

Note PAD

**A regular news sheet for
Governors of Schools
throughout the Bradford
District**

Education Bradford
School Governor Service

FEBRUARY 2009



To Achieve School Improvement through
the Effective Governance of Schools

Introduction to Pat Elcock: Head of Leadership & Governance

Pat Elcock joined the Leadership and Governance team, within School Improvement, as Head of Service on 12 January 2009.

Pat has come from Haringey Council where as Head of Governor Services she was responsible for the support and development of governors within the authority to effectively carry out their roles. During her time in Haringey she enhanced the services available to governors and managed a successful buy-back service to schools. Her role also included providing advice, consultancy and carrying

out training, particularly on school self-evaluation and school development planning, for schools and governors.

Prior to joining Haringey, Pat was a Student Services Manager for Hertfordshire County Council. She managed a team responsible for admissions, home-to-school transport and the placement and re-integration of school-aged children across the county, including the setting up and monitoring of home education for those without a school place.

Pat has worked at the DCSF (formerly Department for

Education & Skills) for over 10 years where she worked within the Special Educational Needs (SEN) Division and later as an Appeals Team Leader for the SEN Tribunal.

Pat is in the midst of relocating to West Yorkshire from London. Aside from acclimatising herself with our colder northern climes she is enjoying discovering the Yorkshire countryside.

New Fax Number

Please note the new fax number for School Governor Service and Clerking Service is (01274) 385588. All other numbers remain the same.

THE ITEMS COVERED IN THIS ISSUE:

- > **School Governor Forums**
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National Standards for School Leadership consultation

The Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and NCSL are formally consulting on the proposed **National Standards for School Leadership**. The proposals have been developed in consultation with the Social Partnership. The Partnership consider that they are at a stage where it is appropriate to consult with all interested parties before further developing, refining and finalising the standards.

About the standards

The proposed National Standards for School Leadership are intended to be generic and

applicable to **all school leaders**, irrespective of phase, context and type of school. The standards aim to provide a framework to enable leaders to know what they are expected to do and are intended to support schools so they can continue to improve their effectiveness and outcomes for all pupils.

It is proposed that the standards should apply to all school leaders with designated leadership responsibilities. The scope, scale and extent to which these standards apply to individual school leaders will vary and

depend on the person's role and responsibilities.

Consultation

The NCSL would like to receive feedback from members of the school workforce (leaders and aspiring leaders), governors, local and diocesan authority personnel and others working with school leaders on the proposed standards. Further information can be found at <http://www.ncsl.org.uk/national-standards-for-school-leadership-consultation-paper-2008.pdf> Closing date for the consultation is 3 March 2009.

School Governor Forums

Renamed...Revised...Relocated. Governor Forums are back.

Renamed: Three Area Governor Briefings, formerly known as Governor Forums, will be held across the District next term. Why did we change the name? To help clarify its nature, we changed the name of the governor forums to better convey its purpose of providing a platform whereby governors are informed of the current developments within Bradford and Nationally.

Revised: Like the old forums the briefings will run three times a year at the beginning of each term. However, the briefings will now be led by John Gaskin,

Managing Director of Education Bradford, and his Leadership Team. Each briefing will open with an update from the Director. The briefings will form a more visible accompaniment of the Briefing Notes sent out each term where its key items will form the basis of the agenda. As in the previous forums governors and head teachers will be given the opportunity to discuss issues/concerns and ask questions.

Relocated: Following the establishment of Area and Locality Based Working across the District we have reviewed the make-up of the old forum geographical areas to take into account the new parliamentary constituencies and

localities. A letter will be sent to all briefing representatives, clerks, chairs and head teachers later this term outlining the new briefing area that each school governing body is located within.

These briefings are one of a number of fundamental ways that Education Bradford works in partnership with governing bodies and head teachers on school improvement. It is important that your school governing body is represented. If you would like further information please contact School Governor Service on (01274) 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com

Food in Schools Stakeholders Forum

In a continuation of the popular governors' conferences that have been held locally over the last 2 years, a Food in School Stakeholders Forum will be taking place on Saturday 28 March 2009 within the Banqueting Hall of Bradford City Hall.

This year's event is hosted by Bradford Council working in partnership with the School Food Trust (SFT) and it will feature a selection of interesting and informative guest speakers from the SFT and various other stakeholder groups.

Improving the quality and nutritional value of food in school has been a key element in government strategy to address the dietary health of young people. It is recognised however, that for the full benefit of these improvements in school food to be realised, school meal uptake needs to increase significantly.

The key focus at this forum will be on how to increase the take-up of these healthier school meals and through a highly participative approach it will aim to:

- Identify ways in which different stakeholder groups can provide effective support to school meals;
- Address the barriers that exist to increasing take-up;
- Map solutions that all stakeholders can take forward in partnership; and
- Establish actions that specific stakeholder groups and the School Food Trust could commit to.

The stakeholders that will be attending will include school governors, headteachers, health professionals, student and parent representatives amongst others and if demand for places mirrors previous years you are advised to register your interest early.

To book your place contact School Governor Service on 01274 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com

Admissions Consultation: 2010 - 11 proposed school admission arrangements

The consultation period on admissions for the 2010 - 2011 school year runs until 27 February 2009. The arrangements include schools' oversubscription criteria, any additional application forms that are used by some schools and the co-ordinated admissions scheme. Parents of children aged between two and 16, and community groups, are also being consulted about all proposed admission arrangements for local schools for the first time, following new legislation.

Following the consultation, the final arrangements will be decided by the Council's Executive and published in Education Bradford's annual Guide for Parents admission booklet for admissions to schools in September 2010.

You can view the proposals for all primary, secondary schools and academies in the district via Education Bradford's website www.educationbradford.com Some schools may include them on their own websites. Proposals for individual schools may also be viewed at the school or at Education Bradford, Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford BD4 7EB.

If you would like to comment on the proposed arrangements, please email your comments marked "Admissions Consultation" to pupilaccessadmissions@educationbradford.com or write to School Admissions, Education Bradford, Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford BD4 7EB.



School Governor Accounts are now available

School governor user access accounts are a new development that allows the school's RAISEonline administrator to provide any school governor that requests it access to the school's RAISEonline Full Report. These accounts do not provide access to the interactive part of the system, and do not allow the user to see named pupil data.

Governors and School Governor Services have told the Department for Children, Schools & Families (DCSF) that the school data in the RAISEonline Full Report is a helpful source of information. The development of this new type of account aims to provide governor access without the need for a school to supply printed copies whenever the Full Report is updated.

When setting up governor accounts, please remember that the terms and conditions of using RAISEonline require that all accounts should apply to one user. Shared accounts for the joint use of all governors should therefore be avoided.

Please email Ofsted on enquiries@ofsted.gov.uk if you require further information on governor accounts.

MORGAN: Action to Ensure Children's Education & Welfare

The Government has published revised guidance on children missing education and launched a review of home education. This will ensure that everything possible is being done to guarantee all children their right to a balanced education in a safe, healthy environment.

The guidance makes clear that local authorities have a duty to make arrangements to enable them to establish that every school-age child is receiving a suitable education, and clarifies the roles and responsibilities of parents and local authorities to provide a suitable education

for children.

The review of home education will investigate the current system for supporting and monitoring home education. It will look at safeguarding and how any concerns about the safety, welfare or education of children are dealt with. There are no plans to change parents' well established rights to educate their children at home.

Further information can be found at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/pns/DisplayPN.cgi?pn_id=2009_0013

A Guide to the Law for School Governors, September 2008 edition

Chairs of governors of all maintained schools should by now have received 15 copies of the CD-Rom of 'A Guide to the Law for School Governors, September 2008 edition'. The Guide can also be downloaded from the GovernorNet website and is available in Word and PDF formats:

www.governornet.co.uk/publishList.cfm?topicAreaId=26

If your school has not received your copies of the CD-Rom, please contact governor.MATERIALS@dcsf.gsi.gov.uk

SEN Moderation Panel – Governor Representative Needed

The SEN Moderation Panel meets once a term, and they moderate (on a random basis) the decisions made by the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Panel (SENIP) and the Statutory Assessment Panel (SAP). This has added further transparency and accountability to the process and also ensures consistency in the administration of the SEN decision making in Education Bradford.

Panel membership comprises of SEN Strategy Manager, SEN Team Manager, Governor Representative, Secondary, Primary and Special School Head teachers and Designated Medical Officer.

The Panel does not make decisions in individual cases, but through sampling and retrospective comparison, helps make EB practice more open and more clearly understood.

The role of the SEN Moderation Panel is to:

- examine whether EB is making decisions consistent with policies and agree procedures;
- examine whether judgements are being made on a consistent basis;
- examine a sample of decisions made since the last meeting of the panel;
- examine the allocation of resources for children for whom final statements have been issued.

A vacancy has now occurred for a parent governor representative on the Panel which meets termly. If you are a parent governor and would be interested in being appointed to the Panel please ring School Governor Service on (01274) 385629 or e-mail school.governor@educationbradford.com and we will pass on your details.

School Profile: Business as Usual – for now!

Ed Balls announced in October that the Government plans to replace the School Profile with a new School Report Card. The card will give parents a new, simpler and more comprehensive way of understanding schools' performance and achievements. It is important to note that the requirement to produce the school profile continues. The Secretary of State announced his intention to produce the School Report Card but before doing so there will be a consultation shortly about the general principles of the Card. A report of the consultation outcome will be published later this term followed by another consultation on the more detailed and technical aspects of the Card. Once finalised the card will be piloted in certain areas.

Governor Training

There are still places available on the following training courses for school governors:

Induction for New Governors	25 February, 4 & 11 March 2009
Governing School Through Policy	2 March 2009
Governors Responsibilities for Personnel Issues	9 March 2009
Raising Standards for Ethnic Minority Pupils	10 March 2009
Roles of the Foundation Governor in a Church School	12 March 2009
Chair's Role in Leading & Managing Accountability	17 March 2009

A further 'Effective Financial Governance' course has been arranged for Wednesday 18 March 2009, 7.15 – 9.15pm at Future House.

If you would like to book a place on any of the courses please ring School Governor Service on (01274) 385629.

Strengthened Guidance to help keep the cost of Schooling down for Parents

Children's Secretary Ed Balls has warned that schools need to take more account of tighter family finances in drawing up charging and uniform policies.

Publishing revised guidance for heads on

charging policies, ministers said that schools needed to publicise financial support available for parents better and do everything they can to keep uniform and educational trip costs down in the current downturn.

The updated Charging for School Activities guidance was published on 3 February 2009 and can be found at: <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/atoz/c/cchargingforactivities/index.cfm?code=main>

Ending Child Poverty: Making It Happen

The Government wants to provide children and young people with the best start in life and break cycles of deprivation for good. The Government's ambitious pledge in 1999 to end child poverty by 2020 has already led to 600,000 fewer children in poverty in the UK. While good progress has been made, 2.9 million children remain in poverty. The Government is determined to tackle this. The Government is now

consulting on legislative proposals prior to the introduction of a Child Poverty Bill in 2009. Legislation will require the Government to be accountable to Parliament



on progress to end child poverty. As effective local action is critical, legislation will also provide a framework to strengthen approaches locally to accelerate progress across all our communities. To read and respond to the consultation go to <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations>

Closing date for responses is Wednesday 11 March 2009.

Appealing Volunteers Needed

People are being encouraged to help deal with appeals by parents about school places.

Bradford Council is asking for more volunteers to become Lay and Education members of the Independent Schools Appeal Panel.

The Panel hears appeals from parents whose children have not been allocated a place at their preferred school. The hearings cover all Bradford LEA's primary and secondary schools as well as Roman Catholic and Church of England aided schools and Foundation Schools.



Panels are independent of the Council and involve people from all walks of life.

Anyone can apply to become a lay member as long as they have no links with Bradford Council and have not been involved in the running of a school, except as a school governor.

If you are involved in the running of a school you can still become a member with Education experience.

All panel members are volunteers and are given comprehensive training. They would not be asked to serve on appeal hearings relating to schools they have links to.

Anyone wanting an application form or further information should contact Claire Tomenson, at Room 112, City Hall, Bradford, BD1 1HY or call 01274 432457.

Notepad is a regular news sheet produced for all governors of schools throughout the Bradford District. It is intended to be a brief and cost effective way of providing all school governors with up-to-date information about services, local and regional activities, and training opportunities.

Notepad is compiled and produced by School Governor Service, Education Bradford, Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford, West Yorkshire, BD4 7EB. Pat Elcock, Linda Townsend, Diane Kenyon and Louise Brearley are happy to provide any further information you may need about any item appearing in this issue. We can be contacted at the above address, Tel 01274 385629, Fax 01274 385588, e-mail: school.governor@educationbradford.com



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