



## *The Taunton Learning Partnership*

### **Minutes of TLP Day Conference 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Held at Taunton Racecourse from 9:00am to 2:30pm

Present: E Gregory (Chair), D Barrett, S Bellworthy, B Berks, N Bradford, S Brewer, N Bright, R Bullock, A Cox, H Cunningham, J Davis, J Dolan, M France, P Hanratty, D Hayward, J Lamb, S Loader, M Lunn, S McBride, J McCarthy, S Mills, K Nelson, P Sheehan, K Tyrrell, D Smith, M Snowden, C Waldron, M Hope (CPD Coordinator), H Millard (Behaviour Coordinator), M Reader (secretary).

Guests: Dave Farrow and Paul Nugent

Apologies: S Baker, J Bevans, A Clackett, L Clark, V Coles, N Dalton, R Garbett, K Greenslade, K Milton, S Pickhaver, P Scutt, S Summerill, S Watson, C Winter, A Boxer (TLP Coordinator),

### **Actions:**

#### **1. Minutes of Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011:**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2011 were signed as a correct record.

#### **2. Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone especially those members attending for their first meeting: Jim Dolan, Claire Waldron, Dave Smith and James Lamb. In opening the meeting EG referred to the important issues facing TLP members and how these are being turned into opportunities: School2School Project, Brokering Group, PFSAs, CPD provision and the Rights Respecting Schools. The TLP is making a difference for the children in the community, being responsive and evolving to meet challenges.

#### **3. Finance Report:**

Copies of the Chart of Accounts and a summary for the Financial Year 2010 were tabled together with a situation report as at 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011, prepared by Karan Robertson, Treasurer. The situation report showed a balance of £154,878 as at 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011.

#### **4. School2School Project:**

4.1 MS advised that the first tranche of Headteachers had attended a two-day workshop at the University of Worcester with facilitator Tom Whittington. Through a series of activities, dialogues and learning conversations a model for accreditation to support and challenge schools is to be prepared. The group also looked at leadership skills and how these are perceived by staff and colleagues. Members were invited to sign up for the second and third groups taking part.

4.2 HC stated that she is working in partnership with local schools under the LA LLE scheme to help schools to improve themselves. The LA has been proactive and Leaders are given a broad scope. Heads who have received LLE support have found the help of great value. It was noted that the LA assistance is part of the culture change working towards School2School support whereby it is hoped that no TLP school enters category again.

4.3 MS agreed that S2S support is internal and preventative, Headteachers need to be able to have frank and open discussions. EG agreed that ways to help members be more open and share their skill sets will be addressed further at the Annual Conference.

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## 5. Rigour and Challenge:

5.1 Under the overall TLP aims and in conjunction with School2School Support MH and HM had been looking at ways in which schools can help and support each other. In using the David Hargreaves paper as a starting point HM gave a short presentation on creating a self-improving schools system which is robust and self-sustaining. Schools need a different strategy for school improvement, using a local systems approach and schools need to take ownership and accountability for their problems.

5.2 Contextual Data would be a key criteria in identifying schools with good practice. MH referred to the new Ofsted framework which looks at achievement for all pupils and progress, quality of teaching and progress. An example Data Analysis was tabled to chart pupils progress. It is proposed that such analysis could be used across the TLP to share information and good practice.

5.3 It was agreed that MH would send copies of the proposal to those members not present at the meeting. SB offered to provide a disclaimer for signature by Headteachers and their Chairs of Governors to use data outside of the school.

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5.4 It was felt that moderation would be necessary for the scheme to be effective. HM stated that she is preparing a bid to raise funds for moderation. Members also felt that groups should not be mutually exclusive.

5.5 Secondary Schools would also be involved where there are some pupils still achieving within KS2 levels. It is hoped to extend the data analysis across to KS3 and KS4, where three levels of progress are expected by the end of Year 11, with two sub-levels each year. It was agreed that initially analysis would concentrate on Years 6-7 and Years 2-3.

5.6 SS confirmed that in the secondary sector schools support each other through the Business Enterprise, subject teams and meetings at Head and Subject Leader levels.

5.7 It is hoped that the data achieved will also be aspirational for teaching staff and help CPD in gaining skills set. EG advised that he would introduce S2S to teaching staff at the INSET day.

EG

5.8 EG thanked members for a lively and positive discussion. The next steps will include consultation with the IT department to identify the information available and how this can be gathered and analysed centrally.

## 6. School to School Support, Local Authority Perspective

6.1 Dave Farrow, Service Director for Primary Education, referred to the presentation by David Hargreaves at the recent Stakeholder Conference. The current model of national leaders within schools is working effectively, the system gives flexibility but also accountability. School Support is acknowledged as the way forward with the Compact.

6.2 School2School is a keystone in the development of families of schools where communities of schools are empowered and enabled to work together. The LA is looking at how to work towards this aim and support schools on the journey. The LA shares with the TLP the responsibility that the needs of some schools was not identified and has therefore agreed to fund £12k towards the cost of the TLP School2School project, and if successful the TLP model will be promoted across the county.

6.3 In addition to the need to support and be aspirational schools must not underestimate the cultural change which must take place. It was stressed that schools must be ready to receive and be responsible for change and must work collectively.

6.4 The LA also wishes to review Governance and how it works in the county and to assess the impact of federations.

6.5 Changes will not happen immediately, the TLP should identify the support it needs to provide external challenges on performance as a TLP.

6.6 Paul Nugent, Director for Standards and Achievement, shared his recent experience at a Taunton school which is going into special measures. A LLE is working with the school and the LA is confident that partnerships between schools will work. Two issues at the school need urgent attention, a deputy head and governance, which needs to be significantly strengthened. This is an example of how TLP schools can help each other. All schools should adopt the collective wish for all schools to strive for success in all the schools.

6.7 PN referred to a model in the White Paper by Michael Gove where the TLP could be seen as a mini local authority with responsibility for leadership development, opportunities for governors, prevention and early intervention

and to focus together to maximise resources. It was noted that the TLP is the only CP working towards leadership development.

6.8PN expressed a plan to visit as many schools as possible. He requested members to invite him to their schools and asked members to contact him direct with any views and opinions from today's discussions ([pungent@somerset.gov.uk](mailto:pungent@somerset.gov.uk)).

ALL

6.9DH suggested that a starting point for the collation of data would be through the Compact Task and Finish Group and SAPHTO ICT Group, the latter of which HC and PS are members. It was noted that the LA still retains a statutory duty to intervene. He referred to the Somerset Schools Information Dashboard (SSID) which brings together a range of school performance and contextual data to provide an overview of school performance and identify potential areas of need and opportunity by looking at key performance measures of: social context, school popularity and mobility, academic performance, attitude and exclusions, staff turnover, rates of absence with plans for training to be added.

6.10 DH gave an example of how a SSID report could be used to produce venn diagrams, identify pupils achievements across subjects and the further breakdowns which are available. Training will be made available after half term and the facility will be free to schools.

6.11EG thanked DF, PN and DH for sharing views and information with the TLP which will provide an informed and encouraging start to discussions at the Annual Conference to consider what TLP outcomes are desirable and how these can be achieved.

## **7. Annual Conference 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November 2011:**

EG noted the following areas for the AGM Agenda:

- Agree the Aims of the TLP
- Working Groups
- Framework for working practices
- Governance

## **8. Olympic Events:**

RB outlined initial plans for the Taunton celebrations to welcome the olympic flame on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2011. It was agreed that TLP schools would like to be involved in the celebrations.

## **9. Tone School Sports**

9.1 Dave Bullock, Schools Games Organiser attended for this item. He explained that TSS is now part of SASP and is based at Chelston. The continued support from TLP schools has ensured that TSS functions can continue.

- 9.2 In preparation for the Olympics he encouraged schools to register for 2012 School Games at: <https://www.yourschoolgames.com/RegisterYourSchool.aspx>

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The Government will measure the success of funding by the number of schools which register. Additional resources are available to develop projects at: <http://getset.London2012.com/home>

- 9.3 The Olympic Torch will stay overnight in Taunton on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2012 en route from Exeter to Bristol and is due to arrive at 6:30pm. Activities will be held throughout the day. It was agreed that TLP schools would support organised activities at Castle and Blackbrook for Years 5 and 6. It was agreed that RB would liaise with DB.

**10. PFSAs:**

Jackie McKenzie attended for this item and gave a brief update on the role of PFSAs within the TLP. It was noted that feedback from Social Care had been good. A protocol is currently being drafted with HM and Ali Cackett, after which any issues regarding PFSAs should then be referred to HM. HM/J McKenzie to email copies of her presentation to members separately.

**11. CLP Coordinators Meetings:**

It was noted that with the emerging central role of CLPs both DH and DF will be attending future meetings.

**12. Give It A Go Funding:**

HM advised that she is putting together a bid for an additional £40k. Members were asked to submit ideas to HM by the end of October.

**13. Playing for Success Funding:**

HM advised that an additional £10k had been awarded and she will email provision as it becomes available.

**14. Educational Endowment Fund:**

HM and SMcB have drafted a bid for this funding to raise attainment, raise aspirations and access parents of children not achieving Level 4 by KS2. Further information will be sent to schools by HM.

**15. Y5 Gifted and Talented Day:**

SS advised of a Year 5 Gifted and Talented 'CSI style' Science Day is to be held on 19<sup>th</sup> June at Bishop Fox's. Further details to be sent to schools nearer the date.

**16. Foreign Language and Technology Support:**

JD stated that Taunton Academy had the capacity for a French or Food Technology teacher to visit primary schools on a Wednesday afternoon. Schools were requested to contact Taunton Academy for further information.

## 17. Alternative Provision:

17.1 Jackie McKenzie advised of the developments around Alternative Provision for Key Stages 1 through 4, where the TLP needs can be fed into a review which have been requested by the Compact, the review is to be completed January 2012. Schools are requested to use the consultation process and respond via the SLP logon.

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17.2 JMck also referred to a trial project under Section 19 - Education other than in schools - whereby 15 schools are working together to ensure no exclusions. The TLP should consider how it would plan to manage S19.

17.3 Other issues to be noted include:

- Forest Schools funding is in doubt and investment is needed,
- PRU - staff need to visit schools to build relationships
- Future of Behaviour and Attendance funding is included within the Alternative Provision review
- JMck still based at Holway and welcomes questions
- Schools must speak up during this period of change.

## 18. Consortium Conference:

MH stated that 16 primary schools and 1 secondary school attended this conference run by The Consortium. A questionnaire on the most used items and a print audit is to be circulated to schools, the representative is prepared to visit schools to carry out analysis if required. Additional items which can be supplied by The Consortium include solar panels and building projects. EG summed up that although it is good to look at brokering options it must be remembered that there are also other providers who may offer a similar service, for example The Castle School Bursar has capacity to look for savings.

## 19. INSET 2011

It was noted that the workshop allocations are complete and details will be distributed to schools with a covering letter and site plans for Bishop Fox's. The INSET is well within budget.

## 20. Report from the Behaviour Group Report:

-PH advised that following concerns regarding future funding, especially the Forest School provision, a review is to be carried out.

-JMck advised that a review to find a more systematic approach to attendance for schools to self-manage is being carried out which will be referred back to the TLP.

-HM to order anti-bullying wristbands.

## 21. CPD Group report:

-BB tabled a copy of the Skills for Life report from Simon Mills.

-MH requested that schools complete the recent information request in order to update the TLP database.

**22. AEN Group Report:**

NBd advised that although the Compact has taken a lot of issues originally under their remit the group had met a couple of times. KM is keen for Selworthy resources to be used by schools, especially the learning resource base, and a flyer is to be sent to school to inform of the facilities. A SENCo meeting is to be held on 15<sup>th</sup> November.

**23. Conclusion:**

In summing up EG felt the day had been very productive and pivotal for the Annual Conference. Schools are entering a very powerful time and the TLP and its members need to be robust, challenging and confident. Many issues had been identified for the AGM including:

- Data
- Leadership
- Supportive clusters within the TLP
- Identification of key people and resources within the TLP 'social capital'
- Fun things, eg Olympics, Science day
- Compact review to influence wider thinking.

**24. Dates of Future Meetings:**

Annual Conference - 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> November at Woolacombe Bay Hotel  
TLP Day Conference - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2012 at Taunton Racecourse.

MR

Signed: .....