

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

BB 5/09

1 May 2009

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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

Regional Meetings:

North East Summer Regional Meeting: Tuesday, 23.06.09; Durham County Hall; 7.00 pm.
Details of this meeting will be available nearer the date.

National Events:

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

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

FOR INFORMATION

1 NGA News

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: 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

NGA Email Forum: The web forum is closing down and the email forum is to be re-established. Further information will be circulated as soon as the new system is set up.

Parent Governor Representatives: NGA would be grateful for information on how PGRs are appointed in members' local areas and what role they undertake. Please send details to NGA's Policy Officer at Gillian.windass@nga.org.uk.

2 Celebrating Governance**

As members will know, there were more awards to governors in the New Year Honours List and NGA has established its award for Governance this year (*see item 2*). However, we should like information on how governance is celebrated at local level. We have had some details, but would welcome more. If your local authority has long service awards or any other way of raising the profile of governors, NGA would welcome details.

Please email Gillian Allcroft (Windass): Gillian.windass@nga.org.uk

3 White Paper – 21st Century Schools – *please note*

The DCSF document *21st Century Schools: A World-Class Education for Every Child*, which was out for consultation earlier this year, will be followed in May by a White Paper. The likely date of publication is 8th/9th May. By next month's Bulletin Board alert, the consultation will be well underway, so please look out for it and respond.

4 Meetings Digest

Ministerial Working Group on Governance (21.04.09): This was, we assume, the last meeting of this group. The meeting was given a presentation on 21st Century Schools – Implications for Governance. This covered aspects of governance in relation to the Children's Plan and the anticipated White Paper on 21st Century Schools. The group discussed what was likely to be in the Governance Review Report, which is scheduled for publication at the same time as the White Paper (8th/9th May). NGA and most other partners at the meeting were fairly content with much of what was proposed, although there remains an issue about size. (*The general view is that 'size is not important' and is a red herring.*)

As with the White Paper, ***please respond to the consultation.***

Safeguarding/Safer Recruitment Reference Group (3.04.09): Some issues to note from this meeting are:

- Vetting and Barring Scheme: it was confirmed that registration would be delayed until Spring 2010.
- Safer Recruitment online: Because of the need to expand the number of people to whom the training is available, and the fact that NCSL remit is changing, the online database will move to a new host.
- Interview Panel – trained person mandatory: Although DCSF has not yet announced a date when no panel must sit without a trained member, this will happen, so governing bodies should make sure that at least one member of the governing body and the headteacher have undertaken either the on-line training or the equivalent face to face training provided by their LA.

Meeting with DCSF Parental Engagement Team (8.04.09): A paper on improving parental engagement was presented at this meeting, called to obtain a governor view of the 21st Century School proposals for improved parental engagement. It noted that there is much evidence that parental engagement is linked to attainment and that engagement is linked to class. NGA said that governors were generally well aware of such issues and were keen to see them addressed, and emphasised that engaging parents, like so many of these 'softer' wellbeing-linked issues, was a cultural shift for many. Schools needed to address it at the highest level – i.e. as part of their strategy, rather than view it as an 'add on'.

DCSF is keen to gather any examples of good practice that NGA may come across. If members have examples, please pass these to NGA.

Other April events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: TDA Governors' Group, Advisory Group on Governance, Training and Development Agency for Schools, New Relationships with Schools Consultative Group, ATL Conference, NASUWT Conference, Audit Commission, Ministerial Stakeholder Group on Behaviour and Attendance, Joint ISA/CRB/VBS Education Consultative Group, PWC Workshop (SEN funding), NCSL Delivering Diversity Workshop, Stockport Governors, School Funding Implementation Group, SFIG Workshop, NGA representation on panel at joint NUT/NAHT meeting in House of Commons to provide MPs and Peers with views on KS2 SATs, NCPTA Awards Ceremony, Oral evidence to the Children, Schools and Families Select Committee (on Accountability), Partnerships for School Leading Learning Group (BSF)..

5 The NGA First Certificate in Governance

Changes are to be made to this distance learning programme. As a consequence, current stocks of the full assessment package are available at the discounted price of £10 plus VAT.

A link to the EduCare website can be found under Resources on the NGA website, or EduCare can be contacted by telephone on 01926 436200.

6 Teachers' TV

Just for Governors – online resources:

The governors' 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 issues. They are completely free to use, and have been extensively tested during development. They're 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.

7 Family Picnic Week

As part of National Family Week, picnics are being held across the country. The flagship event will be held on Bank Holiday Monday (25.05.09) between 11.00 am and 4.30 pm in Regent's Park, London. For more information visit the website: www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/regentspark. For information about other events, go to: www.nationalfamilyweek.co.uk/allpicnics (National Family Week is the largest coalition on family issues in the UK.)

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

8 Draft Regulations for the Training of Newly Appointed Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCOs) in England.

This consultation concerns draft regulations to amend the Education (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators) (England) Regulations 2008, to require school governing bodies to ensure that SENCOs new to the role undertake nationally approved training.

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: senco.trainingconsultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: John Perryman, Special Educational Needs and Disability Division, Area 1E, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 22 May 2009.

9 Designated Teachers for Looked After Children: draft Regulations and statutory guidance

This consultation seeks views on draft Regulations made under section 20(3) of the Children and Young Persons Act 2008. The Regulations set out the qualifications and experience, which will be required of designated teachers in maintained schools. DCSF is also consulting on the content of the draft statutory guidance to governing bodies of maintained schools (to be issued under section 20(4) of the Act).

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: designatedteacher.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Michael Allured, Education and Well-being Team, Floor 1, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 20 May 2009.

Deadline for comment to NGA 5 May 2009

10 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
- ◆ *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.

11 Other useful publications.

Extended Schools Toolkit for Governors (Revised Edition April 2009) : A new and improved edition of the TDA's Extended Services Toolkit for governors – reflecting changes to the agenda, as well as the new duties on well-being and community cohesion – is now available.

The toolkit was created by the TDA in partnership with the NGA, DCSF and extended services delivery partners. It is designed to help governors working with their schools, whether the school has the 'full core offer' or not, to ensure that existing or planned services are meeting the needs of pupils, families and the community – and are aligned with the school's vision and priorities.

This can be downloaded from <http://www.nga.org.uk/TDA.aspx> or ordered online from the Training and Development Agency at: publications@tda.gov.uk or by telephone on 0845 6060 323. (Reference TDA0664/03.09/COL).

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 (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