

# National Governors' Association

## BULLETIN BOARD

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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

**Very advanced warning:**

**NGA Spring Conference:** Saturday, 9 May 2009, Leeds (Hilton-Leeds City).

**NGA Annual General Meeting:** Saturday, 7 November 2009, Birmingham (Venue TBC)

**Regional Meetings:** where the date for a Spring Regional Meeting is known it can be found on the Events section of the NGA website, together with the minutes of the previous meeting. Visit: [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

### FOR INFORMATION

#### 1 NGA News

**NGA Officers' Elections:** At the Board meeting on 12 December, the following people were elected as NGA Officers: Chair – Clare Collins; Vice Chairs – Colleen Arnold, Terry Douris, Doris Neville-Davies; Hon. Sec. – Carol Woodhouse; Hon. Treasurer – Judy Leggett. Thanks are due to those who are standing down from officer posts.

**NGA website:** The members' area: **please note we are still lacking 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](http://www.nga.org.uk/newsletterandbulletin.aspx)

#### 2 NGA Awards for Governance and Outstanding Clerks – 21 March 2009 \*\*\*

The process for the awards for outstanding clerks and for governing bodies is well under way. Judging for the Clerks' Award and the Governing Body Award will take place during January and February.

#### 3 New Year Honours 2009

This year MBEs have been awarded to ten governors – a record. It is particularly pleasing to see the name of Jennifer Bell, formerly the Chair of the Hackney Association and an active NGA member. Members may also remember Jo Wakeham from Cornwall. The full list is: Jennifer Bell (Hackney), Allan Currall (Reading), Ronald Eunson (Newcastle-upon-Tyne), Susan Eunson (Newcastle-upon-

Tyne), Laurence Hulbert (Sutton Coldfield), Zafar Iqbal (Birmingham), Jean Pratt (Aldershot), Donald Stringer (Stockton-on-Tees), Josephine Wakeham (Cornwall) and Stephanie Wilson (Hull). A Knighthood has gone to Professor Tim Brighouse, whom many will know.

#### 4 Meetings Digest

**Ministerial Working Group on Governance:** I mention this only to note that the final meeting has not taken place as yet. The last meeting, one assumes to be held in January, will finalise the Report, which, when published, should be followed by the promised consultation. Despite the DCSF's seeming lack of urgency now about this whole matter, *please respond to the consultation*.

**Meeting with Mick Brookes (NAHT) and David Butler (NCPTA) (9.12.08):** This meeting concerned the NAHT's campaign about replacing KS2 SATs with a more sensible testing regime. There was a move among NAHT's members to boycott the 2009 SATs, but this idea has been abandoned. And indeed such action may be deemed unnecessary with luck, as there does appear to be some light at the end of the tunnel and there **may** be some serious thought at DCSF about a more useful and less stress-inducing, method of assessment.

**Meeting with Steve Munby, Chief Executive, National College of School Leadership (18.12.08):** This useful meeting covered the current round of succession planning conferences, the draft National Standards for School Leaders (currently out for consultation) and NPQH. Regarding the National Standards, NGA had already raised with NCSL certain problems with the wording in the consultation document about the development of the strategic vision for the school. The wording indicates that this is the province of the headteacher rather than that of the governing body, working with the head and the leadership team. Steve acknowledged the NGA's point. He agreed to consider an amendment to the wording, to make it clear that setting out the vision and direction of the school is the responsibility of the governing body. It was also agreed that there was much common ground between NGA and NCSL, and some mutual priorities, especially on the importance of helping school leaders to understand how to work effectively with their governing body, and to be clear about the accountability and governance issues; and on the moral purpose argument around leadership beyond the individual school.

Other December events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: New Statesman 'Engaging with Education' round table, NCSL Primary Leadership Consultative Group, City of Nottingham Governors' Association, NASUWT President's Reception, NCSL Seminar on Small Primary Schools (NGA provided one of the speakers).

#### 5 Small, Rural Primary School Federation Conferences 2009

The Department for Children, Schools and Families is hosting a series of events, which offer an opportunity to learn more about the benefits of both hard and soft federations and to hear about new policy developments relating to collaboration. The events, which are workshop based, will also feature plenary sessions led by officials from the DCSF and NCSL. The conferences, which are free, are aimed at head teachers and governors of small, rural primary schools, and are being held in four regional areas: Bristol, Newcastle, London and Birmingham. For more information on the events and to register please visit: [www.lewislive.co.uk/federationsconference](http://www.lewislive.co.uk/federationsconference).

#### 6 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

This distance-learning programme is suitable for both new governors and existing governors who require a refresher or update. It consists 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 cost of the pack of four modules has now risen to £15 + VAT (£17.63). To purchase the package with external external assessment, feedback and a Certificate the price is £36.75 +VAT. 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](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk).

## **7 Teachers' TV**

If you visit the Teachers' TV website and type in *Just for Governors* you can view a programme which looks at the merits of face-to-face, distance learning and online Governing Training, with input from the past Chair of NGA.

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.

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**

### **8 Ofsted consultation – Indicators of a school's contribution to well-being**

As signalled in the Children's Plan and in the well-being guidance, the DCSF and Ofsted have been working to develop strong school-level indicators of pupils' well-being. These indicators will improve the information available to schools to help them assess the well-being issues their pupils face, and to evaluate the school's contribution to promoting pupil well-being. Ofsted will be looking for evidence from all schools on well-being and therefore the indicators will apply to all maintained schools, primary, secondary, special and Pupil Referral Units, and to academies.

This consultation paper outlines the proposals about those indicators and invites responses.

The consultation can be found at: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195)

Responses may be made online to: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195) or sent by email to: [wellbeingindicators@ofsted.gov.uk](mailto:wellbeingindicators@ofsted.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Well-being Indicators Consultation Response, Ofsted, Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London, WC2B 6SE.

**Ofsted deadline 16 January 2009. Please copy comment to NGA**

### **9 NSCL/DCSF consultation – National Standards for School Leadership**

This consultation concerns the revised National Standards for School Leadership. It is posted on the National College for School Leadership website at [www.ncsl.org.uk](http://www.ncsl.org.uk). Click on National Standards for School Leadership on the Home Page or use this link: <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/publications-national-standards-consultation>.

*There is hardly any mention of governors although it refers to strategic aspects of school leadership so there is a need for as many governors as possible to respond.*

**NSCL/DCSF deadline 3 March 2009. Deadline for comment to NGA 16 February 2009**

### **10 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools: A World-Class Education for Every Child / A School Report Card**

In *The Children's Plan*, the DCSF out its ambition to make England the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. It has now produced two linked documents that set out further information and invite feedback. The first describes how the entire school system will need to change, and how individual schools will need to look beyond traditional boundaries, be outward facing and work in close partnership with young people, parents, other schools, colleges, universities and with other children's services. The second document is about School Report Cards, and seeks input on the principles that should govern the new report cards. Views are sought on both documents.

The consultation can be found at: [www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/Publications/080195)

Responses may be made online to: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [21centuryschools.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:21centuryschools.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Consultation Unit, DCSF, Ground Floor, Area GB, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

**DCSF deadline 3 March 2009. Deadline for comment to NGA 16 February 2009**

*Also see **Statutory Guidance: The Roles and Responsibilities of the Lead Member for Children's Services and the Director of Children's Services**. This consultation concerns updating the 2005 guidance. Details are given at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 10 February 2009. **And 2020 Children's and Young People's Workforce Strategy**. The strategy describes how Government will work with partners to ensure that all in the workforce receive support and development needed to obtain the best outcomes for children and young people. The consultation is aimed primarily at parents and members of the workforce, but governors may have views to share and observations to submit. Details are given at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 10 March 2009.*

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

## **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 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 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](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](mailto:publications@tda.gov.uk) or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference no: TDA279/05.07/BEL/158)