

Chesford Grange, Warwick
National Governors' Conference
Thursday 8 – Saturday 10 March 2007

Working Together to Deliver Excellence

Chaired by the BBC's Nick Witchell, this conference will examine the impact of the FE White Paper, Leitch Report and the FE & Training Bill. The conference will identify the key challenges and the progress against objectives. Delegates will also have the opportunity to discuss the impact of the Framework for Excellence and other quality and financial assessment frameworks, which governing boards use to benchmark and improve their own, and their institutions', performance. This conference will also investigate how key players in the FE system are learning and working with each other, in order to offer the best provision for learners.

Key speakers invited to attend include:

- Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education
- Rob Wye, Director for Communication and Strategy, Learning and Skills Council
- Lord Stevens, Metropolitan Police Commissioner 2000–2005
- George Alagiah, BBC's Six O'clock News presenter and author of A Home from Home: From Immigrant Boy to English Man
- Lynne Sedgmore, Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Leadership
- John Brennan, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges
- Roger Marriott, Director for Quality, Learning and Skills Council.
- Andrew Thomson, Chief Executive, Quality Improvement Agency

Programme *(subject to change)*

Thursday 8 March 2007	
19.00	Pre-Conference Wine Reception with exhibitors <i>in the Grange (Kenilworth Suite, Conference Centre)</i>
19.40	<p>Welcoming Address <i>in the Kenilworth Suite</i> Lynne Sedgmore CBE, Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Leadership.</p> <p>DfES/CEL Review of Recruitment and Diversity of FE Governors David Collinson, Professor of Leadership and Organisation National Research Director, Centre for Excellence in Leadership</p> <p>Delegates will be introduced to the authors of the review who will explain the remit of the project and how governors can get involved.</p>
20.00	Pre-Conference Networking Dinner
21.00	<p>Setting the Scene David Kissman OBE, Chair, The Good Governance Forum, CEL Governance Advisory Group and Castle College Nottingham.</p> <p>This after-dinner activity will provide delegates with a summary of the key outputs from the current regional consultation on FE Reform. This will be followed by a short activity which will encourage attendees to debate how these policy areas can be progressed during the conference and beyond.</p>

Friday 9 March 2007	
09.30 – 10.15	Registration, tea and coffee with exhibitors <i>in the Grange (Kenilworth Suite, Conference Centre)</i>
10.15	<p>Introduction and Welcome <i>in the Kenilworth Suite</i></p> <p>Chair for the Day: Nicholas Witchell Formerly Six O'clock News presenter, and currently the BBC's royal and diplomatic correspondent.</p>
10.25	<p>Opening Addresses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lynne Sedgmore CBE, Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Leadership. • Dr John Brennan, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges. • Rob Wye, Director for Communication and Strategy, Learning and Skills Council. • Andrew Thomson, Chief Executive, Quality Improvement Agency. <p><i>Questions from the floor</i></p>
11.50	Comfort break <i>(conference will start promptly at 12.00)</i>

12.00	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>George Alagiah, BBC's Six O'Clock News presenter, and author of <i>A Home from Home: From Immigrant Boy to English Man</i>.</p> <p><i>Questions from the floor</i></p>
12.45	<p>Lunch with Exhibitors <i>in the Grange</i></p> <p>George Alagiah will sign copies of <i>A Home from Home: From Immigrant Boy to English Man</i>.</p>

14.00	<p>Workshop Set 1 (Delegates to attend one of the following.)</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Learning and Learners of the Future Bob Harrison, Leadership Skills for Governance Consultant, Dan Sutch, Innovations Researcher, Futurelab, and Celia Hannon, Researcher, Demos. Drawing on research which identifies 21st Century skills and technologies, this workshop will develop governors' ability to contribute to the decisions concerning the strategic direction of their colleges in a meaningful way. Participants should expect to know more about how learners want to be able to learn anywhere, anytime, with any device and expect to be assessed when they want it, not when Colleges and providers say it is exam time. Participants will be stimulated to address some controversial issues which challenge some of the current working practices, and to consider the role technology will play in the new specialised diplomas. The notion of a 'Virtual College' will be explored and examples demonstrated. 2. FE National Pay Negotiations Sue Dutton, Deputy Chief Executive, Association of Colleges and Evan Williams, Employment Policy Manager, Association of Colleges. The aim of this workshop is to inform delegates how the AoC and the employment team negotiate annual pay awards and joint agreements on behalf of the sector. The workshop will cover the background to pay negotiations; the operations of the National Joint Forum; the negotiations process; and information gathering, including the Annual Pay Survey. This will be a highly participative session with the opportunity for questions and discussion. 3. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups – The New Law Richard Sykes, Associate Barrister, Mills & Reeve. This workshop will explain the new law and the thinking behind it, identifying governors' obligations and the possible consequences of not complying with those obligations. The workshop will include time for discussion of best practice in connection with the safeguarding of vulnerable groups and how governors can promote that within the college. 4. Capital Investment – the College as Client Philip Head, Director of Infrastructure and Property Services, Learning and Skills Council. Annual capital investment in new premises in the FE sector is set to double over the next 3-5 years with a trend to towards colleges developing larger, more complex projects. Colleges will need to demonstrate expert client capabilities in promulgating capital applications to the LSC and in implementing their project proposals. This workshop will look at various aspects of the client process including defining the project proposal, the LSC's investment role, project management, appointing professional consultants, contractor v developers, use of frameworks and the role of the college's governing body in overseeing capital investment. 5. Principals' Qualifying Programme Mary Joyce, Programme Director, Principal and CEOs Qualifying Programmes, Centre for Excellence in Leadership. This workshop will provide an overview of the current and planned developments offered for Principals in Further Education Colleges. With the LLUK Role Specifications for FE Principals as a platform, CEL has used extensive feedback from colleagues and key stakeholders in the FE system and beyond, to design the Principals Qualifying Programme as part of a suite of development opportunities.
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	<p>6. Maximising Involvement: Research Findings on Governor Retention and Succession Planning Angela Ellis Paine, Assistant Director, Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR) and Nick Ockendon, Research Officer, Institute for Volunteering Research (IVR)</p> <p>In order to get the most out of boards it is important that colleges get, and retain, good governors, and plan for change within the board. A range of different factors can affect the experience of being a governor and the longevity of the role. While colleges cannot control all factors that result in governors quitting, they can mitigate against many of them. They can also plan for succession. The IVR has now completed three pieces of research for the AoC. This workshop will draw on findings from all three projects, to identify steps that colleges can take to get, and keep, good governors from a diverse range of backgrounds.</p> <p>7. Current Funding Issues for Colleges Julian Gravatt, Director of Funding and Development, Association of Colleges.</p> <p>This workshop will summarise current funding and finance issues for colleges including developments in Learning and Skills Council funding, the challenges created by longer-term government plans and the need for colleges to improve their efficiency and to generate new sources of income. The seminar will focus on the key financial issues for governors.</p> <p>8. The New Curriculum – an Overview of Developments and their Impact on Colleges Debbie Ribchester, Curriculum Manager, Association of Colleges.</p> <p>With the advent of the biggest changes to the 14–19 curriculum, and the new QCA Framework providing more opportunities for flexible adult learning, this presentation will provide a straightforward overview of curriculum development, together with the emerging issues faced by colleges in implementing the new learning opportunities. The presentation will also relate curriculum decision making to college mission and strategic positioning within the local learning community.</p>
15.10	Tea and Coffee with exhibitors <i>in the Grange</i>

15.40	<p>Workshops Set 2 (Delegates to attend one of the following)</p> <p>9. Safeguarding Vulnerable Groups – The New Law Richard Sykes, Associate Barrister, Mills & Reeve.</p> <p>This workshop will explain the new law and the thinking behind it, identifying governors' obligations and the possible consequences of not complying with those obligations. Time will be included for discussion of best practice in connection with the safeguarding of vulnerable groups and how governors can promote that within the college.</p> <p>10. Good Governance in Health & Safety Neil Molyneux, Leadership Skills for Governance Consultant.</p> <p>As an employer, it is clear that the governing body has important legal duties with regard to health and safety. What is less well appreciated is how key elements of good governance can, and should, be used to help meet these duties. This workshop gives governors a strategic insight into: asking key questions on health and safety; gaining assurance and discharging responsibilities; taking well-informed decisions about health and safety. It focuses on health and safety as part of good practice approaches to leadership, risk management and self- assessment.</p>
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11. The New Curriculum – an Overview of Developments and their Impact on Colleges

Debbie Ribchester, Curriculum Manager, Association of Colleges.

With the advent of changes to the 14–19 curriculum, and the new QCA Framework providing more opportunities for flexible adult learning, this workshop provides straightforward overview of curriculum development, and emerging issues faced by colleges in implementing new learning opportunities. Relates curriculum decision making to college mission and strategic positioning within the local learning community.

12. The Governance Good Practice Guide

Anthony Smythe, Leadership Skills for Governance Programme Leader, Marieke Collett, Governance Project Developer, Association of Colleges and Melvyn Cass, Governance Helpline Advisor, Association of Colleges.

This workshop introduces delegates to the launched Governance Good Practice Guide. It includes an interactive demonstration of how to use the Guide to access up-to-date information and guidance to support effective governance. The workshop gives delegates the opportunity to access the current contents online – including the first two key themes of *Governance Role and Responsibilities* and *Self-Assessment* – and to discuss their priorities for future key themes.

13. Principals' Qualifying Programme

Mary Joyce, Programme Director, Principal and CEOs Qualifying Programmes, Centre for Excellence in Leadership.

This workshop will provide an overview of the current and planned developments offered for those aspiring to principal posts in Further Education colleges. With the LLUK *Role Specification for FE Principals* as a platform, CEL has used extensive feedback from participants on the Senior Leadership Development Programme, and has consulted key stakeholders within the sector and beyond, to design a suite of development opportunities.

14. Enterprise Education in Action – Creating the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs, Innovators and Social Venture Idealists in Colleges

Caroline Rowley, Regional Director, Association of Colleges Yorkshire and Humberside and Dr Terry Warburton, Director, Centre for Enterprise Education, Manchester Metropolitan University

With a third of the workforce employed in creating, running or working for small businesses, over 3.75 million businesses in the UK and 393,000 new businesses each year, enterprise matters. It is clear that our economic future is dependent on creating the next generation of enterprising, creative and innovative young people. This workshop examines and explores what enterprise skills are, what they may mean for colleges and for governors and how enterprise skills might become part of the Further and Sixth Form College curriculum.

15. Capital Investment – the College as Client

Philip Head, Director of Infrastructure and Property Services, Learning and Skills Council.

Annual capital investment in new premises in the FE sector is set to double over the next 3-5 years with a trend to towards colleges developing larger, more complex projects. Colleges will need to demonstrate expert client capabilities in promulgating capital applications to the LSC and in implementing their project proposals. This workshop will look at various aspects of the client process including defining the project proposal, the LSC's investment role, project management, appointing professional consultants, contractor v developers, use of frameworks and the role of the college's governing body in overseeing capital investment.

16.50

Tea and coffee with exhibitors *in the Grange*

17.10

A Summary of Key Pieces of Law – What Governors Will Need to Know

Richard Sykes, Associate Barrister, Mills and Reeve Solicitors.

17.30	<p>Self Regulation</p> <p>Sue Dutton, Deputy Chief Executive, Association of College</p>
17.45	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Lord Stevens, Metropolitan Police Commissioner 2000–2005.</p> <p><i>Questions from the floor</i></p>
18.30	<p>Day 1 Programme Close</p>
19.45	<p>Wine Reception sponsored by Lloyds TSB</p> <p><i>The Grange</i></p>
20.30	<p>Gala Dinner sponsored by Lloyds TSB</p> <p><i>Kenilworth Suite</i></p>
23.00	<p>Close of day 1</p>

Saturday 10 March 2007

9.15	Registration, tea and coffee with exhibitors in the Grange
9.45	Introduction and Welcome in the Kenilworth Suite of the Conference Centre Chair for the Day: Nicholas Witchell Formerly Six O'clock News presenter, and currently the BBC's royal and diplomatic correspondent.
9.55	Curriculum Reforms: Implications for Governance Lynne Sedgmore OBE, Chief Executive of CEL, Claire Weiss, Programme Director at CEL, Judith Williams, a Governor of Lewisham College with an interest in 14-19 leadership development, and Jill Duffy, Lead researcher for Harcourt PLC on the Ipsos/MORI research on 14-19 The new 14-19 Diplomas, planned for phased introduction from 2008, are an important part of an overall curriculum reform for secondary and further education, encompassing learners from 11-19. Partnerships of schools, colleges, and other providers will co-create a local prospectus for 14-19 year-olds that will offer them entitlement by 2013 to fourteen lines of learning, based on employment sectors at three levels.
10.25	Keynote Address The Framework for Excellence Roger Marriott, Director for Quality, Learning and Skills Council and Peter Newson, Director Provider Financial Management, Learning and Skills Council <i>Questions from the floor</i>
11.00	Conference Address Nearly isn't good enough: future learners, business impact and the technological imperative Niel McLean, Executive Director, Workforce and Institutional Development, British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (Becta). <i>Questions from the floor</i>
11.20	Conference Address Developing Leadership & Management and Governance Standards for the FE System Alistair Robertson, Lifelong Learning UK. <i>Questions from the floor</i>
11.40	Tea and Coffee with exhibitors in the Grange

12.15	<p>Keynote Address</p> <p>Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education.</p>
12.30	<p>The Conference Discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill Rammell MP, Minister of State for Lifelong Learning, Further and Higher Education • Roger Marriott, Director for Quality, Learning and Skills Council • Dr John Brennan, Chief Executive, Association of Colleges • Lynne Sedgmore CBE, Chief Executive, Centre for Excellence in Leadership. • Alan Murray, Church's National Adviser <p>The panel will answer questions and reply to comments raised throughout the conference by delegates who have entered them on the conference blog, situated between the Toshiba and the Leadership Skills for Governance stands.</p>
13.35	<p>Next steps ...</p> <p>David Kissman OBE, Chair, The Good Governance Forum, CEL Governance Advisory Group and Castle College Nottingham</p>
13.40	<p>Lunch with exhibitors <i>in the Grange</i></p>
14.30	<p>Conference Close</p>

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As part of CEL's strategy to promote diversity and inclusion, subsidised places are available to Student, BME and disabled delegates, plus Trustees of Work Based Learning and Adult & Community Learning providers for the first time. Please visit www.fegovernance.org for details.