



NGN Newsletter – July 2010

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June Conference

Martin Sale, Chair of NGN, welcomed 66 attendees to the NGN Summer conference, held at County Hall in Norwich on 12th June. It was an excellent morning with thought provoking and interesting presentations:

- **Lisa Christensen**, Director of Children's Services gave an update on the changes in Children's Services organisation and how those will impact and improve the service to governors in Norfolk. She explained some of the changes which the new government had introduced or was contemplating and the impact these might have on local schools.
- **Martin Pounce**, who works for Oxfordshire Governor Services; has published books on governance and is an experienced governor then gave a fascinating talk designed to help governing bodies establish and maintain effective working relationships with their headteachers
- **Sue Astbury**, the Transforming School Food Co-ordinator - Healthy Norfolk Schools, gave some good hints, tips and advice on how governors can effectively monitor their school's performance in promoting pupils' health and wellbeing.
- **Stephen Adamson**, NGN County Committee member and Vice Chair of the National Governors Association (NGA) then presented the NGA manifesto which sets of clearly to government what the Association's priorities are for supporting school governors in England.

Full reports of these presentations can be found on our website.

NGN AGM and Conference 20th November 9.30am to 12.15 pm at County Hall

Please make a note in your diary now for this important event for governors. If you would like to suggest items for inclusion please complete the survey on our website.

Norfolk Governors' Awards 2010

At NGN's suggestion these awards have been introduced into the County this year for the first time. As you may have seen in the local press, Norfolk celebrated the outstanding contributions made by its school governors and clerks at a special awards ceremony at the University of East Anglia's Sainsbury Centre on 22nd June. Awards for outstanding service were presented to governors who contributions to their schools have been more than would normally be expected. These contributions included playing a major part in steering their schools through times of significant challenge or change; taking the initiative to work in collaboration with other schools and agencies and taking a leading role in providing significant new buildings and facilities for their schools.

More than 50 governors and governors' clerks were nominated for awards by their schools and the 19 winners were chosen by a panel of judges from the council and NGN.

The winners were

- Jamie Symington (Terrington St Clement Community Primary School)
- Gill Dales (Eccles, Hargham and Wilby Primary School)
- Cym Cant (Sewell Park College)
- Graham Shingfield (Wymondham College)
- Josephine Quaterman (Little Plumstead VA Primary School)
- Peter Roberts (Ingoldisthorpe Primary School)
- Katharine Trott (Browick Road Infant School)
- Ted Booty (Toftwood Infant School)
- Paul Gardner (Great Dunham Primary School)

- Lynne Aldred (Harleston Primary School)
- Fiona Hardman (Cecil Gowing Infant School)
- Colin Wills (Ten Mile Bank Primary School)
- Liz Sillitoe (St Michael's Nursery and Infant School)
- Helen Norton (Morley Primary School)
- Christine Oakes (Charles Burrell Humanities School)

Winning clerks were

- Colin Venes (Hunstanton Infant and Junior Schools Federation)
- Janet Hill (Chapel Break Infant School)
- John Winner (Rosemary Musker High School)
- Pat Cross (The Hewett School).

Alison Thomas, Norfolk County Council cabinet member for children's services, attended the event to thank the winners and said "School governors play a vital role in our schools and are often the glue that holds a school together. They give up their own time and expertise to support their local communities and their skills and knowledge can make a big difference to a school's overall success.

"I know the successful nominees represent only a small number of the many dedicated governors working in our schools and I would like to extend my thanks to all of those who volunteer to support Norfolk's young people."

Introducing J'Anne Robertson

J'Anne Robertson has been appointed to the post of 'Head of Early Years, Schools and Colleges

Governance and Leadership' in Norfolk Children's Services as of the 1st June 2010. J'Anne has a wide range of experience to bring to the role having previously worked as a headteacher, additional inspector to HMI, Ofsted Inspector, School Improvement Partner and more recently Senior Adviser for Inclusion.

Throughout her career, firstly in schools and latterly in Norfolk Children's Services she has held a governors' role. J'Anne's new role will incorporate the management of Norfolk Governor Service, Leadership Academies for secondary and primary phases, recruitment and retention aspects of leadership, headteacher well-being, parents, cluster and community links and developments and extended services such as Whittlingham and playing for success. J'Anne, a governor herself, is keen to work with NGN to develop and improve communication and training for governors and strengthen governance arrangements.

Teacher Salaries

As you may have seen from the MI sheets and in the local press, NCC have announced that teacher salaries will rise in Sept 2010 by 2.3% which is more than the 1% which the budget planning toolkit allowed for. More information can be found on the NCC website.

NGN Facebook Group

NGN is now on Facebook. If you are a Facebook user then please join our group by searching for "Norfolk Governors' Network" or via our website.

NGN CONTACT DETAILS

Chair – Martin Sale - martin.sale@ngn.org.uk – Tel 01553 675583
 Clerk – Clare Simmons - clerk@ngn.org.uk – Tel 01603 466741
 Communications Officer – Neil Collins – neil.collins@ngn.org.uk – Tel 01379 677058

Website : www.ngn.org.uk