachers' Qualifications) (England) Regulations 2003 which govern who can gain qualified teacher status (QTS). Subject to consultation and to Parliament it is aiming to bring amending regulations into force on 1 January 2010.

The consultation can be found at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses should be sent by email to: [teacherqualsregs.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:teacherqualsregs.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to Indira Sharma, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

**DCSF deadline 1 October 2009.**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 16 September 2009**

*Also see [The General Teaching Council \(GTC\) Registration of Temporary Teachers from Relevant European States Regulations 2009](#). Views are requested on a change in regulations to allow qualified teachers from EEA states or Switzerland, who are allowed to work on a temporary basis in the UK, to have temporary registration with the GTC. The consultation can be found at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations). Closing date: 7 October 2009*

## **13 Publications available from NGA**

For NGA publications, visit both the Publications and Guidance sections of the NGA website: [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk).

## **14 Other useful publications.**

**Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors (Revised Edition April 2009):** This new and improved edition of the TDA's publication 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](mailto:publications@tda.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference TDA0664/03.09/COL).

**Recruiting Headteachers and Senior Leaders:** This publication provides a governing body with the practical guidance needed to find success in recruiting a headteacher. It can be downloaded free from the NCSL website: [www.ncsl.org.uk/publications](http://www.ncsl.org.uk/publications)

**School Improvement Planning Framework (New Edition October 2008):** To find this useful tool visit the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA) website. It can be downloaded or ordered in hard copy: [http://www.tda.gov.uk/leaders/schoolimprovement\\_framework.aspx](http://www.tda.gov.uk/leaders/schoolimprovement_framework.aspx)