

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 2/10

1 February 2010

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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

NGA Spring Regional Meetings: *in due course details of all meetings will appear on the website, but here is the information so far:*

East: 20.02.10; Go East Conference; Imperial War Museum, Duxford (see www.nga.org.uk)

South East: 22.02.10; 10.30 for 11.00; NCVO, Regent's Wharf, London (see www.nga.org.uk)

North East: 2.03.10; 6.30 for 7.00; Durham County Hall

Yorks & Humber: 17.03.10; 6.30 for 7.00; Holiday Inn, Wakefield

South West: 20.03.10; 10.00 for 10.30; Express by Holiday Inn, Taunton

East Midlands: 23.03.10 10.30 for 11.00; venue tbc

FOR INFORMATION

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

NB: NGA's new Office address is Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY. The office phone number is now 0121 237 3780.

New Chief Executive

NGA would like to welcome Emma Knights to her new position as Chief Executive.

NGA Guides ~ new publications: NGA's popular and much praised *Welcome to Governance* has been revised and is now joined by three other – brand new – publications. *The Chair's Handbook*, is designed to be a comprehensive aid to newly elected chairs; *Welcome to Clerking* aims to aid clerks in the performance of their duties; and *Support and Challenge* will help governors to meet their legal obligations, at a time when the new Ofsted framework will look keenly at, and judge, governing bodies' performance. *Full details can be found on the NGA website: www.nga.org.uk under Publications.*

NGA Membership Benefits: Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine *Matters Arising* to their home address, access to the members' only section of the NGA website and the e-newsletter direct to their email address. If you have not yet let us have the names, addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please let us have the information as soon as possible. Without those details your association is not receiving its full membership benefits.

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:

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

Email Forum: Have you joined the forum yet? Details of how to sign up to the Forum were included in the weekly newsletter on Friday 4th September. *If you wish to be placed on the forum email Gillian Allcroft – gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk*

2 New Year Honours – delayed information

I omitted a governor from the Honours List in January's Bulletin Board. Catherine Slow, Chair of Governors of the West Exmoor Federation in Devon, received an MBE. It was for services to the federation and didn't mention governance so it was overlooked. Apologies.

3 NGA Winter Conference: *Working with Governors*

The Conference, aimed at those who work with governor, was held on 27 January 2010 at the Hotel Russell, London. The day was a great success and appreciated by all. Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, spoke during the afternoon session. He not only emphasised the importance of governors and how he much appreciated working with NGA, but also praised the new publications, and recommended *Welcome to Governance* as an essential document for all those aspiring to become governors.

A report on the conference was circulated on nga-assocs and is posted on the NGA website, together with the speakers' slide presentations. <http://www.nga.org.uk/jan2010.aspx>

4 Governance Review

What appears to be the final Report was circulated just before Christmas. We await information about a meeting date. As soon as we learn more we'll alert members to the report and consultation dates. *Please respond to the consultation, late as it may be.*

5 Meetings Digest

National College High Level Stakeholder Consultation on the enhanced role for SIPs, (14.01.10): To gather views to inform focus for regional consultation meetings. Issues were:

- Mixed views on the enhanced role – quality, consistency and balance between challenge and support
- The importance of getting the right SIP in the right place
- Brokerage: welcomed but issues of knowledge – where will SIPs find out what is available and more importantly, whether what's available is quality?
- CPD – essential but will serving Heads, who are the preferred personnel as SIPs, have time to commit?
- LAs – Is the 'single conversation' really possible? Primaries seem more reluctant to relinquish link advisers than secondaries.
- INGA made the point (strongly supported by ASCL) that the SIP must report directly to the whole governing body annually; in person if the school is dropping a grade.

**** There are two morning consultation events on SIPs to be held in February (11th in Birmingham and 25th in Nottingham). Go to: www.nationalcollege.org.uk/sipsconsultation
*See also item 15***

Other January events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Guardian Round Table: Human Rights – a reality in schools, Chris Keates (General Secretary of NASUWT), Governor Mark, School Report Card: High Level Stakeholder Group, DCSF Reception: 7th Anniversary of the Workforce Agreement Monitoring Group, TDA Governors' Group, Ministerial Group on Behaviour and Attendance.

6 The NGA *First Certificate in Governance*

Changes have been made to this distance-learning programme. Details are available on the NGA website at www.nga.org.uk. Click on *Resources* and then *Training*.

7 Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) for Senior Leaders~ Spring Conferences

This series of conferences is aimed at Headteachers, Senior Leaders, Directors of Children's Services and the Third Sector. They will focus on the school context and 14–19 reform. DCSF is eager that governors should attend. The conferences are all on weekdays, from 3rd to 17th March and are spread across the nine regions. For information contact IAG@brackenevents.co.uk or ring 0115 947 5666. To book go to: <https://secure.symphonyem.co.uk/IAGRegionalEvents2010/>

8 Teachers' TV

Just for Governors – online resources: This 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 (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 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 ~ *another bumper crop*

9 New Regulations for the Implementation of the Service to Handle Parents' and Young People's Complaints about School Matters

This seeks views on draft regulations, underpinned by legislation, set out in sections 206–224 of the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009. The Act extends the remit of the Local Government Ombudsman to enable investigation of complaints from parents and young people in relation to individual school matters. As the regulations must be in place to allow testing of the new service in April 2010, the consultation period is necessarily short. There will be further opportunities for stakeholders to feed in views as DCSF moves towards testing and evaluation.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: regulationsparentalcomplaints.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Families Group, DCSF, 1st Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 5 February 2010

Please copy your response to NGA

10 Health and Safety of Learners Outside the Classroom (HASLOC) – Revision of guidance

HASLOC will replace *Health and Safety of Pupils on Educational Visits: a good practice guide 1998* (known as HASPEV) and the 3-part supplement published in 2002. HASLOC will have a wider audience across all children's services (not just schools). It sets out the enabling nature of sensible risk management and how to reduce 'red tape'. It flags up the lessons learned from serious incidents. HASLOC also sets out how and why staff can expect to be treated fairly if a participant is injured despite their care. In general, HASLOC works at a high level and leaves most of the detail to the operational parts of the Learning Outside the Classroom Council's website, which will carry downloadable material. In this consultation, DCSF seeks views and suggestions to help it make this an accessible, user-friendly and effective guide for front-line professionals.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: haspev2.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Mrs Ronnie MacPherson, DCSF, Pupil Safety and School Security Team, Level 2, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 8 February 2010.

Please copy your response to NGA

11 Working Together to Safeguard Children

In *The Protection of Children in England: A Progress Report* Lord Laming made a number of recommendations which the Government proposes to address through the revision of the *Working Together to Safeguard Children* statutory guidance. This revised draft guidance addresses 17 of Lord Laming's recommendations, as indicated in the National Safeguarding Delivery Unit's earlier pre-consultation. The revised draft also updates the guidance to reflect changes to the policy and legislative landscape since *Working Together* was last published in 2006.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: working.together@nsdu.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Working Together Team, National Safeguarding Delivery Unit, DCSF, 1st Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 11 February 2010.

Please copy your response to NGA

12 Drugs: Guidance for Schools

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on the draft document, *Drugs: Guidance for Schools*. This document provides guidance to maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England on all matter relating to drugs education and the management of drugs within the school community. It is relevant to all staff, particularly senior managers and those responsible for co-ordinating, teaching and supporting the delivery of drug education. Headteachers and governing bodies are required by law to have regard to the guidance.

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: DrugsGuidance.CONSULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area GB, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ.

DCSF deadline 15 February 2010.

Please copy your response to NGA

13 Considering Pupils' Views

This consultation seeks opinions on new regulations that will lay out the minimum set of matters on which governing bodies of maintained schools must invite and consider their pupils' views. This relates to a new duty on maintained schools to invite and consider pupils' views on matters to be prescribed in regulations.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: pupilsviews.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 29 March 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 10 March 2010

14 Pupil and Parent Guarantees

The Pupil and Parent Guarantees (PPG) bring together in one place an account of the key components of a good education. The focus throughout is on the entitlements and the responsibilities of pupils and parents. The Guarantees will help to ensure that parents and pupils know what they can expect from schools. The Guarantees also spell out what schools can expect from parents and pupils in terms of their

responsibilities to support schools. This consultation sets out the full text of the Pupil and Parent Guarantees and seeks views on whether the requirements for pupils, parents, schools and Local Authorities are clear and understandable, whether all the 'musts' and 'shoulds' detailed in the guarantees are correct, and whether the responsibilities and entitlements for schools, pupils and parents are correctly balanced.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: pupilandparentguarantee.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area GB, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 6 April 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 15 April 2010

15 Joint consultation on the new role of School Improvement Partners ***

Views are sought by DCSF and the National College in this joint consultation on the role of School Improvement Partners (SIPs), following publication of the White Paper *Your child, your school, our future: building a 21st century school system*.

The consultation can be found through the DCSF website at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ (right hand column, first item and 'click here') or by using the URL below.

NB Responses can only be made **online** at: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/about-us/national-college-role/national-college-consultation/sipsconsultation-questionnaire.htm>

DCSF/National College deadline 9 April 2010 Deadline for comment to NGA 18 March 2010

16 Sex and Relationships Education Guidance

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on the draft document, *Sex and Relationships Education Guidance*. This document provides guidance to maintained primary, secondary, special schools and pupil referral units (PRUs) in England on all matters relating to SRE, including how good quality SRE can be planned and delivered, how to develop an SRE policy and how to support the health and social needs of all pupils with regard to sex and relationships. Headteachers and governing bodies are required by law to have regard to the guidance

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

Responses may be made online at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: SREGuidance.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area 1A, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire WA7 2GJ

DCSF deadline 19 April 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 2 April 2010

Also see [Support for All: the Families and Relationships Green Paper](#) which sets out a wide range of support for all families as they bring up their children and to help families to cope in times of stress and difficulty. (Closing date: 21 April 2010). To be found at: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/

17 Publications available from NGA

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

Please note: Workforce reform for a 21st century school: a brief for governors. This can be found via this link: <http://www.nga.org.uk/uploadfiles/documents/Workforce%20reform%20for%2020>

18 Other useful publications to be aware of

Audit Commission – Valuable lessons: a value for money guide for school governors

In June the Audit Commission published a report about value for money in schools. One of the conclusions of the Commission was that insufficient attention was paid to economy and efficiency

in schools and that as a result the Commission could not be sure that the taxpayer was receiving value for money. Following the report the Audit Commission issued separate guidance for local authorities, headteachers and school governors.

The guidance for governors, *Valuable lessons improving economy and efficiency in schools*, was published in July 2009 and is available to download from the Audit Commission's website via this link: <http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/SiteCollectionDocuments/AuditCommissionReports/NationalStudies/valuablelessons/governorsguide30jun2009.pdf>

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 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

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