

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 7/08

1 July 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 Annual General Meeting: Saturday, 8 November 2008, Cumberland Hotel, London

Autumn Regional Meetings: dates so far notified to NGA are posted on the NGA website

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News

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 new NGA magazine *Matters Arising*.

NGA Conference, 21 June: This was a really successful event and an enjoyable day. A short report was sent out on nga-assocs on 22 June and can be found, together with the speakers' presentations, on the NGA website, under Events/Summer Conference. The notes from the workshop sessions will appear on the website soon.

NGA updates: Don't forget to look at *Updates* on the NGA website for information, as well as reading the Bulletin Board. The Bulletin Board and Updates can both be found in the briefing section of the website <http://www.nga.org.uk/updateandbulletin.aspx>

NGA Board Elections: From the AGM in November, the NGA Board will number only eighteen – nine Regional Directors and nine General Directors. Nominations are now being sought for the General Directors. Visit the About Us section of the website for details – <http://www.nga.org.uk/NGAElections2008.aspx>

NGA Association Subscriptions: If you have not yet paid your subscriptions or been in touch with Gillian Windass in the NGA office about payment, please do so as soon as possible. If you do not think you have been sent an invoice please contact Gillian at gillian.windass@nga.org.uk.

Please note: Associations who have not paid their subscriptions are not eligible to nominate candidates to the NGA Board or vote in the elections.

Associations with 'capped' subscriptions: because of the change in voting rights, most associations will be allocated votes in accordance with their subscription level, but 'capped' associations must provide a list of their members, so that they can be allocated the correct number of votes. The number of members will not be enough: we need names, please.

Ofsted: Please note the Ofsted Consultation to be found later in the Bulletin Board. Responding to this is important.

2 DCSF News

DCSF Publication Common Mental Health Problems: Supporting school staff by taking positive action: The DCSF have just published this short guidance document aimed at governing bodies, employers, line managers and school staff. It can be downloaded from the DCSF publications website <http://publications.teachernet.gov.uk/> or ordered in hard copy from DCSF Publications Tel: 0845 6022260 (Ref: 00380-2008BKT-EN)

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. The Bill began the Committee Stage in the House of Lords in June and has two further dates in July. For the Bill's timetable and the details go to <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/educationandskills.htm>

3 Meetings Digest

Ministerial Working Group on Governance (12.06.08): At the second meeting of the Group, NGA presented some very quickly gathered anecdotal research on governing body size and skills, which was welcomed. The DCSF commented that more research is being pursued. A robust discussion took place on what it means for governing bodies to be 'strategic' and on how much the governing body role should be defined from the centre.

Since the meeting and the CSN/NGA/NCOGS Conference on 2 June, there has been some debate about the DCSF's apparent belief that the Interim Executive Board would prove an admirable model for governing bodies, not least in the 'Times Educational Supplement' of 13 June, which showed that IEBs have a less than totally successful track record in turning around failing schools.

Ministerial Stakeholders' Group on Behaviour and Attendance (19.06.08): A presentation was given to the meeting by Jim Knight, Schools' Minister, on the Government's plans for home access to technology which aims to assist children's and young people's learning and to provide parents with access to information, and to encourage parental engagement with their children's education. The plans were welcomed. The Group also discussed the White Paper published in May, which sets out proposals for improving the Alternative Provision system such as Pupil Referral Units. The meeting was concerned that plans to allow private providers to become involved should not mean that pupils, already distanced from schools by attending a PRU, should not be further removed from the mainstream by being put into privately run establishments. It may mean that a return to mainstream education will be even more difficult to achieve.

Other June events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Hertfordshire Governors' Association, Nottingham Association AGM, Poole Governors' Association, North East Regional Meeting, National Heads', Children's Services Officers' and Governors' Associations (HEG) Meeting, National College for School Leadership Conference, NCSL Primary Leadership Consultative Group, NCSL Diversity Panel, Capita Briefing Seminar, DCSF Capital Strategy Consultative Group, DCSF New Relationships with Schools Sub Group, Bichard Safer Recruitment Training Steering Group.

4 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 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 The Management of Building Schools for the Future waves 7 to 15

This consultation seeks views on a range of proposals for how waves 7 to 15 of Building Schools for the Future are managed, taking account of developments in government policy since the programme was first launched, and also the lessons learned from the early waves.

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: BSFManagement.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Cheryl Hogarth, Schools Capital Strategy Unit, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DCSF deadline 4 July 2008. Please copy your responses to NGA.

7 The CAMHS Review – Next Steps to Improving the Emotional Well-Being and Mental Health of Children and Young People – Call for Evidence

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families and the Secretary of State for Health have asked Jo Davidson (Chair) and Bob Jezzard (Vice-Chair) to lead an independent Review of CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services). The Review will investigate how universal, targeted and specialist services can be improved to meet the needs of children and young people who are experiencing, or are at risk of, mental health problems. This consultation calls for evidence from all individuals, organisations and groups.

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: CAMHS.Review@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: CAMHS Review Secretariat, Children's Mental Health Team, DCSF, Ground Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DCSF deadline 7 July 2008. Please copy your responses to NGA.

8 OFSTED – A focus on improvement: proposals for maintained school inspections from September 2009

– Don't miss this one!

Ofsted's Strategic Plan sets out to ensure that inspection has more impact on outcomes for children and learners and to make inspection more coherent, rigorous and proportionate. The changes proposed in this document aim to drive improvement where it is most needed; takes greater account of the needs of those being inspected; targets resources where these will have most impact on outcomes; and uses resources as efficiently as possible.

The consultation can be found at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080075>

Responses should be made online at: <http://www.ofsted.gov.uk/publications/080075>. Written responses may be sent to: Ofsted, Alexandra House, 33 Kingsway, London WC2B 6SE

DCSF deadline 11 August 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 21 July 2008

9 School Admissions 2008

In the Children's Plan, published in December 2007, Ministers committed to review the school application and allocation process. This consultation outlines proposed changes to make the admissions process for parents as fair, transparent and straightforward as possible. The consultation runs for 16 weeks and views are welcome on the proposed changes.

The full consultation and supporting documents 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: review.admissions@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Fair Access Division, DCSF, 3F-FA, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DCSF deadline 2 October 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 10 September 2008

Also 'Proposals relating to the commencement of section 37 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006 – staffing at foundation and voluntary schools with a religious character'. This relates to the proportion of staff in faith schools appointed as competent to teach religious education in accordance with the tenets of the school's relevant faith. Details are given on the DCSF website: www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/. Closing date: 11 July.

10 Publications available from NGA

Items available include:

- ◆ *Welcome to Governance 2007-08 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: 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>
- ◆ *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>
- ◆ *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>

11 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

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)