

Staffordshire School Governors

Newsletter • Summer 2011
<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/governors>

School Evaluation Partners

The Local Authority (LA) is committed to providing additional capacity to schools to facilitate the school improvement aspects of the change programme and to secure the quality of education for Staffordshire children and young people. The focus is more clearly on promoting school autonomy and school-to-school collaboration to deliver a self-improving school system.

With that in mind, School Evaluation Partner (SEP) support for schools has been developed to reflect current changes in government policy, school organisation and the streamlining of LA services.

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School Funding Reform

The first part of a two stage consultation that could fundamentally change how schools and academies are funded ended on 25 May. The aim is to create a new funding system which is fair, transparent and able to support a diverse range of school provision.

Because the government considers the current system for funding academies to be unsustainable, published alongside this consultation were more detailed interim proposals for the funding of academies if school funding reforms are not to be in place for financial year 2012-13.

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Events and training opportunities for
Governors see pages 5-8



School Evaluation Partners

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The agenda for SEP visits will reflect school priorities and challenges, LA discussion focus areas and an opportunity for schools to negotiate an external evaluation of an aspect of their work from the SEP. The new Ofsted framework will be a key driver for these discussions.

Secondary schools and middle schools will have a SEP allocated on an individual basis. Pupil referral units and secondary special schools will have an amended agenda to suit their needs. Schools that have elected to become academies can buy into this service if they wish.

Primary and first schools will operate on a different model. They will have an opportunity to work with the SEP as a cluster of schools and to have some individual time for school issues. We feel this new model has the potential to work on a variety of levels to support school improvement and the system change needed for school-to-school collaboration, taking the 'partnership' arrangements one step further as indicated in the Ofsted consultation proposals. More detailed information about allocation of SEPs and patterns of working have already been made available to Headteachers.



Headteacher Performance Management

Although there has been no new national directive on Headteacher's performance management, there is still a requirement for the appointment of an external Adviser to support Governors through this process. Previously this service was delivered through School Improvement Partners (SIPs) or colleagues trained through Cambridge Education Associates (CEA). The Local Authority are now offering this service to schools under a Service Level Agreement (SLA), details of which have been sent into schools.

Most Headteachers valued the SIPs' knowledge of the school in supporting their performance management discussions and our new School Evaluation Partners (SEPs) will be able to act in a similar capacity. In order to broker an effective service to all schools, we will ensure that Advisers commissioned to take on this role will have been appropriately trained and quality assured. Schools were asked to sign up to this service by 31 March. However, if you have not yet had this conversation with your Headteacher, late applications will be accepted. Training for Governors involved in the Headteacher's performance management process is also available as part of our central training programme.

School Funding Reform

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There were some big issues discussed including whether school level funding and levels of delegation should be determined at national or local level, what the role is for Local Authorities, how academies and free schools should be funded, how special educational needs (SEN) should be funded, how early years funding should be distributed, the balance between simplicity and complexity and how quickly the DfE should move towards a fair funding formula.

This was a shorter, six week consultation as it was the first stage of a two-part consultation seeking views on the rationale and principles for any potential reforms. The government expects to publish further proposals later this term, which will be subject to a full twelve week consultation.

Staffordshire's response can be seen at:

<http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/SchoolAdministration/Finance/ConsultationSchoolFundingReform.htm>

Independent Review on the School Capital System is Published

The long awaited review on the school capital system undertaken by Sebastian James has been published and can be found on the DfE website at:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/inthenews/inthenews/a0076572>

Further information will be made available to Governors once the Government have responded to the recommendations.

School Meal Price Freeze

Staffordshire County Council has announced its intention to freeze the price of primary, special and high school meals. Staffordshire is bucking the national trend which has seen the cost of school dinners go up this year throughout much of the country.

Pupils in the county are also benefitting from new, fresh and exciting summer and autumn menus which are being introduced this term.

Prices for meals at primary and middle schools in Staffordshire will remain at £2.10 with the county's high school dinner prices remaining at £2.20. The freeze is planned to last until April 2012, although it will be reviewed on a term-by-term basis



Performance Management and Capability Arrangements for Teachers

A statutory consultation on the proposed changes to performance management and capability arrangements for Teachers was launched on 24 May and will close on 16 August. It is expected that the new capability arrangements will come into effect from September 2011. Revised regulations for performance management will be published in September 2011 to take effect in 2012. Details of all live DfE consultations are available on their website at <http://www.education.gov.uk/consultations/>.

Induction for NQTs

Governors may be interested to know that there are plans to look at the induction arrangements for Newly Qualified Teachers to see how they can be refined, improved and updated to better meet the needs of Teachers and schools

It has been announced that the Education Department will informally consult with key stakeholders such as Headteachers, Induction Coordinators and Newly Qualified Teachers to consider:

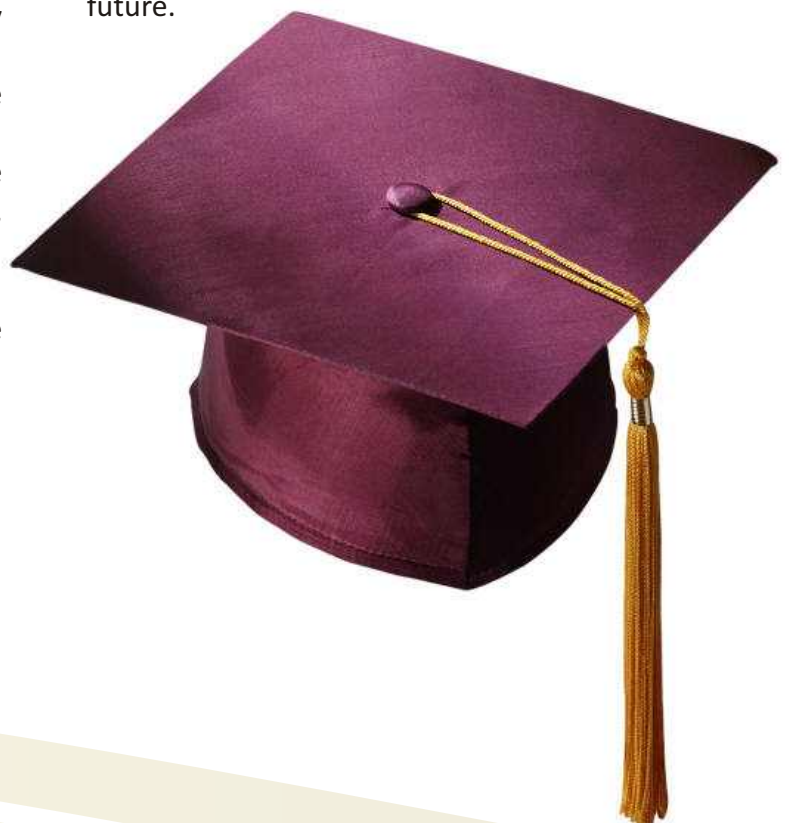
- how induction can support and challenge Newly Qualified Teachers to improve their confidence and quality of teaching in their first year of practice
- the level of regulation needed in induction and whether schools should play a greater role in induction arrangements than they currently do
- the role of new Teaching Schools in future induction arrangements
- how quality assurance of new Teachers can be secured for all schools including Academies, Free Schools and independent schools.

We will update governors on this as more information becomes available.

Recruiting Teachers from Abroad

Michael Gove has announced plans to make it easier to employ overseas Teachers from Australia, New Zealand, USA, and Canada. The Government intends to make changes so that qualified Teachers from these countries will be able to teach in our schools automatically, instead of having to undertake further training and assessment before they are deemed ready to teach in schools in this country.

The proposed changes are subject to a statutory consultation and could come into effect from early 2012. Ministers have also commissioned further research to see if the same changes could be applied to Teachers from any other countries in future.



Governor Briefings

These briefings are provided as part of our Service Level Agreements in respect of clerking, support and information and are open to Chairs and Vice-Chairs (or their representatives) of Governing Bodies that purchase our services.

There is no charge made for attendance.

The events cover items included in the recommended Governing Body agenda for that term. Details of what will be covered at the briefings will be published as each recommended agenda and information pack is finalised.

Autumn sessions have been arranged as follows:



Date	Venue	Booking Code
7th September 2011	Paget High School, Burton-on-Trent	GVN60908
8th September 2011	Kingston Centre, Stafford	GVN60905
13th September 2011	Chasewater Innovation Centre	GVN60906
14th September 2011	Manifold Centre, Leek	GVN60907

Tea and coffee will be available from 5.30pm for a 6pm start and each session will finish by 8pm.

How to book

To book your place phone 01785 277932 or email qls@staffordshire.gov.uk quoting the appropriate booking reference number.



Governor Training and Development Courses on offer

Additional training and development opportunities for governors, in a range of locations, continue to be added to the programme. Listed below are those courses that have been arranged at the time of going to print. Any additional training and development opportunities or updates to the programme will be posted on the website and notified to schools and Chairs as it becomes available.

Advanced Roles and Responsibilities for Experienced Governors			
Intended for governors that have been in the role for a minimum of a year.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
09/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61201
16/11/11	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61203
12/01/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61202
Being Strategic - Governors Taking the Lead			
This is intended for all governors.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
21/07/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62401
20/09/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62402
Effective Parental Engagement for School Improvement			
This is intended for all governors.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
15/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62701
Equality, Diversity and Community Cohesion			
A course that all governors may find of interest.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
10/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB63001
Monitoring and Accountability			
This is intended for all governors.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
28/06/11	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62302
19/07/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62303
05/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62304
Performance Management of Headteacher Governor Training			
This is intended for governors with responsibility for Headteacher's Performance Management only.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
29/06/11	Kingston Centre	09:30-11:30	GVB60501
20/07/11	Torc Vocational Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60503
18/10/11	Paget High, Burton	19:00-21:00	GVB60502
Premises Health and Safety for Governors			
Aimed at governors on committees that deal with premises and health and safety.			
Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
02/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61801
16/02/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61802

Pupil Discipline

Intended for governors involved in the exclusion process, although other governors may wish to attend.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
23/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62901
16/02/12	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62902

Recruitment and Selection of Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher

Governors that are likely to be involved in the recruitment process for Headteachers or Deputy Headteachers are likely to be the most interested in this, although much of what is covered could be applied to any recruitment and selection process.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
10/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60401
02/02/12	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60402

Safeguarding (Child Protection) for Governors

Intended for all governors with responsibility for Child Protection. Other governors may also be interested in attending.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
23/06/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB63101

Staff Discipline - The Governor's Role

Intended particularly for members of Staff Discipline, Staff Discipline Appeals and Personnel Committees.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
06/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62001
19/03/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62002

Staffing Responsibilities for Governors

All governors are welcome to attend this, but it is particularly relevant to those that serve on personnel committees.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
15/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60601
17/01/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60602
22/03/12	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB60603

The Curriculum and Extra-Curricular Activities

All governors but particularly for those on Curriculum Committees or who are acting as Curriculum Link Governors.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
10/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62601

The Role of the Child Protection Governor

Intended for all governors with responsibility for Child Protection. Other governors may also be interested in attending.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
28/11/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61301
15/03/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61302

The Role of the SEN Governor

Intended for all governors with responsibility for Child Protection. Other governors may also be interested in attending.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
20/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61501
24/01/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61502

The School Improvement Development Plan

This is intended for all governors.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
12/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB62501

Welcome to Being a Governor

Intended for new and inexperienced governors.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
20/06/11	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61402
28/09/11	Chasewater Innovation Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61404
05/10/11	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB61403

Welcome to Being a Governor Part 2

A follow up course intended for those governors that have previously attended the Welcome to Being a Governor Course and have attended at least one full governing body meeting.

Dates	Venues	Times	Booking Codes
07/11/11	Chasewater Innovation Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB63301
18/01/12	Kingston Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB63302
08/03/12	Seabridge Centre	19:00-21:00	GVB63303

How to book

To book your place phone 01785 277932 or email qls@staffordshire.gov.uk quoting the appropriate booking reference number.

The following training will soon have dates and venues confirmed:

- Handling Complaints
- E-Safety for Governors
- Living in a Digital World
- The Role of the Looked After Children Governor
- Freedom of Information and Data Protection
- Early Years Training - Assessing and Enabling Indoor and Outdoor Environments in Early Years
- Safer Recruitment
- Finance Related Training

If you would like any further information about training on offer, please contact Governor Services.

Governor Conference

We are very pleased to announce that the Staffordshire Governors' Association (SGA) is working with Governor Services to organise a conference for Governors during the spring term 2012. Further details will be published later in the term. Governors may be interested in visiting the SGA website at <http://www.staffsga.org.uk/> for further information about them and their work, as well as how to join them.

District Conferences

The introduction of these conferences for Chairs and Headteachers has proved so successful that they are to become a regular feature for the foreseeable future. In addition to the eight conferences taking place this term, there will be further events for each district in both the autumn and spring terms. **These conferences are part of the continuing dialogue with schools about the rapid pace of change which the education service is experiencing.** They provide the opportunity to be briefed on and take part in discussions on current issues nationally and locally. There will continue to be a district element to the events also. Details about District Conferences will continue to be made available through the e-school bag and on the Governor Website.



Foreign Languages in Staffordshire Primary Schools – What's the Future?

In December 2002, the then DfES launched its strategy for foreign languages learning in England. Entitled 'Languages for All: Languages for Life', the strategy embraced all phases of compulsory education, but specifically targeted support for primary languages. It identified that, by September 2009, all pupils in KS2 would be entitled to high quality teaching of at least one foreign language delivered in part in curriculum time.

From 2003 onwards the government made monies available through the Standards Fund to enable Local Authorities (LAs) to support schools to meet the entitlement target. Staffordshire's strategy grew from a set of principles underpinned by the belief that schools needed to develop their own capacity to deliver the entitlement to ensure that a genuine primary languages curriculum emerged, and that it could be sustained long term. Healthy, robust primary networks in partnership with secondary schools were a crucial feature of the capacity building programme.

These networks, known as CELLS (Clusters for Early Language Learning), have flourished over the last decade. Many are now vibrant hubs providing members with invaluable opportunities to share CPD experiences, resources, planning and ideas for teaching and learning and assessment, in order to develop non specialist teachers' confidence and competence to deliver the anticipated high quality teaching referred to in the Strategy.

Central government funding has been critical in ensuring the success of the networks and their positive impact on individual school's language provision; it is estimated that more than 90% of Staffordshire schools meet the entitlement target. 2010-2011 was the last year of government funding to LAs for primary languages. However, it is proposed that Staffordshire County Council will provide support for CELLS in 2011-2012 to ensure that they continue to evolve in order to secure ongoing provision for languages at KS2, whether their status be compulsory or statutory.

Headteachers have already received information about the proposal and Modern Foreign Language (MFL) Coordinators will be able to provide Governors with information about language provision in school. Further details are also available:

[http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subject areas/ModernForeignLanguages/](http://education.staffordshire.gov.uk/Curriculum/Subject%20areas/ModernForeignLanguages/)

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Changes to Additional Educational Needs Funding

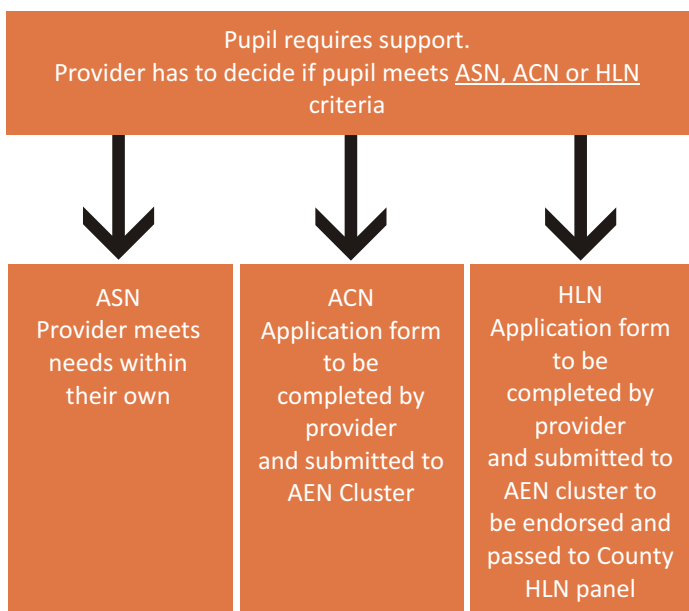
Many of you will be aware that the Local Authority has carried out a review of the way Additional Educational Needs (AEN) funding is allocated to providers. Following a number of questions about the new arrangements, we have set out details of the new system below.

The new system for schools

The funding that has previously been delegated to providers through the AEN route will be split into two discrete budgets –

- ACN “Additional Cluster Needs”
- HLN “Higher Level Needs”.

As well as schools holding their Age Weighted Pupil Unit / lump sum (AWPU/LS), AEN Funding will be held by a cluster of schools based on the Community and Learning Partnership (C&LP) structure. Schools will need to consider all children and young people currently attending their school against the new criteria and apply for funding from their AEN cluster.



Therefore decisions on how cluster resources are allocated to providers are made by the cluster itself which will be made up of Headteachers and / or Special Educational Needs Coordinators (SENCOs) of those cluster of schools; decision making in the hands of the providers.

Criteria for ASN, ACN and HLN funding is split into four descriptors:

1. Behaviour, Emotional and Social Development needs
2. Cognition and Learning needs
3. Communication and Interaction needs
4. Sensory and/or Physical needs

Each individual provider will then determine the practical arrangements for use of these resources to meet the pupil's needs.

The AEN budget provides a 'top-up' model and therefore part of the overall cost of the additional support the first 10 hours of support would be met from within the provider's main formula funded budget. To acknowledge this change a proportion of the current AEN budget will be delegated to providers through the current AEN proxy indicator formula therefore increasing the amount delegated to providers. This should also result in less turbulence within provider budgets as lower levels of funding would move with children if they change provider.

The new system for private, voluntary and independent settings (PVI's)

The process will be exactly the same for the PVI's except they will not join the schools clusters. Their ACN applications will be considered by the District EY Forum who are a body of multi agency professionals who support settings in identifying and monitoring children with additional needs in partnership with parents and carers. In the same way HLN applications would initially come to the EY Forum to be then passed to the County HLN panel.

Wolf Review of Vocational Education

When the review of vocational education undertaken by Professor Alison Wolf was published in March, the government immediately accepted four recommendations:

- to allow qualified further education Lecturers to teach in school classrooms on the same basis as qualified school Teachers. This requires a change in the law.
- to clarify the rules on allowing industry professionals to teach in schools. This will be ready for the coming academic year
- to allow any vocational qualification offered by a regulated awarding body to be taken by 14 to 19 year olds
- to allow established high-quality vocational qualifications that have not been accredited to be offered in schools and colleges in September 2011.

The government has since published its response to the review and all of Professor Wolf's recommendations have been accepted by the Education Secretary, Michael Gove. Professor Wolf will be working with the government to take the recommendations forward.

Michael Gove made particular reference to the need to ensure that more young people leave school or college with a good grasp of English and maths whilst announcing a number of reforms related to vocational training which he said would ensure that vocational education is again given the high status it deserves.

Both the review and the full response are available on the DfE website <http://www.education.gov.uk>

Safeguarding

Munro Review of Child Protection

Professor Eileen Munro has made a number of recommendations to reform the child protection system in her review published in May.

Children's Minister Tim Loughton said "it is now up to the Government and the children's sector to work together to look at the recommendations in detail and assess the implications of their implementation in practice for the long term, not as a short term fix. To do this the Government will be working closely with a group of professionals from across the children's sector and we will respond to Professor Munro's recommendations later this year". The review is published on the DfE website at

<http://www.education.gov.uk/munroreview/>



SLN2 Learning Platform Updates

Users of SLN2 may be interested to know that there is now a newsletter produced which goes into schools and is also available on the Governor website.



Survey on the Role of the Chair

Chris James, Professor of Educational Leadership and Management at the University of Bath, is hoping to contact as many Chairs of Governors of maintained schools in England as possible during this term, and invite them to take part in this first national survey of Chairs. The link to this electronic survey has been made available to all Chairs that we have email information for. The survey should be completed ideally by 27 June.

Training for Clerks

With the continued focus on the importance of good clerking it is not a surprise that there has been a rise in demand for our training sessions based on the National Clerks Training. There are two more two day courses now arranged for maintained schools and we are also putting on training especially for academies. Anyone interested in the training can contact Governor Services for further details.

Could You Help Another School?

There have been some real success stories since we introduced our pool of Governors willing to support other schools. Thank you so much for those of you that have made yourselves available. If you feel that you have the knowledge or experience to support a school in difficulties or having problems recruiting Governors, even if only on a temporary basis, please make contact with Governor Services.

Email Contact



There are still a number of Governing Bodies that have not provided a contact email address for their Chair. Emails may be sent because of local consultations relating to school organisation, for instance, or because of something specifically relating to your school. Emails are also sent to inform Chairs that items have been uploaded to the website. These may be general news items of interest or importance to Governors, or items that are only available in the Chair's secure area. If your Chair of Governors prefers, they may nominate someone else to monitor emails on behalf of the Governing Body. What is important is that someone is accessing this information and imparting it to other Governors as appropriate. The addresses on our mailing list remain confidential to Governor Services. We do not release them to anyone else.

CONTACT

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