

# National Governors' Association BULLETIN BOARD

**BB 5/11**

**1 May 2011**

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**The Bulletin Board is an NGA membership benefit circulated to Local Associations and to Co-ordinators of Governor Services to update them on NGA's work, consultations and developments in school governance.**

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 and NGA NEWS**

**NGA Summer Policy Conference:** This conference (free to members) will take place on Saturday, 18 June, at the Hilton Leeds City Hotel, Neville Street, Leeds LS1 4BX. The conference will have a mixture of speakers and workshops – key note speaker Andreas Schleicher of the OECD. For a draft programme and a booking form view the NGA website via the attached link – <http://www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx?cardid=137>

**NGA Annual General Meeting and Conference** will be held on Saturday, 19 November 2011, at Jury's Hotel, Birmingham. Keynote speaker Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College.

## **NGA Awards Ceremony ~ Awards for Outstanding Governing Bodies and Outstanding Clerks to Governing Bodies**

The NGA Awards Ceremony was held on Tuesday, 12 April in the House of Commons Terrace Pavilion. It was a beautiful day in honour of a special occasion. Lady Howe of Idlicote, NGA's President, hosted the event and Lord Hill, Under-Secretary of State for Education, presented the awards. National Finalists for the Outstanding Governing Body Award were Cuckmere House School and St Mary's C of E VA School Federation, Cypress Infant and Junior Schools, The Duston School, Martin Primary School and St Mary's C of E Primary School, Twickenham; and for the Outstanding Clerk Award, Finalists were Louise Daniel (Hillingdon Primary School), Lydia Morgans (Raynes Park High School) and Nerys Williams (Ysgol Dyffryn Ogwen).

The overall 2011 winners were: the Governing Body of Bishop Cornish C of E VA Primary School (Outstanding Governing Body) and Sheila Daley, Clerk to Alexandra Park School (Outstanding Clerk to a Governing Body).

## **NGA North East ~ Seminar**

*What has governance got to do with school and college improvement?* This event, organised by Schools NorthEast, in partnership with Northern Education and the National Governors' Association, will be held on Tuesday 10 May 2011 from 6-8pm at the Royal Grammar School, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 4DX. There is a nominal charge of £10. To book a place email Diane Greaves at: [diane.greaves@northerneducation.com](mailto:diane.greaves@northerneducation.com). Full details can be found at: [www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx?cardid=140](http://www.nga.org.uk/events.aspx?cardid=140)

## NGA Special Schools Governors' Forum

The Forum is now officially in existence. A meeting was held on 11 April in the NGA Office. The next meeting will take place on 16 May, again at the NGA Office. Further details will be placed on the dedicated section of the website – <http://www.nga.org.uk/SpecialSchoolsForum.aspx>. If you wish to attend the meeting it is essential that you book a place through the NGA Office by email: [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk) or by phone at 0121-237-3780.

\*\* One of the workshops at the NGA Policy Conference will also focus on Special School Governance.

## DfE AND OTHER ORGANISATIONS' INFORMATION

### 1 The Education Bill 2011

The Bill, which takes forward proposals from the *Schools White Paper – the importance of teaching* has completed the Committee Stage in the Commons. The next stage is for it to be reported to the Commons (no date announced as yet), at which point it will move to the House of Lords. The latest Bill documents can be viewed via the attached link – <http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2010-11/education/documents.html>

### 2 Vetting and Barring Scheme

The Protections of Freedom Bill (PFB) had its first reading in Parliament on 11 February. The Bill contains changes to the Vetting and Barring Scheme and will repeal many of the provisions relating to the Scheme contained in the Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups Act 2006 (SVGA). The Bill is currently going through the Committee Stage in the House of Commons.

### 3 Local Government Financial Settlement (LGFS), Dedicated Schools Grant and Standards Fund

We reported in the last Bulletin Board about a letter, dated 22 March, from the DfE to Local Authority finance leads to alert them to 'an anomaly' in the way that Standards Fund was allocated which effectively means that local authorities are not receiving as much money as they thought they were going to. We noted that Local Authorities' were less than impressed with the DfE's letter.

The DfE has now met with local authority representatives and on 15 April issued another letter effectively acknowledging that their communications on this issue could have been better and more importantly accepting that local authorities 'had a point'. A solution has been arrived at for the coming financial year with the DfE agreeing to undertake further work over the next twelve months to identify a final solution.

The letter does not appear to have been posted on the DfE website, but if members would like a copy please email Gillian Allcroft, NGA Policy Manager at: [gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk](mailto:gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk).

### 4 The James Review (Independent Review of Capital Funding)

The James Review was published in early April. The Government's response is still awaited. Details can be found at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/adminandfinance/schoolscapital/capitalreview>

## **5 Education Select Committee Report on Ofsted**

The Select Committee's Report on Ofsted was issued on 17 April. The Committee's main recommendation is that Ofsted should not be responsible for both education and children's care inspections and the two should be split. The Committee's report can be found at: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/education-committee/publications/>

## **6 e-Learning Foundation**

The e-Learning Foundation aims to reduce the effect of the "Digital Divide" by working with schools and parents to ensure that all children have access to learning technologies when and where they need them, both at home and at school. Since 2001, the e-Learning Foundation has helped over 460 schools in the UK give over 100,000 of their most deprived students and families home access to IT. The e-Learning Foundation performs three main tasks:

- Provision of a free advisory, information and support service to help schools develop the most appropriate strategy to achieve high levels of personal access at school and at home;
- Financial support through fundraising, provision of grants, and services to take away the administration burden of schools collecting parental donations and achieve a sustainable approach.
- Campaigning to keep the Digital Divide at the forefront of public consciousness.

The e-Learning Foundation is holding its next conference 2011 on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> May in London. The title is "Leadership challenges: Maximising returns on learning technology" and the speakers and debates will focus on how schools are adapting to devolved financial responsibility allied with tighter budgets. For details about the conference or the work of the foundation, see [www.e-learningfoundation.com/spring11-overview](http://www.e-learningfoundation.com/spring11-overview)

## **7 Audit Commission – Better value for money in schools**

The Audit Commission has produced four briefings to assist schools achieve better value for money across various areas of school operations. The briefings cover:

- Classroom deployment
- Curriculum breadth
- Managing staff absence and cover
- The wider schools workforce

The briefings can be downloaded via the attached link – [Audit Commission - Better value for money in schools](#)

## **8 School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)**

In January 2011 School Governors' One-Stop Shop confirmed the placement of its 11,000<sup>th</sup> governor volunteer. As a charity its services are free to schools, LAs, volunteers and employers. If your school's governing body has vacancies, or is seeking a volunteer with particular skills, contact SGOSS on 0207 354 9805.

Visit the SGOSS website at: [www.sgoss.org.uk](http://www.sgoss.org.uk)

## **9 Teachers TV**

As the Government did not renew funding for Teachers' TV, the Teachers' TV website will be closed down with effect from 29 April. The DfE will be the repository of archived programme material. More information on how to access the information will be published in next month's Bulletin Board.

## CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

### 1. Inspection 2012: Proposals for inspection arrangements for maintained schools and academies from January 2012

The Education Bill refocuses school inspections on what matters most: the quality of teaching and learning, backed by excellent leadership and management, and good discipline and behaviour. The new school inspection framework is designed to deliver that new focus.

The consultation paper *Inspection 2012: proposals for inspection arrangements for maintained schools and academies from January 2012* invites views on the proposed changes, and these will help Ofsted shape the new inspection arrangements which, subject to the successful passage of the Education Bill, will commence in January 2012.

The consultation document can be found at: [www.ofsted.gov.uk](http://www.ofsted.gov.uk). Responses should be made by completing the online questionnaire.

**Ofsted deadline 20 May 2011**

### 2 School Funding Reform: Rationale and Principles

This six-week consultation is on the rationale and principles for reforming school funding. In the White Paper *The Importance of Teaching* the Government set out its view that the current funding system is opaque, full of anomalies and unfair, and therefore in need of reform. The aim is to create a new funding system, which is fair, transparent and able to support a diverse range of school provision.

The consultation can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [schoolfunding.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:schoolfunding.consultation@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to: Ian McVicar, Funding Policy and Efficiency Team, DfE, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DfE deadline 25 May 2011**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 11 May 2011**

### 3 Academies' Pre-16 Funding: Options for the 2012-13 Academic Year

This consultation runs alongside *A consultation on school funding reform: rationale and principles*. Without prejudging responses to that consultation, this document considers options for changing Academy funding for academic year 2012/13 if school funding reforms are not to be in place for financial year 2012-13. The current method of replicating local authority formulae and calculating a grant in lieu of central services, which a local authority would provide for a maintained school, is deemed too complex. It lacks transparency, is prone to error and is administratively inefficient, particularly since the growth in Academy numbers. The proposed option is to roll forward per pupil school budget share figures from the previous year.

The consultation can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [AcademiesFunding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:AcademiesFunding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to: Annie Raw, Academy Funding and Finance Team, DfE, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DfE deadline 25 May 2011**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 11 May 2011**

#### **4 Ensuring Good Behaviour in Schools: Guidance for Governing Bodies, Head Teachers, School Staff and Employers**

The purpose of this consultation is to gather views on six revised guidance documents relating to good behaviour in schools, and on one new summary document. The guidance documents are aimed at governing bodies, head teachers, school staff and employers. The summary document is aimed at governing bodies, head teachers, school staff, parents and pupils.

The consultation can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [behaviourguidancedocuments@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:behaviourguidancedocuments@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to: Paula Morgan, Behaviour and Attendance in Schools Division, DfE, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

**DfE deadline 30 May 2011**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 12 May 2011**

#### **5 Support and Aspiration: A New Approach to Special Educational Needs and Disability**

This Green Paper makes wide-ranging proposals, including: a new approach to identifying SEN; a new single assessment process and 'Education, Health and Care Plan' by 2014; and the option of a personal budget by 2014 for all families with children with a statement of SEN or a new 'Education, Health and Care Plan'. It will also introduce a greater independence to the assessment of children's needs.

The consultation can be found at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/)

Responses may be made online at: [www.education.gov.uk/consultations/](http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/) or sent by email to: [send.greenpaper@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:send.greenpaper@education.gsi.gov.uk) or by post to Consultation Unit, DfE, Area 1C, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn WA7 2GJ

**DfE deadline 30 June 2011**

**Deadline for comment to NGA 12 June 2011**

#### **6 Feedback to the NGA**

Many thanks to all those members who responded to the requests for examples of skills audits for governing bodies and comments on what is happening in local authorities in relation to school improvement, both issues continue to be live, so please keep the comments coming: [emma.knights@nga.org.uk](mailto:emma.knights@nga.org.uk). Or do let us have views on any other current issues, such as the SEN Green Paper or the school funding consultation.

### **FOR INFORMATION**

#### **1 Key meetings attended by NGA in April**

Thanks to the positioning of Easter, April was a very quiet month for meetings.

- York Local Authority Headteachers' Conference (1.4.11) – NGA provided a speaker on the topic of the future of school governance
- Association of Directors of Children's Services Reception (4.04.11): As a result of this event NGA is anticipating a meeting with Sarah Teather, Minister of State for Education, about the SEN Green Paper.
- DfE School Funding Group (8.4.11)

## 2 Incentives for associations to encourage schools into NGA membership

Did you know that, if half of an association's members join the NGA (as governing bodies), then the association itself does not have to pay any membership fee to NGA? NGA has now extended this principle so that, if just one quarter of an association's schools becomes members of the NGA, we will halve the association's fee for the following year. In addition, an association's members will also now be entitled to a £5 reduction on their school's NGA membership fee, which means that, instead of £63 for standard governing body membership, the school would pay NGA £58.

We are developing our new membership promotions leaflet. If you are interested in promoting NGA membership to your schools, please e-mail [governorhq@nga.org.uk](mailto:governorhq@nga.org.uk)

## 3 NGA Guides available to purchase

The NGA Guides, with information on legislation, are available to order from the NGA. These valued publications are purchased by over 50 local authorities as a credible source of information and guidance for governors. The publications are available at discounted rates for NGA members. A pack containing one of each NGA Guides can be purchased for £25 by NGA members.

For further information, and to access the order form for the new NGA Guides, visit the NGA website: [NGA Guides](#)

## 4 Local Association websites

NGA is continually developing and improving our website and has introduced new regional pages. To provide useful information for NGA members, we have included a list of local associations, by region, that link through to local associations' websites. Please view the web page: [Local Association websites](#) If there are any changes you wish to make, please contact Gillian Allcroft, at: [gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk](mailto:gillian.allcroft@nga.org.uk).

## 5 Regional stories needed

Do you have forthcoming meetings to promote or do you want to share success stories on governance or your local association? We now have a regional page available in our membership magazine, *Matters Arising*, to enable you to communicate to a wider audience. If you have any story ideas, please contact [editor@nga.org.uk](mailto:editor@nga.org.uk)

## 6 NGA Membership Benefits

**Make sure your association is receiving all its benefits.** Members of the executive committees of local associations are entitled to receive a copy of the NGA magazine, *Matters Arising* sent to their home address, to have access to the members' only section of the NGA website and to have the e-newsletter sent direct to their email address. If you have not yet given us the names, addresses and email addresses of your executive members, or if these have changed, please send details to: [membership@nga.org.uk](mailto:membership@nga.org.uk)

## 7 Our address details

We have noticed that some of our members are still addressing post to our old office address. Please update your records to the following details:

**National Governors' Association,  
Ground Floor, 36 Great Charles Street, Birmingham B3 3JY.  
Tel: 0121 237 3780, fax: 0121 233 1323.**