

RPA NEWS

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CHAIRPERSON'S APPOINTMENT



Seán Hogan Appointed Chairperson Designate of ESA

In August Education Minister Caitriona Ruane appointed Seán Hogan as Chairperson (Designate) of ESA.

Announcing the appointment of Seán Hogan the Minister said:

"This appointment is a significant step in the establishment of the Education and Skills Authority. I congratulate Seán on his appointment and look forward to working with him in tackling the challenges ahead.

"This is an exciting time in education as we work to implement a progressive reform programme for the benefit of all in our schools. The establishment of the ESA will see a fundamental reform in the administration of education. ESA will play a key role in improving the delivery of education to our children and young people and raising standards at all levels. I know that Seán's skills and experience will enable him to make a valuable contribution to education."

Speaking about his appointment, Mr Hogan said:

"I am very pleased to have been appointed Chairperson (Designate) of the Education and Skills Authority. I believe education has the power to open doors at every stage in life. We need to ensure the highest standards in education are available to all and I look forward to contributing as we begin a new chapter in the future of our schools."

Mr Hogan is a Masters Graduate from Queen's University Belfast in Organisational Management and has his own management consultancy company. He holds Fellowships with the Institute of Directors, the Chartered Management Institute and the Royal Society of the Arts, Manufacturers and Commerce.

The Minister has also set in motion the process to appoint members to the Board of ESA. It is expected ESA's first members will be appointed by the end of this year.

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January 2010 - Smooth Transition A Priority

Feedback from schools and colleges indicates that it is vitally important that the services they rely on will be maintained during the transition to the Education and Skills Authority (ESA).

The creation of ESA will bring significant changes to the education sector. But those changes will be introduced in a phased manner over a number of years. Service continuity is top of the ESA agenda.

On Day One of ESA schools and colleges should expect 'business as usual'. When changes to the services are being made they will be informed well in advance.

ESAIT is working closely with the Department of Education (DE) and the leaders of the existing organisations to ensure change is carefully managed and that there is a smooth transition to the new organisation.

What you will know before Day One

While there is a strong commitment to ensure service continuity in key frontline service areas, there will necessarily be a number of administrative matters that will require attention in the lead in to the organisation.

The ESA Implementation Team will be writing to schools and colleges in the coming weeks to set out what these are and provide any necessary guidance regarding the actions schools and colleges need to take prior to January.

Contact names and numbers from January 2010 onwards

At the beginning of the new school term in January 2010, in the great majority of cases, schools and colleges should continue to use the same contact names and numbers as they do at present for the existing ELBs, CCMS, CCEA, Youth Council etc. In a small number of cases there will be changes and these will be communicated to you in advance of the creation of ESA.



SCHOOL LEADERS WILL HELP TO SHAPE ESA SERVICES

Principals and teachers have already been providing their input to the shape of services in the new Education and Skills Authority.

To date the ESA Implementation Team (ESAIT) has received formal feedback on future ESA services via Principals' focus groups and engaged with school leaders from all sectors via meetings and conferences.

ESAIT continues to meet on a regular basis with teachers' representatives, and earlier this year received professional advice from working groups on Children's and Young People's Services

and Education Quality. The membership of both groups included a cross section of current providers of education services and current practitioners.

It is also intended to tap in to and build upon the many channels of feedback put in place by the existing education sector organisations.

The top management team of the Education and Skills Authority is developing a model of service that will provide focussed support to Principals and teachers through a strong, credible and responsive local presence, listening and acting upon the views of teaching professionals.

Sector Support Bodies

With the establishment of new administrative arrangements across education a number of bodies will cease to exist. However a few new ones will appear with a specific purpose to protect and promote the ethos of different schools. The new organisations will operate alongside existing bodies which have already been charged with such responsibilities in other sectors for a while.

In the maintained sector, CCMS will be dissolved but a new sector support body will represent the interests of Catholic Trustees and promote the vision of Catholic education.

Similarly the NI Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and Comhairle na Gaelscoilaíochta (CnaG) will continue to promote the best interests of their respective sectors.

Work is also underway amongst a group of committed individuals to establish a new body that will promote the ethos and values of those schools that are currently operating in the controlled sector.

These new sector support bodies will be tasked to work with schools to develop and maintain the collective ethos of the sector. They will both represent and advocate on behalf of schools which share their common values and mission. Such support bodies will assist in the identification of foundation governors and encouraging others to become community governors. Importantly sector support bodies will also play a key role in area-based planning and in engaging in strategic planning and community planning exercises.

Whilst schools may decide to seek support from more than one such body, the organisations will also seek to co-operate in matters of mutual interest, including promotion of tolerance and understanding, and respect for diversity.

The bodies will attract some modest funding from DE to support their efforts.

Appointment of New Chief Executive for NICIE



Colm Cavanagh, chairperson of the NI Council for Integrated Education has welcomed the appointment of a new chief executive for the organisation:

Speaking regarding the appointment Mr Cavanagh said *"I am delighted to announce that the Board of Directors of NICIE has appointed Noreen Campbell as our new CEO. Noreen comes to us with a long history of involvement in the integrated movement. She was a founder teacher and parent in Hazelwood Integrated College where she served as principal from 1996 to 2006 when she took early retirement to undertake other work in the sphere of education. She has immense experience and achievements in Education.*

"We knew that it would be difficult to find a replacement for our outgoing chief executive Michael Wardlow. We are very sorry indeed to lose Michael's skills and dedication. We wish him well in his new work and thank him for the excellent achievements of his 14 years energetic working for NICIE".

TRANSITION COORDINATOR APPOINTED

ESAIT has appointed a Transition Coordinator. Adrian Kennedy, formerly Head of Administration and Management Division at WELB, will work closely with ESAIT project managers and the existing organisations to ensure a range of key issues are addressed in the lead up to and beyond Day One of ESA.

Setting Out Future Relationships

The Review of Public Administration has provided an excellent opportunity to clarify who makes policy and who supports our teachers in delivering that policy.

In future DE's focus will be on the development of policy and the

performance management of ESA. ESA's job will be to implement policy in a consistent and equitable manner and to support schools and youth services in delivering better educational outcomes.

It is also important to stress that ESA's focus

is on the provision of an excellent support service to schools, not interfering in the running of them.

School leaders are best placed to decide how teaching and learning should take place in their classrooms.

Six Director Designates Appointed

Following a rigorous selection process six out of the seven Director positions in ESA have been filled from senior managers in the existing education organisations.

The Directors appointed are:



Clare Mangan has been appointed Director of Children and Young People's Services - Clare is currently Head of Children and Young People's Services at SELB and WELB;



Richard Hanna has been appointed Director of Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment - Richard is currently Director of Education Strategy at CCEA;



Barry Mulholland has been appointed Director of Education Quality and Standards - Barry is currently Chief Executive of WELB;



Shane McCurdy has been appointed Director of Finance and ICT. Shane is Chief Finance Officer of the NEELB and currently on secondment at the ESA Implementation Team as Financial Planning Project Manager;



Robbie McGreevy has been appointed Director of Human Resources and Workforce Development – Robbie is currently Acting Inter-board Services Manager at SELB; and



Patricia Mellon has been appointed Director of Operational Services - Patricia is currently Chief Administrative Officer at BELB.

Profiles of all the successful candidates can be viewed on www.esani.org.uk.

The recruitment process for the Director of Strategic Planning will recommence shortly.