



# governor briefing

September 2009



National  
**Governors'**  
Association

**AN UPDATE on working with your PTA  
and the benefits of joining the  
National Confederation of Parent  
Teacher Associations.**

## **Independent Safeguarding Authority**

MEMBERSHIP of the NCPTA gives school leadership teams peace of mind that the PTA at their school is being advised on the introduction of vetting and barring.

Anyone wanting to work with children or vulnerable adults will be required to register with the Independent Safeguarding Authority (ISA) to do so. Everyone that has been registered will then be subject to ongoing monitoring and their employer notified if they commit any offence which will bar them from working with children and vulnerable adults.

It will not be possible to take up a position working with children or vulnerable adults without being registered. Those that are already barred under the scheme will in most cases not be entitled to work with children and vulnerable adults. It will also become an offence to knowingly employ someone who is not registered or who is already barred.

The legal requirement for employees to register and for employers to check their status will come into force in November 2010.

The NCPTA is already providing advice to its members on how these new requirements will affect both PTA committee members and other PTA volunteers. Additional guidance is also available on the requirement to obtain CRB checks once vetting and barring is introduced.

## **Licensing: getting it right**

OVER the last three years new licensing and gambling legislation have resulted in significant changes to the licences that a PTA needs for example to hold an event or a raffle. Not having the correct licences in place may result in a fine. Failure to obtain a correct licence for an event featuring regulated entertainment, the supply of alcohol and / or late night refreshments could result in a fine of up to £20,000 or six months imprisonment. Membership of NCPTA will ensure that the PTA at your school is being kept informed of relevant changes to licensing requirements. NCPTA works closely with the relevant regulatory authorities to both understand forthcoming changes and to seek specific guidance on how PTA activities are affected.

## **NCPTA Awards 2010**

THE annual NCPTA Awards are now open. Gold Star Rewards recognise historic PTA achievement with two, £1,000 cash rewards in four categories. LEAPP (Learning, Education and Parental Partnership) Awards provide six, £1,000 grants to enable PTAs and schools to develop projects that engage parents in their children's education. For details visit [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk)



## **PTAs doing better than ever against the odds**

THE results of the NCPTA Member Survey 2009 show that PTAs are doing better than ever, despite the difficult economic conditions. The average amount each association contributes to the school has increased again this year by £500 to £6,000 with an impressive 18% reporting that they contribute £10,000 or over. In total, NCPTA members contribute a staggering £79 million to schools.

The findings of the survey have highlighted the value that PTAs place on NCPTA's guidance on legal matters. Having access to this type of support is regarded as *very important* by 85% of respondents.

It is clear that PTAs value NCPTA's role in representing PTAs and that our members find NCPTA's representation of parents to be useful. The majority of PTAs feel that NCPTA should be taking the lead in providing balanced parental views based on evidence.

## **NCPTA gets a ringing endorsement from stakeholders**

NCPTA has undertaken a benchmark study amongst key stakeholders, including NGA. Participating organisations included: the Charity Commission for England and Wales; ContinYou; the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF); the General Teaching Council for England (GTCE); the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW); the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT); the National Governors Association (NGA); nasen; Ofqual, Qualifications and Curriculum Authority (QCA); the Specialists Schools and Academies Trust (SSAT); and TES.

A vast majority of respondents (67%) value the relationship with NCPTA as very important with the remainder regarding the relationship as useful.

An impressive 79% reported that they consider NCPTA to be a well regarded organisation. The remainder told us that they believe NCPTA is increasingly well regarded.

NCPTA also seems to be doing well in maintaining these relationships: all respondents reported that their relationship with NCPTA is either well supported or receives sufficient support.

Stakeholders were also clear that they value NCPTA for what it does to provide support to get more parents involved in their children's education. Gathering parental opinion as the basis for an informed parental voice in the formation of education policy and the media is also highly valued.

## **NCPTA membership**

THE NCPTA Member Survey 2009 once again confirmed that PTAs highly value the services we offer; 89% of NCPTA members rate our service as excellent or good and 88% of PTAs think NCPTA membership is good value for money.

Your PTA can join NCPTA for as little as £56 per year. The subscription includes £10 million public liability insurance for all PTA events. If you would like to set up a PTA in your school we can provide you with a free comprehensive start-up pack and local support. Visit [www.ncpta.org.uk](http://www.ncpta.org.uk) for more information or call the NCPTA Advice Line on 01732 375460.