

## News from the Leadership & Governance Team

February 2011



[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

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Department for  
**Education**

### The Education Bill

The Education Bill was introduced into the House of Commons on Wednesday 26th January 2011. The Bill is an important step in implementing the Government's education reform programme and helping to create an education system that delivers ever higher standards for all children.

#### What does the Bill do?

The Education Bill takes forward the legislative proposals in the Schools White Paper and measures from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to improve skills, including two elements of the reforms to higher education funding.

- Helping teachers maintain good discipline – the Bill will give teachers the power to search pupils for items banned under the school rules and issue same-day detentions. It will provide better protection for teachers from false allegations by pupils. Exclusion appeal panels will be replaced by review panels, which will review decisions but

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### Communication

Can you please help us to keep all governors informed by cascading this newsletter or directing them to the governor pages on the county council website

will not have the power to force a school to reinstate an excluded pupil.

- Freedoms for schools and colleges – this Bill supports the Department’s commitment to reduce bureaucratic burdens on schools by removing unnecessary legal requirements on governing bodies, teachers and local authorities. It also frees ‘outstanding’ schools and colleges from routine inspection, and expands the Academies programme to allow 16-to-19 and alternative provision academies.
- Accountability – the Bill will abolish five arm’s length bodies and where some of their functions need to be retained, they will fall to the Secretary of State, accountable through him to Parliament. The Bill will focus school inspections on four core areas of
  - achievement
  - teaching
  - leadership and management
  - behaviour and safety.

It will make sure the Secretary of State has the power to intervene in schools that are failing their pupils. The Bill will ensure that we measure ourselves against the best in the world by requiring sampled schools to take part in international educational surveys and revising Ofqual’s standards objective to include international comparisons.

- Using resources fairly – the Bill will give parents of disadvantaged two-year-olds a right to 15 hours free Early Years provision a week, and target the entitlements to free level 2 and level 3 qualifications to those under 24. The Bill will enable a real and progressive rate of interest to be charged on higher education student loans and allow fees for part-time undergraduate courses to be capped.

You can follow the progress of the Bill by visiting the [Education Bill](#) [www.education.gov.uk](http://www.education.gov.uk)

## School Improvement Strategy

*A message from Paul Burnett  
Corporate Director for Children and Young People...*

“I have great pleasure in presenting our new School Improvement Strategy. All agencies working with children and young people in Northamptonshire share high aspirations and ambition for their future. To secure our ambition, we need to deliver the very best services.

Our Children and Young People’s Plan seeks to ensure that *“all children in Northamptonshire are healthy, safe and are able to enjoy and achieve, so that they will make a positive contribution throughout their lives and achieve economic well-being.”*

Raising pupil attainment and improving school performance are key components in our plans to deliver on these goals. Our School Improvement Strategy sets the framework for this work, presenting a clear vision and direction of travel and explicit priorities for action.”

A key section of this document is “Statutory Guidance on Schools Causing Concern” this features guidance on:

- Powers of intervention
- Formal warnings
- Appointment of Additional Governors
- Suspension of Delegated Powers
- IEB’s
- Power to require a school to enter into partnership

All of which governors should familiarise themselves with.

A pdf of the School Improvement Strategy is attached, plus you can view it on the Northamptonshire County Council website at <http://edit.northamptonshire.gov.uk/en/councilservices/EducationandLearning/services/sip/Pages/SchoolImprovementStrategy.aspx>



## NCPTA Briefing

The National Confederation of Parent Teacher Associations (NCPTA) have provided a Governor Briefing (as a PDF and also as a web link <http://tinyurl.com/38a63zn> ) It provides hints and tips on how governing bodies can work successfully with their PTAs, also explains how PTAs are ideally placed, at a time when school budgets are increasingly stretched, to help with income generation in ways rather than the traditional PTA fundraising methods. There is also information concerning the NCPTA Gold Star Awards 2011 which are now open giving PTAs a chance to win up to £1,500.

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## Jargon Buster: Community Cohesion

All maintained schools have a statutory duty to promote community cohesion, which is defined as working towards a society where:

- there is a common vision and sense of belonging by all communities
  - the diversity of people's backgrounds and circumstances is appreciated and valued
  - similar life opportunities are available to all
  - strong and positive relationships exist and continue to be developed in the workplace, in schools and in the wider community.
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## The Anti-bullying Alliance (ABA)

The ABA is delighted to announce the launch of the "ABA Tackling bullying in schools: a guide for governors". The ABA has had the privilege of working with a team of experienced governors from primary, secondary and special schools to make sure the guide addresses key issues and challenges that are relevant to governors today. This PDF guide is attached to this e-mail (the guide is also available to download from the ABA Tools for Schools website [www.abatoolsforschools.org.uk](http://www.abatoolsforschools.org.uk))

## Governors' Annual Conference: "Governor Effectiveness in Changing Times"

**Date:** Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> March 2011

**Venue:** Britannia House, Rushmills, Bedford Rd, Northampton NN4 7YB

**Time:** 9.30am – 1.30pm

**To book your place e-mail:**

[cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

**Cost:** £80 per delegate. This cost will be charged against your SLA. If you have used your SLA allowance for 2010/2011 or you operate on a Pay As You Use basis, your school will be invoiced directly.

**For more information:** see the newsletter on the governors pages on the Northamptonshire County Council website;

[www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors](http://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/schoolgovernors)

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## Governor Training: Spring term

All of the courses below will be delivered at Britannia House in Northampton and there are still places available:

**GS02G: Curriculum Governor (Science)**

7-9pm, Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

**GS05D: Understanding Finance** 7-9pm,

Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

### New Governor Induction Training

Due to an overwhelming demand for training for new governors before the end of this financial year, we have added an additional course to our training programme:

**GS10M New Governor Induction:** delivered at Britannia House, Northampton on Tuesday March 15, 22, 29 and 5<sup>th</sup> April. 7pm-9pm.

**To book your place e-mail:**

[cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)





## Governor Training: Recruitment of Head Teachers

The Leadership & Governance team are providing training for governing bodies who are commencing the process of recruiting a new Head Teacher. This course will enable governors to:

- Understand the statutory requirements for the recruitment of Head teachers
- Review the tasks and timeline associated with Head teacher recruitment
- Consider the role of the “person specification”

Rose Kinley, the Leadership & Governance manager recently wrote to Chairs of Governors to clarify that there are important procedural details/statutory responsibilities regarding the management of vacancies for head teachers or deputy head teachers who are part of the staffing structure at a school.

Although appointment to headship/deputy headship is the governing body's decision you will want to act with the full support of the Local Authority. The consequences of not doing so leave the governing body vulnerable in having to find a resolution should the appointment prove inappropriate. Thus, whenever you have a vacancy for a head teacher/deputy head teacher please notify the Head of Service for Learning, Achievement and School Improvement (LASI – Rachel Singer) in writing.

It is important to follow best practice guidance in appointing a head teacher. If you have good reason not to advertise then the Head of Service should be notified of these reasons in writing. The governing body minutes should

also record the reasons for not advertising so that, if challenged, these can be presented.

The Leadership and Governance team within LASI/ASPIRE are able to offer professional strategic advice and support for senior leadership recruitment through our “Aspire Northamptonshire” offer (strategic advice and support to help governing bodies to determine and define the characteristics and qualities needed for their school's leadership).

For procedural advice please contact your HR provider. Procedural advice relates to the correct legal requirements of recruitment, e.g. advertising, qualifications and reference requirements.

### Training dates:

Monday 7th February 6.30pm-8pm, Britannia House, Northampton

Monday 9th May 2011 6.30pm-8pm, location to be confirmed

Monday 10th October 2011 6.30pm-8pm, location to be confirmed

**To book your place e-mail:**  
[cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

## Head Teacher Conference

Please encourage your Head Teacher to attend the Teach Northamptonshire Leadership Network “Head Teachers’ Conference”, Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> March and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

There will be keynote speakers focussing on “Working together on change in Education”. The conference will be held at the De Vere Hotel, Staverton Park, Northants. To book, your Head Teacher can call 01604 655106 or e-mail [cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

The price for attendance is £250 per delegate.



## Deputy and Aspiring Heads (DASH) Conference

Please encourage your prospective and senior leaders who are aiming for Headship to attend the Teach Northamptonshire Leadership Network “DASH Teachers’ Conference”, Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> June and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> July.

This conference will enable Deputy Heads and aspirant Head Teachers to hear the latest education headlines from recognised keynote speakers. The conference will be held at the De Vere Hotel, Staverton Park, Northants. To book, your teaching colleagues can call 01604 655106 or e-mail [cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk](mailto:cpd@northamptonshire.gov.uk)

The price for attendance is £150 per delegate.

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## New Governor Trainer

Over recent years the Leadership & Governance team has depended on a team of “external” trainers to deliver specific governor training courses. We’d like to take this opportunity to thank these trainers for their commitment and expertise and their support for governing bodies throughout the county.

From 1<sup>st</sup> April this team of trainers will be replaced by a newly appointed Governor Trainer, this will be Mark Pevy who is an experienced education professional and trainer. Mark will be available to deliver scheduled courses as well as in-school training. Becoming a member of the Leadership & Governance team will enable Mark to keep up to date with the latest developments from central government and gain knowledge of the key priorities for the local authority. We’re sure that you’ll join us in welcoming Mark to the team at an exciting time of change and evolution.

Our pool of county council “internal” trainers will still be utilised and will continue to deliver courses focussed on Raise On-line, Finance, Health and Safety, Safer Recruitment, Safeguarding and Community Cohesion etc.

## National Governors’ Association

The National Governors' Association (NGA) is the only independent organisation that represents school governors in England. There are over 300,000 school governors; one of the largest volunteer groups in the UK. Their aim is to improve the well-being of children and young people by promoting high standards in schools, and improving the effectiveness of their governing bodies.

Governing bodies tell the NGA that they value their impartial, high quality information and advice on issues such as the SATs boycott in primary schools and the option of converting to Academy status.

Governors can join the NGA as individuals, or as members of a governing body. Northamptonshire County Council is a supporter and member of the NGA.

For more information on membership and details of the support and information they can offer, click on [www.nga.org.uk](http://www.nga.org.uk)

