

CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)



Area Planning Restart

The Department of Education has confirmed that operational aspects of area planning may resume. This follows a hiatus in area planning activity as Department of Education staff were redeployed in the New School Day project.

On Wednesday, the GBA attended a meeting with the Area Planning Steering Group which was chaired by the Education Minister. At the meeting Peter Weir outlined priority areas for the remainder of the strategic area plan, including composite classes and small sixth forms.

GBA has produced two guidance documents to support our schools considering or progressing a Development Proposal and these are available on request. If you would like to discuss plans in your area or for an initial discussion please

contact [Nuala O'Neill](#).

EU Exit Workshop



GBA has been engaging with the Education Authority regarding the provision of a briefing on EU Exit and what it will mean for employers. The online briefing session will:

- outline the employers obligations as they relate to EU exit and eligibility to work checks;
- provide an update on the approach that the EA is taking which could be adapted by schools; and
- provide an opportunity for Q&A

The seminar is taking place on **Thursday 5th November at 10.30 am**. Please [let us know](#) if you or a designated Governor would like to attend.

Special Educational Needs - DE & EA Consultations

The Department of Education has been working to develop a new improved and more responsive SEN Framework. The new SEN Framework is made up 3 elements:

- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Act (Northern Ireland) 2016 (the 2016 Act).
- New SEN Regulations.
- A new SEN Code of Practice.

Two separate consultations opened on the 30th September 2020 and will be available until **5pm on 22nd December 2020**:

1. [Consultation on draft SEN Code of Practice](#) which translates the new draft SEN law into clear and practical guidance for those involved in identifying and assessing children who have, or may have, SEN and for those who provide special educational provision for children with SEN.

2. [Consultation on draft SEN Regulations](#) which will support the primary legislation.

The new Regulations provide the detailed processes and timescales to be followed by Boards of Governors, the Education Authority (EA) and health and social care authorities to carry out their statutory duties to identify and assess if a child has, or may have, special educational needs and to put in place special education provision for those children who have SEN.

As the body with statutory responsibility for securing provision for pupils with SEN, the Education Authority has now commenced consultation on two frameworks which set out the vision, rationale and delivery plans for SEN provision across Northern Ireland. Views are sought on:

1. [The Draft Framework for Specialist Provision in Mainstream Schools](#) which focuses on increasing the number of specialist provisions in mainstream primary and post primary schools. This framework also contains a proposal to pilot a new process to significantly speed up the establishment of specialist provision in mainstream schools.

2. [The Draft Special Schools Area Planning Framework](#) which advocates a consistent model across all areas of Northern Ireland that would see all special schools provide 3-19 provision in the same school.

The EA consultations will close at **5pm on the 11th of December 2020.**

Shared Education

We can facilitate your involvement with Shared Education projects through engagement with our partners. Please [get in touch](#) if you are interested or need any further information.

Board of Governors Training Programme



GBA recently attended an Education Group Partners meeting and received a briefing on the Education Authority's Board of Governors Training Programme for 2020/2021. This is in the form of an online portal, accessed with a user code which has been shared with all Principals and Governors. To date, the resources have had very positive feedback and there are plans to populate the portal with additional resources in the future. If you did not receive an access code, please email: govtraining@eani.org.uk.

Appointment of Chairperson and Members to the Board of CCEA

The Department of Education has launched a public appointments competition to appoint a Chairperson and at least five Members to the Board of the Council for the Curriculum Examinations & Assessment (CCEA). The closing date for receipt of completed applications is **4.00pm on Thursday 19 November 2020**. For more information, please visit the Department's [website](#).

Support for Schools with Cases of Covid-19

There are resources and information on the Education Authority's website to support schools with cases of Covid-19, available [here](#). The EA also uses [this template](#) to support schools in making a media statement.

Teaching & Non-Teaching Vacancies

GBA provides a free advertising service for our Member Schools. Job vacancies are posted on our website and Twitter page. There is also a link to our job listings on the Education Authority website in the job opportunities section.

If you would like us to host a vacancy for your school, please [contact us](#), you can use this [template](#) to provide us with the necessary information about the post(s). Please allow **one working day** for posts to be uploaded.



Email Subscription - Please Share

If any of your Governors would like to receive our newsletter, please [send us their email address](#). We would also be grateful if you could circulate the monthly updates to your Governors.

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