

## The Parental Involvement Programme

Bradford Council's District wide Parental Involvement Programme has recently expanded, with the allocation of funding to 30 additional schools across the District, bringing the total number of school-based parental involvement workers (PIWs) to 110 (with 11 in secondary schools).

Five newly appointed Parental Involvement Area Officers will work as part of locality-based teams to ensure effectiveness of local provision, and successful delivery of programme outcomes across each constituency. They will work collaboratively with service providers to ensure effective delivery of the Parenting Strand of the Extended Schools Core Offer, according to identified local need.

An important remit of the central team is to develop and maintain professional competence and ethical practice of all parental involvement practitioners, ensuring a

well skilled workforce who can deliver outcomes at a local level. Eight schools and early year's settings across the District have been awarded the Investors in Families quality mark, with many more schools working towards the award throughout the next academic year and beyond. The scheme, based on the five ECM outcomes, provides a set of national standards that all schools & settings can work towards, to demonstrate, develop and embed their positive approaches to working with families.

Five area events planned for September 09 will bring together lead practitioners working with parents across key services, to share practice in relation to parenting & family support and to identify actions to secure more seamless support to parents across services. The events will help identify priorities for future networking & practice developments and contribute to the review of the Bradford Parenting Strategy.

## Public Forum for Education: Community Cohesion

The next Public Forum for Education will take place on **Wednesday 30 September 2009 from 4.30pm to 6.30pm** (refreshments from 4.00pm) in **City Hall, Bradford**.

It is important that schools, colleges and other learning providers contribute to our Community Cohesion strategy in Bradford.

The Forum provides the opportunity for you to engage in debate on the important matters for the Bradford district. Everyone with an interest can attend and parents and young people are especially welcome. If you would like to attend please contact Nazhat.iqbal@bradford.gov.uk or telephone (01274) 432337.

## Handling Allegations of Abuse made against Adults who Work with Children and Young People

Following the review of the implementation of guidance on handling allegations of abuse against those who work with children or young people, the Government made a commitment to publish additional practice guidance.

The practice guidance is supplementary to the guidance contained in Appendix 5 of Working Together to Safeguard Children and Chapter 5 of Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education. It sets out the statutory framework and underlying principles of handling allegations of abuse for those involved in dealing with allegations. It covers practical issues surrounding exercising professional judgement along with information sharing and record keeping. It also takes you through the allegations process through to referral to the Independent Safeguarding Authority.

## New inspection focus on children with special educational needs and disabilities and greater appeal rights for parents

Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, has announced plans to strengthen inspection law so schools are assessed on how well they support children with special educational needs (SEN) and disabilities. Mr Balls also plans to give greater rights to parents unhappy with their child's statement of SEN. This will give parents more say over the objectives set for their child.

Continuing a drive to improve services for children with SEN, Mr Balls set out plans to ensure outcomes for these children are a top priority for Ofsted inspectors. Changing the law on school inspection will give parents greater confidence in the importance schools place on supporting children with SEN. The new appeal rights given to parents will help ensure that SEN statements are up to date and an effective way of monitoring the progress of their child. Where parents have had a statement reviewed but not amended by the local authority, they will have a new right of appeal at this stage.

Consultation document can be found at: [www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultation](http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultation)

## Induction Course for New & Recently appointed Governors 2009 - 2010

A must for all new and recently appointed governors, this course will give you an introduction to what being a school governor is about. The course will cover the governing body meeting, getting to know your school and ensuring that you have the information to be effective.

Established governors, who would welcome an opportunity for a refresher in the Roles and Responsibilities of governorship are also welcome to attend.

During the course, there will be opportunities for discussion and group work in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere.

**IT IS STRONGLY RECOMMENDED THAT ALL NEW GOVERNORS ATTEND THIS COURSE.**

Wednesday 21 October 2009, 9.15am - 3.30pm

Future House, Bolling Road, (Lunch will be provided)

Wednesday 4, 11, 18 November 2009, 7.15pm - 9.15pm

Future House, Bolling Road (this is a three session course)

Friday 20 November 2009, 9.15am - 3.30 pm

Victoria Primary School, Keighley, (Lunch will be provided)

To book your place please contact the School Governor Service, Future House, Bolling Road, Bradford BD4 7EB  
Tel: 01274 385629 or Fax: 01274 385588, email: [school.governor@educationbradford.com](mailto:school.governor@educationbradford.com)

## National Training Programme for Clerks

The DCSF have stated that they want all governing bodies to be supported by a trained Clerk to advise and guide them on the exercise of their functions. In response to this, Education Bradford is offering all of its clerks the opportunity to undertake a professional training programme.

The National Training Programme for Clerks to Governing Bodies provides an opportunity for experienced clerks to update their knowledge, understanding and clerking skills, and for those new to clerking to develop the necessary expertise.

There will be a day-time course held at Future House.

All sessions will be **9.00am – 12.00 noon on the following dates:**

Thursday 1 October 2009

Thursday 15 October 2009

Thursday 5 November 2009

Thursday 19 November 2009

During the summer, all of Bradford's clerks were sent details and a booking form. If you wish to take part please return this form to the School Governor Service by Friday 18 September, or contact us for further details.



## Best GCSE results

Bradford is celebrating its best ever results at GCSE level. Performance has yet again improved in both the measures of 5 A\*- C grades and 5 A\*- C grades including English and mathematics and early indications are that Bradford has at least doubled the national rate of improvement.

Lesley Hart, Education Bradford's Director of School Improvement, said:

"Although we are still gathering information from schools, we are delighted that the majority of Bradford secondary schools are reporting their best ever GCSE results at 5 A\* - C grades and there has also been significant improvement in results at 5 A\* - C grades (including English and mathematics), the national benchmark. We are delighted that some of the schools which were below the national floor target of 30% 5 A\*- C grades including English and mathematics have risen above that benchmark well ahead of the target of 2011.

"We have had some outstanding achievements by Bradford young people. This is the result of a tremendous effort by students, teachers, school staff and parents, who should all be congratulated on achieving these results and thanked for the hard work they have done to bring about significant improvements."

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# Note PAD

Education Bradford

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

Education Bradford  
School Governor Service

SEPTEMBER 2009



To Achieve School Improvement through the Effective Governance of Schools

## Our directors want a conversation with you: Local Area Governors Briefings – 5 dates this term

In your mailing you will find the details of the five local area governor briefings we will be holding across the district this term. Following a request from Directors in Education Bradford and Bradford District Council we have increased the number of briefings being held with governors. Further information can be found on page 3.

## Annual Conference for School Governors 2009

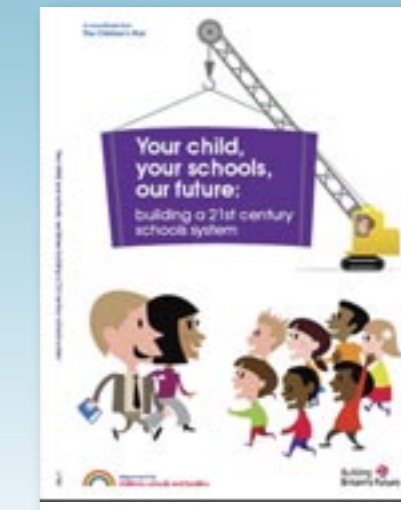
Friday 27 November 2009, 9.30am – 2.00pm Ramada Jarvis Bankfield Hotel  
21st Century Schools: National Perspectives & Implications for School Governorship

The focus of our annual governors' conference this year will be to explore the implications and challenges of the recently published White Paper, "Your child, your schools, your future: building a 21st century schools system".

There will be a keynote speaker, who is a national authority on governance and educational policy and contributions from senior Education Bradford officers who will provide local perspectives on key responses required in the coming year.

Contributors will include Denise Faulconbridge, our newly appointed Managing Director and Lesley Hart, Director of School Improvement, who will speak on '21st Century Schools: Challenges for the District's Governing Bodies'.

Pat Elcock, Head of the School Governor Service, will provide insights into the work of the School Governor Service, including perspectives on



communication, the clerking service and future directions in training.

There will be interactive workshops on topical issues including the New Ofsted Framework, Locality Working, Partnerships, and the new School Report Card.

The conference is free to governors of schools subscribing to the School Governor Service. The charge to governors of non-subscribing schools is only £60.

A buffet lunch and refreshments will be provided. There will be a book display. Details will be included in the conference pack.

We are already receiving enquiries about this event and would strongly advise that you book your place early. Contact the School Governor Service for further details. 01274 385629

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 Townsends, Diane Kenyon, Clive Linnett, Flick Blackwood and Donna Slater 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 or Tel 01274 385629, Fax 01274 385588, e-mail: [school.governor@educationbradford.com](mailto:school.governor@educationbradford.com)

# 21st Century Schools

## What should schools in the 21st Century be doing to provide the best for our children and young people?

Governors will be well aware of the massive changes brought in to Local Authorities following the tragic death of Victoria Climbié. These have been articulated through a series of policies and legislation brought together under the umbrella of 'Every Child Matters'. The latest is the recent White Paper 'Your child, your schools, our future: building a 21st Century schools system' which was published in June. The implications of this White Paper for schools and governing bodies are profound and Education Bradford will be supporting you in your understanding and implementation of its requirements through briefings and a major conference for governors this term.

The DCSF launched the White Paper describing the core message being:- "A clear devolution of power matched by stronger accountability and an uncompromising approach to school improvement so that every child can succeed."

In Bradford we have already established partnership working through the Locality Achievement Partnerships; groups of schools in the same area working together to support each other in raising attainment and achievement. There are a number of reasons why this is an important strategy. First, it brings together practitioners who are facing similar barriers to securing successful outcomes for children and young people; it gives opportunities for the sharing of ideas, strategies and capacity and the benefit of the collective wisdom, skills and experience of many professionals. Second, it is important that we keep our best practitioners in schools. By working together in this way schools may share the expertise throughout the partnership. Third, it affords the opportunity to devise local solutions to local needs and to link with other services to children working in that area. There are advantages in terms of scale and coordination. The commissioning power of schools working together on common issues is much greater and more flexible than that of schools working on their own. Lastly, schools are the only universal service dealing with almost every child on a daily basis. Their knowledge of the child's needs and their ability to meet those needs are paramount.

Schools have had increasing levels of "earned autonomy" since the introduction of Local Financial Management in the 1990s. Local Authorities have the responsibility to monitor, challenge, intervene and support schools in inverse proportion to success and, as long as a school is doing well, it should be left to get on with the job. The funding for many of the advisory and support services which used to form part of Local Authorities has for many years now been delegated to schools which identify and commission the development they need from their chosen providers. The role of the Local Authority has increasingly become that of an advocate for pupils and parents; its prime role being to create a framework through the Children's Trust to provide more coherent and joined up services to children.

The White Paper sets out its expectations of schools, and governing bodies to take a wider responsibility for outcomes for all children in their locality, a dramatic shift from the culture of competition which prevailed in the recent past. Government policy is seeking to develop system leaders who will take on greater strategic roles in developing the work of a number of schools, and there is an expectation that the role of a head is an outward looking one, making connections and utilising the opportunities within the school's local context. There have been very clear expectations from government about the standards of attainment at the end of each key stage, and unequivocal messages about the potential for closure and structural changes for schools that are not above floor targets by 2011. The secondary National Challenge launched in June 2008 has focused on key stage 4 and we are seeing the impact already.

Some might argue that such raw headline figures are crude measures of the effectiveness of schools and, whilst we would probably all agree that there are many other indicators of an effective school, we cannot deny that children at the end of Key Stage 2 who are not reaching level 4 are hugely disadvantaged in terms of their ability to access the secondary curriculum. Similarly, young people who do not achieve at KS4 are likely to have fewer choices in terms of their continuing

education and employment prospects. There are many forms of disadvantage which limit pupils' ability to succeed, but these must be a spur to success and not a self-fulfilling prophecy.

This is where schools and practitioners working together to overcome common obstacles is so important. We have schools within Bradford with similar characteristics but with very different outcomes. The Contextual Value Added information for each school and the Fischer Family Trust data give good starting points to scrutinise how well we are doing for our children. The target setting process is key to school improvement as it provides an opportunity for governors to work closely with their schools, to challenge and support them in being ambitious for all their pupils.

In Bradford we have just over 200 headteachers. However, we have an enormous resource in our 3000 governors and we want to work closely with you on delivering education fit for the 21st century. We have a new head of School Governor Service, Pat Elcock, and we have invested in additional staff within the Service so that they may give you more support, training and advice. We believe that governance has never been more important and we need to reflect on how these expectations regarding collective responsibilities should be delivered in Bradford. We are looking for more and better opportunities to engage with you, to seek your views and ideas and to enable you to support your schools in their quest for continuous improvement. We will continue to use our governor briefings as one of the main platforms of communication with governors. To support this, we have expanded the number of briefings from three to five local based areas. Further details can be found on the front cover.

The Leadership Team of Education Bradford will be hoping to meet you on a termly basis in each area so that we may understand more fully the issues which are predominant for you and to help you in addressing them.

**Lesley Hart, Director of School Improvement**

## Governor Briefings: We're expanding from three to five

'Governor briefings are our most effective platform for face-to-face dialogue with governors. It is fundamental we hear the voice of governors and that governors help inform local policy decisions in consultation with the local authority.' (Lesley Hart, Director for School Improvement, Education Bradford),

Last term we renamed, revised and re-launched our Governor Briefings, (formerly Governor Forums) to discuss issues and concerns directly with governors. Three Briefings led by directors in Education Bradford and Bradford District Council were held during the Summer Term.

Following the establishment of Area and Locality Based Working across the District we reviewed geographical areas to take into account the new parliamentary constituencies and localities.

We now plan to increase the number of governor briefings from three to five local based areas.

**Details of the make-up of the new geographical areas and five new governor area briefings that will be taking place this term across the district are enclosed.**

The rationale for increasing the Governor Briefings across five localities is:

- to reflect the geographical grouping of schools used by Education Bradford and as agreed by schools last term;
- to work more closely in partnership with school governing bodies as indicated in the recently published White Paper; and
- to demonstrate Education Bradford's acknowledgement of school governors as key partners

with whom they need to establish mechanisms for constructive and regular dialogue.

Governor Briefings will remain open to all governors. However, we will ask each governing body to nominate two named governors to represent their school. We will be contacting chairs of governors to ask them for the names of the representatives for their schools.

Governor Briefings are one of a number of fundamental ways that Education Bradford works in partnership with governing bodies and headteachers on school improvement. It is important that your school governing body is represented.

For further information and/or booking details please contact the School Governor Service on 01274 385629 or email: school.governor@educationbradford.com

## Consultation

Bradford Metropolitan District Council wants to improve educational performance across the District to meet the needs of all young people. Against a backdrop of concerns about Bradford's performance compared with regional and national standards and rate of improvement, the Council is looking to decide on the best way to deliver education services when the current contract for delivery of these services ends in July 2011.

Education is a key part of both improving the district and raising the aspirations and attainment of young people across the district.

Your views are needed to help us identify the best future arrangements to support schools and improve and raise educational levels across the district.

You will have the opportunity to be involved whether face to face or by accessing our questionnaire. This will be available from 1st September at [www.bradford.gov.uk](http://www.bradford.gov.uk). The questionnaire is also available in paper form; if you would like submit a response by this method please contact us.

In the meantime if you have any questions please contact Kevin Silk, Education Programme Team on 0779 937 5067 or 01274 434010 at City Hall or on his email address [Kevin.Silk@bradford.gov.uk](mailto:Kevin.Silk@bradford.gov.uk)

## Teacher Awards

David Robertshaw, Vice Chair of Governors at Ley Top Primary School, Allerton, recently attended the Teaching Awards Regional Finals - North. He had reached the finals for the DCSF Governor of The Year Award - North.

In November 2008 David was nominated for the award by Ley Top Primary School. This was to recognise that David plays a key part in the school. He is in school most weeks helping out in class, supporting school visits and trips and many many other things.

In April school was visited by a panel of judges from the Teaching Awards. They met with

the Head Teacher, other staff, governors and members of the community to understand what impact David's work has on school life. From this he was invited to the Regional Finals at The Cutlers Hall in Sheffield on 19 June.

Along with colleagues from school David attended the ceremony and was awarded a Commendation for his hard work.

David said "This award not only recognises my commitment to the school it also recognises what a fantastic team we have at Ley Top Primary and I'm proud to be part of it, Thank You"



## Bradford Schools Online

The Bradford Schools Online website is Education Bradford's primary means of communicating with schools and governors. We are now pleased to let you know that the School Governor Service area is up and running (although being constantly developed and updated!).

You can access Bradford Schools Online via [schools.educationbradford.com](http://schools.educationbradford.com) (NB no www.)

Please let us know if you have any suggestions for the School Governor Service area of the website on [school.governor@educationbradford.com](mailto:school.governor@educationbradford.com) We welcome your feedback.

## Availability of End of Key Stage Data Analyses

To date EB's Information Management Team has made individual school analyses of end of Key Stage data available to head teachers through the 'White Folder'. We would like to improve on this for this year; we will therefore be making the White Folder available to all school governors and staff as a PDF file (an electronic paper copy) through Bradford Schools Online. Because of the sensitivity of some of this data

the file will only be available through a secure login. If you do not have such a login and would like one, please ask your head teacher or school administrator about accessing Bradford Schools Online.

Alan Smith, Head of the Information Management Team  
T: 01274 385820, M: 07718 025052 W:  
<https://schools.educationbradford.com>

## Updates from the School Funding Team

**Early Years Funding:** In April 2010, all Local Authorities are required by the DCSF to implement a single funding formula, which is to be used to allocate funding for the free entitlement to Nursery provision across all Early Years settings; maintained, private, voluntary and independent settings and childminders. This new single formula will directly impact on maintained schools and may significantly alter the distribution of funding across the different types of settings in Bradford. We will be widely consulting on the new formula in the autumn term. Please watch out for consultation events, which will be held alongside the publication of consultation papers. If you have any queries, please contact Andrew Redding 01274 385702.

**Financial Benchmarking:** All schools must now demonstrate, within their budget planning and review, effective use of financial benchmarking information, to meet the Financial Management Standard in Schools (FMSIS). Comparative income and expenditure information is available at a national level via the DCSF. For a number of years now we have published our own local data, which compares the income and expenditure patterns in schools in Bradford. We have now published, in the finance pages of the Bradford Schools Online website, the latest comparative information, using data from the 2008/09 financial year. We have significantly improved the benchmarking tool this year and the options available for schools. In particular, schools are now able to choose their own comparator schools and view this data in graph format. If you have any queries on how to access or use this tool, please contact Sarah North, School Formula Funding Officer: 01274 385701.

## Carbon Management Strategy for Schools

The DCSF has been working with the Sustainable Development Commission to identify ways in which greenhouse gas emissions from the school sector can be reduced. National targets to reduce carbon emissions are being set and schools will be expected to reduce their CO2 emissions annually - year on year. The Government will be issuing fines through the LA and these costs will be passed to the schools. A report has gone to Schools Forum and it has been agreed that work is undertaken corporately to offer support from the council that schools can buy into in terms of their carbon reduction. A letter is being issued to headteachers in September.

A consultation has been launched to gather views from schools, Local Authorities and the many other stakeholders whose actions affect the level of emissions in the sector. This is a complex and difficult task, but an urgent one if we are to play our part in reducing global emissions.

Please pass on your views to the Department by visiting the DCSF e-consultations website at <http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/consultations/> Closing date for responses is 20 November 2009.