

National Governors' Association BULLETIN BOARD

BB 11/11 **1 November 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: raise the issue of school governance with your MP

An All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Education Governance and Leadership has been set up with Neil Carmichael MP and member of the House of Commons Select Committee as Chairman. It aims to raise the profile of school and college governors, to explore their changing leadership role, to act as advocates for the importance of good school and college governance, and to ensure governors' views and concerns are heard in Parliament.

The APPG's first meeting is being held in the evening of Monday 21 November, and will begin with short presentations on recent evidence about school governance:

- Sophie Hulm, Corporate Responsibility Manager, City of London Corporation
- Professor Chris James, University of Bath, co-author of *Hidden Givers; a study of school governing bodies in England*
- Tami McCrone, Research Manager, NFER, co-author of *Governance Models in schools*
- TES/NGA survey of school governors 2011

Please let your MP know about the group and suggest s/he may like to attend. Include your own postal address in the e-mail, so that s/he knows you are a constituent, and the name of the school at which you are a governor. You may want to point out that with increasing numbers of academies and more responsibilities and freedoms being given to all governing bodies, the accountability of schools is very much under the spotlight.

If you e-mail your MP about the APPG, please copy in emma.knights@nga.org.uk and we will then make sure that both you and your MP receive formal invitations from Neil Carmichael MP. This is a great opportunity to raise the issues, which are affecting governors across England, with parliamentarians. We hope you can join NGA in getting governors' views heard by policy makers.

FOR ACTION: this month's NGA poll

On NGA's home page, there is now a monthly poll. Please vote in November's:
Do governing bodies have a role in school improvement?

We are very keen to have a straw poll on this issue, as the Department for Education is conducting a short internal review on the role of governance in social improvement, and we would like this information to feed into this review.

FOR ACTION: NGA DATES FOR YOUR DIARY and NGA NEWS

NGA Annual General Meeting and Conference: *Governors as Leaders*

Saturday 19 November 2011 in Birmingham.

Keynote speaker: Steve Munby, Chief Executive of the National College.

Places are free to members: a booking form can be downloaded from the website – [NGA AGM](#)

NGA Regional events and news

Saturday 3rd December in Sandwell: West Midlands' regional seminar on using data – from 10.00 – 1.00: but open to NGA members from other regions.

*To reserve your place at any regional meeting, e-mail governorhq@nga.org.uk
Full venue details will be e-mailed to those who register.*

South West ~ New Regional Director

Ian Courtney from the Devon Association of Governors, has been elected as the South West Regional Director.

NGA Board Elections

General Directors – Six candidates are standing for election for four places as Trustees on the NGA Board: Stephen Adamson, Judith Bennett, Sylvia Bosworth, Maggi Bull, Helen Richardson and Richard Thompson.

The candidates' statements are on the website together with the voting form. Please visit: <http://www.nga.org.uk/About-Us/Elections/Board-Elections.aspx>

Please send completed ballot forms to: vote@nga.org.uk by 2pm Thursday 18 November.

The NGA is your organisation. Please make sure that you take part in the elections to the NGA Board.

Please note that an association cannot vote in the NGA elections unless it has paid its subscription.

NGA Website

We are continuing to update and amend the content on the relaunched website - please bear with us as we go through this process. There may be times when content disappears temporarily, but it should reappear in an updated form. If you have any problems with the website, please contact governorhq@nga.org.uk

Local Associations Survey

The Local Association Survey closed yesterday. The results of the survey will be reported at the NGA AGM on 19 November 2011 and published on the NGA website.

CONSULTATIONS: NEWS and ACTION

PLEASE NOTE: The wording in consultation items is taken from the consultation summaries on the DfE website and express the views and proposals of the DfE, not those of the NGA.

1 Proposed Amendment to the School Governance (Constitution) (England) Regulations 2007

The School Governance (Constitution)(England) Regulations 2007 ("the Constitution Regulations") set out the arrangements for the constitution of governing bodies of maintained schools, including maintained nursery schools, in England. The draft School Governance (Constitution) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2011 ("the Draft Regulations") set out amendments to clarify the arrangements for the process for the appointment of foundation governors in foundation and voluntary aided schools.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: School.Governance@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to School Governance Team, DfE, Mowden Hall, Staindrop Road, Darlington, Co. Durham DL3 9BG

DfE deadline 18 November 2011

Deadline for comment to NGA 6 November 2011

2 Review of Personal, Social, Health and Economics (PSHE) Education

The Government promised in the Schools White Paper, *The Importance of Teaching*, that it would conduct an internal review to determine how to support schools to improve the quality of teaching of personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education. This consultation seeks views on the core body of knowledge that pupils need to acquire through PSHE education teaching, and ways to improve the quality of teaching.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: PSHEEducation.review@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, DfE, Area 1C, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn WA7 2GJ

DfE deadline 30 November 2011

Deadline for comment to NGA 12 November 2011

3 Proposed changes to the newly qualified teacher (NQT) induction regulations for England

This consultation document provides details of the proposed changes to the NQT induction regulations for teachers in England. The current system for NQT induction is set out in *The Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (England) Regulations 2008*.

These proposals aim to reduce prescription and provide appropriate bodies and schools with the flexibility to exercise their professional judgement in relation to their own induction arrangements.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: NQTinduction.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Teacher Standards and Development Team, DfE, Level 4, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DfE deadline 1 December 2011

Deadline for comment to NGA 19 November 2011

4 Auxiliary Aids for Children with Disabilities

This consultation deals with implementing the requirement for schools and local authorities to make reasonable adjustments to provide auxiliary aids for disabled children under the *Equality Act 2010*. Although the Equality Act covers England, Scotland and Wales, this consultation covers England only, as parallel consultations will be taking place in Scotland and Wales

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: AuxiliaryAids.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Mark Sands, Special Needs and Disabilities Division, DfE, 1st Floor, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DfE deadline 5 December 2011

Deadline for comment to NGA 22 November 2011

5 16 – 19 Funding Formula Review

Proposals in this consultation include moving away from the current complex system of funding on the basis of 'payment per qualification', to introduce a much simpler system of funding at the level of the learner. The aim is to make a reality of the proposals in Professor Alison Wolf's report on vocational education. It also supports the Government's aims of reducing bureaucracy for education providers and making the funding system simpler, more transparent and readily understood by all.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/, sent by email to: 16-19Funding.CONULTATION@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to Consultation Unit, Area 1C, Castle View House, East Lane, Runcorn WA7 2GJ

DfE deadline 4 January 2012

Deadline for comment to NGA 9 December 2011

6 Study Programmes for 16 – 19 year olds

The Government response to Professor Wolf's Review of Vocational Education, published in May 2011, accepted the Review's recommendations in full. This consultation paper sets out proposals to ensure that all 16 – 19 year olds study coherent, well thought out programmes which offer them breadth and depth and do not limit their options for future study or work. This new approach, planned to be introduced at the same time as a new funding formula in 2013, will give providers substantially more freedom in designing full time course provision for students between the ages of 16 and 19.

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

Responses may be made online at: www.education.gov.uk/consultations/ or sent by email to: Wolf.studyprogrammes@education.gsi.gov.uk or by post to: Helen O'Neill, Qualifications Policy Division, Level 2, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London SW1P 3BT

DfE deadline 4 January 2012

Deadline for comment to NGA 9 December 2011

FOR INFORMATION

1 Key meetings attended by NGA in October

- Teach First Policy Debate (4.10.11)
- National College Partnership Board and Steering Group (6.10.11)
- Education For All – Stonewall (6.10.11)
- Independent Academies Association Conference (6.10.11)

- Westminster Briefing (7.10.11): Conference on new Admissions Code
- Brighton and Hove Governors' Network (12.10.11): meeting to discuss the Network's relaunch
- National Coordinators of Governor Services Annual Conference (12/13.10.11)
- Stockport Governors' Association Academies Seminar (13.10.11)
- Academies Show (13.10.11): Govnet event for those already in academies and those contemplating conversion
- F40 Annual Conference (17.10.11)
- School Funding Implementation Group (SFIG) (14 & 21.10.11)
- Education Forum – Reducing Bureaucracy sub-group (28.10.11)

2 School Governors' One-Stop Shop (SGOSS)

The School Governors' One-Stop Shop is a charity dedicated to recruiting and placing school governors. 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

3 NGA Guides available to purchase: current offers

The NGA Guides, with information on legislation, 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. Telephone **0121 237 3780** to take advantage of these deals.

Pack of Guides: A pack containing one of each NGA Guides can be purchased for the special discounted rate of £15 by NGA members – the rate will apply from now until 31 December.

Bulk buy deal – organisations purchasing more than 50 copies of NGA publications can now get 50% off.

The next updated edition of *Welcome to Governance* will be available in December 2011. So order now while stocks of the current edition last.

4 SchoolsWorld ~ the new Teachers' TV

As indicated in the May Bulletin Board, Government funding for Teachers' TV was withdrawn, meaning that Teachers' TV ceased operation. It was unclear what would happen to the archive of material. However, Ten Alps, the company largely responsible for Teachers' TV, has negotiated a 'non exclusive agreement' with the DfE to broadcast the entire back-catalogue on a new website service, SchoolsWorld. The new service began on 11 May. More information can be found via this link – Schoolsworld.

5 Local Association websites

NGA is continually developing and improving our website. The Local Association page has a list of all the Local Associations with links to help you find out information. 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.

6 Regional stories needed

Have you held a successful event 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

to enable you to communicate to a wider audience. If you have any story ideas, please contact editor@nga.org.uk

7 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, *Governing Matters* 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

8 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 are 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. If you are interested in promoting NGA membership to your schools, please e-mail governorhq@nga.org.uk.