

# National Governors' Association

## BULLETIN BOARD

BB 6/08

1 June 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 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 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*. The June issue of the magazine is only three weeks away.

**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>

**Governance issues – update:** NGA is to submit a paper to the Ministerial Working Group on Governance. In relation to this there is an email posted on assocs asking for members' views. We'd be grateful if you could find time to contribute information and opinions.

**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](mailto:gillian.windass@nga.org.uk).

**Please note: 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.

#### 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

**Ministerial Working Group on Governance (8.05.08):** NGA was originally granted only one seat on this group. The Chair wrote to Jim Knight to argue for two places, and this was pursued at the meeting with the Minister on 29 April. The representations were successful and NGA now has two seats at the table.

The first meeting of the series of four that the group will be holding concentrated on 'the purpose of governance'. Discussion was lively. It was pointed out that the research DCSF published on the same day as its press release to announce the review of governance was out of date or drawn from sources that were less than robust, such as the Rowntree Report, which based its views on the circumstances of 14 schools in deprived areas. The meeting reviewed a draft document about principles of governance. There were various omissions, such as any reference to accountability. A new document will be brought to the next meeting, based on suggestions made by group members. The NGA/ASCL/NAHT joint paper, referred to in the next report, was mentioned at the meeting. There was some surprise that the three associations actually talk to each other and work together!

### **Meeting of National Headteachers', Education Officers' and Governors' Associations**

**(13.05.08):** The meeting received the paper, jointly produced by NGA, NAHT and ASCL, on Heads' expectations of governing bodies and vice versa. This will be presented to the NGA Board and the Councils of ASCL and NAHT in the next few weeks. Children's Trusts were briefly discussed, the consensus being that there remains much confusion. It was pointed out that these Trusts were setting up groups across areas with no governor involvement, which was disturbing. Single status agreements remain a major concern. LAs should have addressed the issues long ago. By ignoring the problems, matters have been exacerbated. The piloting of Single Level Tests had proved problematic, and the Government's idea of pupils being 'tested when ready' in fact means having tests twice a year, rather than SATs once a year. NAHT is launching a campaign to press for a better assessment regime and an end to published League Tables, in the light of the almost universal opposition to current practices, including that expressed in the Select Committee's recent report. The final item was Ofsted Section 5 inspections, which rest almost totally on examination results, meaning that 98% of schools, regardless of good or outstanding teaching, leadership and management, governance and general provision for pupils, are given the same overall grade as for standards, which for many means 'satisfactory'.

Other May events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Lancashire Governors' Conference, Worcester Association AGM, National Association of Headteachers Annual Conference, F40 Conference, School Governors' One Stop Shop, TDA Governors' Group, Standard School Year Meeting, NCSL Regional event (York), NCSL Governors Panel, NCSL School Business Directors Stakeholder Group, Teachers' TV filming (Governor Training), Westminster Education Forum (Assessment).

## 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](mailto: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](http://www.teachers.tv/associates). Associates can access the previews through this web link.

Programme information can be found at: [www.teachers.tv/programmeguide](http://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 Raising Expectations

This is a joint consultation between the DCSF and the 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/](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: [Raisingexpectations.ENABLINGTHESYSTEM@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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. Please copy your responses to NGA.**

### 7 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/](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: [SENCO.CONSULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:SENCO.CONSULTATION@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. Please copy your responses to NGA.**

### 8 Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Co-operate

Views are invited on this guidance on inter-agency co-operation, issued under section 10 of the Children Act 2004. The guidance reflects the experience of developing Children's Trust arrangements since the publication of *Every Child Matters*.

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: [childrenstrusts.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:childrenstrusts.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Gurdawar Jassi, Children's Trusts Consultation, DCSF, Ground Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DCSF deadline 26 June 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 2 June 2008**

## **9 Introducing provisional registration with the General Teaching Council of England (GTCE) for trainee teachers, unqualified teachers and instructors**

Qualified teachers in maintained schools in England are required to be registered with the GTCE. However, others carrying out specified work in schools or training as teachers are not required to be registered because they are not qualified teachers. This document sets out proposals to extend registration with the GTCE to these other groups, which include trainee teachers, Overseas Trained Teachers not working towards Qualified Teacher Status and instructors. This would enable the Council to assess applicants for provisional registration for their eligibility and suitability to be teachers before registering them, and they would also be subject to a code laying down standards of professional conduct and practice expected of teachers.

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: [ProvisionalRegistration-policy.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ProvisionalRegistration-policy.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Juliet Yates, School Resources Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DCSF deadline 27 June 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 6 June 2008**

## **10 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/](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: [BSFManagement.CONULTATION@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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. Deadline for comment to NGA 6 June 2008**

## **11 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/](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: [CAMHS.Review@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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. Deadline for comment to NGA 14 June 2008**

## **12 OFSTED – A focus on improvement: proposals for maintained school inspections from September 2009**

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 15 July 2008**

*Please note also 'Assessing the Impact of the Commercial World on Children's Wellbeing – A Call for Evidence'. Details are given on the DCSF website: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 30 June.*

*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/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 11 July.*

*And the Sex Education Forum has launched an online survey, asking young people over sixteen what should be included in sex and relationships education. Please draw the attention of young people to this. The survey can be found at [www.ncb.org.uk/sresurvey](http://www.ncb.org.uk/sresurvey). Closing date: 10 June.*

### 13 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>
- ◆ *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>

### 14 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:** 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)