



Informing our partners



Most of our work in September continued to revolve around the NAPTA *Professional Development Review*

and support staff profiling. Generally, this is driven by authorities from a need to:

- gain detailed management information about teaching assistants and other support staff on an LEA-wide basis
- attempt to identify training needs to help support implementation of the workforce agreement (eg to bring in PPA time)
- help equip senior management teams with appraisal systems to lead appropriate CPD
- present detailed training needs analyses to access Government funding for selected training.

Work in the field

As part of NAPTA's work with and on behalf of its members – both individual and institutional – a wide range of activities has been undertaken. These include:

- Almost 50 professional visits were made to provide support for LEA Remodelling and CPD Officers.
- Over 100 visits were made to schools, offering training and guidance.
- A selection of meetings took place with key Government agencies, alongside meetings with senior union managers.
- Staff from 12 LEAs attended a seminar in Islington, enjoying a productive day and tackling some complex issues.
- 53 authorities continued their work with NAPTA to profile their teaching assistants and support staff, equating to nearly 2000 schools.
- 51 authorities received support with defining needs and setting up evaluation phases to assess specific priorities.



New developments

- The *NAPTA CPD Toolkit* continues to be developed, with professional sector experts working on the production in conjunction with Pearson Publishing. Publication is due at the end of November, enabling participating LEAs to start roll-out early in December.
- Research and development of additional profiling to assess specialised infrastructural school support roles continues. Training options through

the new Support Staff VQ are being looked at as a supplement to the *NAPTA Professional Development Review*. This will help authorities to gather valuable information about the development needs of a wide range of personnel including technicians and caretakers, plus administration and clerical staff.

- Consideration of the integration of additional questions and reporting to cover the 'Common Core' is advancing well.

This will offer schools and child services directorates in authorities essential information on how an increasing number of staff who work with children perceive themselves to match up to the national standards being finalised as part of the *Every Child Matters* initiative.

As always, if you have any questions concerning any element described here, please do not hesitate to email info@napta.org.uk



September grants

- £89 040 of Government funding was accessed by NAPTA for LEAs and schools to undertake training.
- £15 500 worth of NAPTA subsidy was allocated to facilitate profiling.

- Oldham MBC and NAPTA have joined forces to evaluate and develop specific solutions that tackle key issues arising from the *Every Child Matters* agenda and the new Children's Bill.
- The largest support staff union, UNISON, has initiated discussions to form a formal partnership with NAPTA to provide

specific benefits to both membership groups.

- The Workers Education Association (WEA) and Pearson Information Ltd are preparing to work with NAPTA to widen participation rates on the sector-leading Government-funded courses that these organisations operate.

Partnerships