

National Governors' Association

BULLETIN BOARD

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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 Annual General Meeting: Saturday, 7 November 2009, Council House, Birmingham – Guest speaker will be Christine Gilbert, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Schools. There will also be a presentation by the School Food Trust.

NGA Winter Conference: Wednesday 27 January 2010, Russell Hotel, London. A departure from usual NGA practice, this event is not a members' conference, but is aimed at School Improvement Partners (SIPs), Governor Services' staff, extended schools co-ordinators, relevant professionals in Government agencies, Children's Services managers, governor trainers – and governors. The Conference will address major areas in the 21st Century Schools White Paper, ranging from the new role for SIPs to new landscape for the children's workforce and the ways that local authorities can support the governors in their locality. The cost of the conference is £150 to non-members and £50 to NGA members. Local associations can book up to three places at the membership price. For more information see under *Events* on the NGA website. www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx

FOR INFORMATION

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

NGA Office Move

The NGA is moving office this month. From 18th November the new address will be: Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham, B3 3JY. Email addresses will remain the same, but telephone numbers will unfortunately have to change. As soon as the new numbers are known we will alert members in the weekly newsletter.

Please note that during the move week (16th-20th November) the office will be incommunicado as IT kit is taken down and re-instated at the new offices.

NGA Board Elections: *LAST CALL ~ PLEASE MAKE SURE YOU VOTE*

There are six candidates standing for election for three General Director places. The candidates are, in alphabetical order: Colleen Arnold, Mark Blois, Clare Collins, Terry Douris, Frank Newhofer and Paul Rosen.

A ballot form and the candidates' 250 word statements are on the *About Us* section of the NGA website: <http://www.nga.org.uk/NGA%20Board%20Elections%202009.aspx>. Local associations are entitled to fill in one ballot form. Any individual members or GB members are also entitled to fill in a ballot form, as are local authority members.

The closing date for receipt of ballot papers is 2.00pm Thursday, 5 November 2009

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. *Complete details can be found on the NGA website at: www.nga.org.uk under Publications.*

NB: The Guides have proved immensely popular resulting in the need for a reprint – as a consequence any new orders for packs of guides will not be despatched until the end of November.

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:** The Email Forum has now re-launched. (*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 Policies ~ a request to members

We are trying to collect copies of policies on pupil behaviour and discipline and on school uniform, and examples of Home-School Agreements. We should be very grateful if members would share these with NGA. *Please email to: gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk or send hard copies to the NGA Office.*

3 White Paper: School Accountability ~ Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st century schools system

The White Paper was published on 30 June 2009. The NGA has produced a full briefing for members, which can be found on the website: www.nga.org.uk/briefing.aspx – in the members' only section of the website for which you will need your membership log-on number and password.

4 Governance Review

The continuing saga. The Report has been rewritten and the Ministerial Group members were sent the new version on 18 September for their comments. In the light of comments, a final (?) version will be produced and a meeting is to be called to sign off the report. There is no date set as yet.

As soon as it is published we'll alert members to the report and consultation dates. *Please respond to the consultation, late as it may be!*

5 Meetings Digest

Meeting with Nick Gibb, Shadow Minister for Schools and Learners (20.10.09): Issues raised covered a wide spectrum: academies, Ofsted, quangos, behaviour, capital spending, parents, the General Teaching Council, Licence to Teach and the Social Partnership.

- Academies: on holding academies to account, NGA was told that a body would be set up (a quango?) to examine the data for downward trends and the number of parental complaints, which would trigger an Ofsted inspection.

- Nick Gibb expressed some concern about the impenetrable nature of papers for governing bodies with which NGA had some sympathy. He requested that NGA make suggestions on reducing /streamlining the load.
- Regarding Ofsted, NGA made the point that, with a reduced inspection regime, the need for strong governance and accountability is greater; and that there may be times when a school is more vulnerable, e.g. in the period after the appointment of a new headteacher. This view was received with interest.
- A point made by Nick Gibb was that the DCSF should set policy, not quangos, and clearly some agencies, such as QCDA, will disappear.

Independent Safeguarding Authority ~ inauguration meeting (20/21.10.09): The meeting was jointly chaired by the Home Office, CRB, Department of Health and DCSF. The ISA became active on 12th October but there are many stages to the proposed implementation, most of which will take place between April and July 2010. Some issues to note:

- A review is being undertaken by Sir Roger Singleton. He is due to report by December and the review will determine how much of the new scheme is going to be implemented, particularly during the next 12 months.
- A new application form for CRB requests will be sampled in January and the new form will be stocked from April and implemented from July 2010. *It will be vital for applications to be on the correct new form at this point in time.*

In other respects, those present left the meeting with more questions than answers, which perhaps does not surprise anyone.

Other October events or meetings attended by NGA representatives (or for which NGA provided chairs or speakers) included: Employers' Task Force Guides Group, Partnerships for Schools Leading Learning Group, NCSL Models of Leadership Conference, Teaching Awards National Ceremony, Rotary Club Conference, Engaging Parents in Learning Consultation Group.

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 **Models of Leadership Events ~Autumn Term**

Practical approaches to Models of Leadership for 21st century schools

NCSL is running a series of one-day events on the Models of Leadership, in nine venues across the country during the autumn. Remaining events are: Newcastle (10.11.09), Manchester (16.11.09) and Hull (23.11.09). The events are workshop based.

The events are free and open to school leaders, local authorities and governors. Booking is on a first come, first served basis. For further details and registration can be found using the following link: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/index/leadershiplibrary/leadingschools/leading-change/understanding-your-school-context/modelsofleadership/models-of-leadership-networking.htm>

8 **Report ~ The Impact of Federations on Student Outcomes**

A study commissioned by the National College for Leadership of Schools and Children's Services has concluded that collaborations between higher and lower attaining schools can have a positive impact on student outcomes. Although the study talks about 'federations' in fact only 15% of the sample were true federations, that is, properly constituted federations with a single governing body, The vast majority are actually collaborative arrangements. The research, carried out by the universities of Manchester and Nottingham, looked at 264 schools across 122 collaborative agreements. This report is available at: <http://www.nationalcollege.org.uk/impact-of-federations>

9 **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 (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

10 Independent Review of Primary Curriculum – recommendation 14(1) – points of entry into reception

The DCSF is seeking responses to implementing one aspect of the recommendation made by the Rose Primary Curriculum Review that children should start school from the September after they reach the age of four. The change being consulted on is two amendments to the School Admissions Code 2009, to require admission authorities to provide for this in their admission arrangements from September 2011.

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

Responses should be sent by email to: review.admissions@dcfs.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Fair Access Division, DCSF, Floor 2, Area C, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9BG.

DCSF deadline 16 November 2009.

Deadline for comment to NGA 4 November 2009

11 A Carbon Management Strategy for Schools

The school sector is responsible for 15% of public sector carbon emissions arising from energy use in school buildings, school travel and transport, the procurement of goods and services and the production of waste in schools. There is a need to reduce these emissions to prevent greater adverse impact on climate change. This consultation is to gather stakeholder views on the feasibility and priority of options for action in the sector, to reduce carbon and greenhouse gases arising from the operation of the school system, while still delivering core business.

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: SchoolsCarbon.CONULTATION@dcfs.gsi.gov.uk. Written responses should be sent to: Janice Lawson, Sustainable Development Unit, 5th Floor, Building 3, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT.

DCSF deadline 20 November 2009.

Deadline for comment to NGA 5 November 2009

12 Consultation on Proposed Amendments to the School Premises Regulations on School Kitchen and Dining Facilities

In May 2009, the Secretary of State wrote to all schools and local authorities seeking their ongoing support with transforming the school meals service and increasing the take up of school lunches. He urged everyone to tackle inadequate kitchen and dining facilities in support of these aims. DCSF

and the School Food Trust have produced a range of resources for this work, including Kitchen and Dining Spaces, a design note, checklists to use when refurbishing or building kitchens and dining facilities, and A Fresh Look Guide on effective kitchen and dining spaces. This consultation sets out our proposals on amendments to the School Premises regulations.

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

Responses should be sent by email to: schoolpremisesregulations@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Emma Seymour, School Food Health and Safety Unit, DCSF, Floor 2, Area C, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington DL3 9BG.

DCSF deadline 22 January 2010

Deadline for comment to NGA 4 January 2010

13 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%201st%20C%20school%20-%20governors%202009.pdf>

14 Other useful publications to be aware of

NEW: 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