

# National Governors' Association

## BULLETIN BOARD

BB 9/08

1 September 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 Autumn Regional Meetings** – Details of the Autumn Regional Meetings can be found in the Events Section of the NGA website. If you wish to attend one of the Regional Meetings it is essential that you let the NGA Office know in advance – by email at [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk) or by telephone on 0121-643-5787.

**NGA Annual General Meeting:** Saturday, 8 November 2008, Cumberland Hotel, London. The formal AGM Notice and accompanying documentation (including the audited accounts for 2007-08) are being posted to Chairs (or the main contact) of Associations today. All documentation will also be available to view in the Events section of the NGA website.

<http://www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx?cardid=34>

### 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 NGA magazine *Matters Arising*.

**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:

There are 16 candidates standing for election for nine General Director places. The candidates are: Stephen Adamson, Vanessa Aris, Colleen Arnold, Judith Bennett, Mark Blois, Pat Colling, Clare Collins, Terry Douris, Duncan Haworth, Peter Martin, Paul Mason, Violet Rook, Paul Rosen, Richard Thompson, Joyce Woodham and Carol Woodhouse.

The candidates' 250 word statements will be available to view on the About Us section of the NGA website by 5 September. A ballot paper has been included in the AGM mailing to associations, but can also be downloaded from the Elections page of the website or obtained from the NGA Office via email at [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk) or by telephone on 0121-643-5787. The closing date for receipt of ballot papers is 2pm Thursday 6 November 2008.

<http://www.nga.org.uk/NGAElections2008.aspx>

**NGA Association Subscriptions:** Only a very small number of associations have not yet paid their subscriptions or been in touch with Gillian Windass at NGA about payment. Please address this 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 who have not paid their subscriptions are not eligible nominate candidates to the NGA Board, or take any formal part in NGA meetings.

**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.

## 2 DCSF News

**Education and Skills Bill:** This Bill is still progressing through Parliament. It includes the raising of the school leaving age, so should be one to keep an eye on. For details, including the debates concerning the Bill, go to <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2007-08/educationandskills.htm>

## 3 Meetings Digest

I think this is a first. There were no meetings to report on during August. September, however, will see normal service resumed. One of September’s meetings will be the Ministerial Working Group on Governance. As the proposed consultation is due to be published later this term (no date yet), please give thought to your views on the effectiveness of school governance and in particular to the size of governing bodies as this seems uppermost in the collective mind of the DCSF.

## 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 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).*

## 5 Teachers’ TV

Become a Teachers’ TV Associate and 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 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

## 6 Becta – the Handheld Learning Conference 2008

Becta is supporting this conference, the International Event for Learning using Mobile and Ubiquitous Technologies, to be held on October 13–15. The first day of the conference, Monday 13 October, focuses on Next Generation Learning and is open to the general public who may register free. It is aimed at teachers, governors, parents, employers and accompanied minors. The day will

include seminars, an exhibition and the Y Factor, an interactive game hosted by Next Generation Learning ambassador and TV presenter Johnny Ball. To register for the conference go to [www.handheldlearning.com](http://www.handheldlearning.com).

## **CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION**

### **7 Delivering the Children's Plan – Strengthening Children's Trusts: legislative options**

Following on from the recent consultation on the Statutory Guidance for Children's Trusts on the Duty to Cooperate, which closed on 26 June, this is a further call for views and advice from partners. This discussion document proposes a number of changes to the current framework for Children's Trusts. It includes requiring all areas to have a Children and Young People's Plan, with extended ownership of the plan to all statutory partners; proposals to strengthen the statutory framework for Children and Young People's Plans through secondary legislation and further clarifying the required content of plans; extending the 'duty to cooperate' to other key partners; and establishing a stronger basis for Children's Trusts Boards.

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.LegislativeDiscussion@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:ChildrensTrusts.LegislativeDiscussion@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk) Written responses should be sent to: Gurdawar Jassi, Ground Floor, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DCSF deadline 25 September 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 12 September 2008**

### **8 Proposals for Revisions to Legislation for Schools Causing Concern**

This consultation seeks views on proposed changes to the legislation on schools causing concern.

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: [scc.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:scc.consultation@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Claire Ivie, National Challenge, DCSF, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DCSF deadline 25 September 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 12 September 2008**

### **9 Schools' Role in Promoting Pupil Well-being – Draft Guidance for consultation**

The 2006 Education and Inspections Act laid a duty on the governing bodies of maintained schools (primary, secondary, special and Pupil Referral Units) in discharging their functions relating to the conduct of the school, to promote the well-being of pupils at the school. The duty came into effect in September 2007. Since that date, an equivalent requirement has been placed on new academies through their funding agreements. This consultation draft offers guidance on schools' role in promoting well-being and on the support they can expect from their local authority and other partners in the Children's Trust.

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: [promotingpupil.well-being@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:promotingpupil.well-being@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk). Written responses should be sent to: Consultation Unit, Ground Floor, Area B, DCSF, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn, Cheshire, WA7 2GJ.

**DCSF deadline 25 September 2008. Deadline for comment to NGA 12 September 2008**

### **10 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/](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: [review.admissions@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk](mailto: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 19 September 2008**

*Also see 'Zero Carbon School Buildings'. The DCSF has set out its ambition for new school buildings to be zero carbon from 2016, and has appointed a Task Force to advise on how this might be achieved. It is undertaking a Call for Evidence to gather ideas, information and experience to inform the Task Force's early work. Details are given at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 10 October.*

*And 'Local Authority Performance Targets for Under Achieving Pupils'. The DCSF is looking at a new model for statutory targets. Details are given at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/). Closing date: 3 October.*

## 11 Publications available from NGA

Items available include:

- ◆ *Welcome to Governance 2008-09 Edition – (available end September 2008).* 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 2007 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>
- ◆ *Papers:* The papers cover a wide range of topics providing detailed guidance and information on aspects of governance. The papers available currently are: *Governors and the Role of Inspection, Governors and the Curriculum, Financial Responsibilities of the Governing Body, Governing Bodies and Staffing, Governors who they are and what they do and Succession Planning.* Other NGA papers are currently undergoing revision and will be available later 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>

## 12 Other useful publications.

**Common Mental Health Problems: Supporting school staff by taking positive action:** The DCSF has 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)

**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)