

 *The Taunton Learning Partnership***Minutes of TLP Day Conference 16th June 2011**

Held at Taunton Racecourse

Present: E Gregory (Chair), M Amos, D Barrett, S Bellworthy, B Berks, N Bradford, N Bright, V Coles, A Cox, N Dalton, M France, P Hanratty, J McCarthy, P Sheehan, K Tyrrell, M Snowden, A Boxer (TLP Coordinator), M Hope (CPD Coordinator), H Millard (Behaviour Coordinator), M Reader (secretary).

Apologies: S Baker, J Bevans, S Billington, S Brewer, R Bullock, A Clackett, L Clark, H Cunningham, R Garbett, D Hayward, S Loader, M Lunn, S McBride, S Mills, K Milton, K Nelson, B Rycroft, P Scutt, S Summerill, S Watson,

Actions:

1. **Minutes of Meeting held on 26th May 2011:**
The Minutes of the meeting held on 26th May 2011 were signed as a correct record.
2. **PFSAs:**
 - 2.1 HM reported that she meets with the PFSAs every week, they are a very committed and positive group providing professional and emotional support to families. They also support each other professionally and emotionally in what appears to be an increasingly stressful role. Heads reported that two PFSAs had attended parent evenings recently which had been well received.
 - 2.2 At their last weekly meeting the PFSAs had reported increasing difficulties in signposting families to support groups as many no longer exist; some families are in 'meltdown' due to strains caused by legislative changes to benefits which has considerable knock-on effect for children and schools. There is a programme of summer activities provision planned with support from the GIAG funding. Details of the programme include use of the school hall and swimming pool at St Georges Primary on Monday afternoons, full details of the programme will be circulated when confirmed.
 - 2.3 Cases referred to PFSAs should not be made direct from outside agencies and HM stressed the need for schools to help PFSAs by prioritising their PFSA's workload. PFSAs will discuss cases with schools but will at the same time respect confidentiality with families. HM has produced a new referral form to help ensure work is outcome led.
 - 2.4 HM will continue to address issues raised at meetings but long term issues must be decided by the TLP. These include: compact discussions, developing a model, supervision of casework, employment of PFSAs, recruitment and retention, CPD and performance management.

2.5 In looking at caseload management members were asked to consider the best way forward and to email ideas and suggestions direct to HM for consideration by the Steering Group.

ALL

2.6 The provision of accommodation for the summer was an immediate concern. The use of the Holway Centre is only temporary, the PFSAs need a base they can all work from. HM was recommended to contact Castle School and Somerset College. Heads were also asked to consider setting up a rota of TLP members who would be available for PFSAs to contact over the summer holidays, volunteers to contact HM asap.

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3. **Speech, Language and Communication (SLC):**

3.1 HM stated that 15 schools had signed up for the audit so far. Schools were requested to register, even if they are not completing the audit in the immediate future, and advise HM when this has been done with the email address of the group leader. HM offered to visit schools to help with completion of registration and audit if required.

ALL

3.2 A link is being developed through EIS on SiX for links to access key SLCN materials and news.

3.3 An email had been sent to heads with a link for a poster 'What's typical Talk at Primary?' which breaks down into age groups what children's SLC skills should be. There is a similar poster for secondary schools.

3.4 It was noted that a SLCN guide for parents and carers has been prepared by the County Advisor who has suggested this is made available through a link on school websites. School website links to 'I Can' was also recommended.

ALL

4. **INSET 2011:**

HM advised that arrangements are in well in hand for the SLC INSET to be held on Friday 22nd October at Bishop Fox's Community School. To support the INSET HM projected a copy of a January 2011 quote from the national HELLO Campaign: 'In the UK over one million children and young people have some Speech Language and Communication Need. This is at least two or three children in every classroom - and that's the children we know about.'

5. **Academy Status:**

North Town Primary will convert on 1st August 2011 and MS gave a brief status update, he advised that, especially for primary schools, the administrative workload during the conversion is extremely intense and can consume up to 50% of a Headteacher's daily schedule. It was also noted that initial discussions have commenced between the four Voluntary Aided schools and the Bath and Wells Diocese.

6. Hestercombe Education Centre:

At least two primary schools have signed up for membership of Active Hestercombe as presented at the last TLP Meeting. BB requested that Hestercombe be contacted to review the pricing structure for small schools.

EG

7. Somerset Music:

7.1 Somerset Music had sent an information email to schools regarding the services to be offered from September 2011. Members felt that teaching half classes would involve extra supply costs. It was agreed to monitor the provision during the Autumn term and if appropriate submit a TLP collective response.

7.2 Members also requested that EG inform SAPHTO of members' concerns at the way the changes have been implemented, that these had not been open and transparent, and the detrimental effect these changes had had on staff.

EG

8. Christmas Celebration:

SS had submitted an update on this event. Schools are to be invited to perform one carol of their choice and there will be two set carols that all participants can perform together. Secondary schools will be invited to write their own carol if they wish. All schools will perform and practice at Bishop Fox's on the evening of 12th November and the carols will be performed in the town centre on Saturday 14th November. A letter of invite will be sent by the end of June.

9. Report from Brokering Group:

9.1 Minutes of the first meeting of the Brokering Group held on 27th May 2011 had been distributed by email to all TLP members.

9.2 In summary MS stated that the Group had considered two options: (a) small groups of schools working together to commission services, and (b) TLP to become an employer. The Castle School was already working towards option (a). AC advised that the Taunton Academy was also following this option and had opened discussions with its feeder schools.

9.3 With regard to option (b) members felt that in order to consider whether the TLP should progress with the employment of staff it would be best to review the PFSA strategy after its first year and identify strengths and weaknesses of the TLP becoming an employer. This review should also include the employment of the TLP support staff and coordinators.

9.4 Points noted during discussion on brokering included:

- Concern addressed with how the Compact will work.

- LA cuts still to be made especially with funding going direct to Academies.
- Bursars attached to Academies could introduce savings of up to 20% on a school budget.
- Option (a) may not work where small schools feed into more than one secondary. Should small schools be geographically grouped and remain under the umbrella of the TLP for commissioning purposes.
- Decisions made by the TLP must be sustainable, therefore if the TLP became an employer it would need commitment from all member schools.

9.5 Possible services identified for consideration by the Group include: Resources for Learning, IDN, Educational Psychologists, Data and Assessment, IT changes from XP to Windows 7, Grounds Maintenance. Members were asked to contact MH on proposals and ideas to further the work of the Brokering Group. Contact MH on email alans.hope@btinternet.com

ALL

9.6 MS stressed that for the Brokering Group to move forward there must be a clear understanding of the aims and visions of the TLP, this is especially important for any new TLP members. EG agreed with the need to review the TLP aims and vision which would be discussed by the Steering Group and included on the agenda for the November Conference.

AB
EG

10. School to School Support:

10.1 MS presented this item and expanded on the information given by KN at the May TLP meeting. Schools will need to adapt to ensure that they work collaboratively, trust each other and identify issues in each other's schools in terms of outcomes etc. This can only work by schools sharing information, sharing excellence and where necessary rescuing schools seen to be failing. Components vital to achieving School to School Support include:

- Mutual and professional trust.
- Sharing data.
- Sharing knowledge.
- Honesty and openness.
- Peer review.
- Collaboration not competition, or collaboration and competition.

10.2 MS agreed to email links to websites containing information on the David Hargreaves' Self-Improving School System. There is currently no model available but as a TLP starting point MS and KN are to visit SELT, the Southern Education Learning Trust.

MS

10.3 MS invited up to six more Headteachers to join himself and KN to further this initiative to gain a better understanding of School to School Support.

The group would carry out research with academic rigour and possibly invite other leaders to join. In order to establish this vision and enable members to explore themselves and this concept, MS offered to provide funding for one year, up to the value of £7,000. Interested members should contact MS or KN direct.

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MS

10.4 To kick-start the initiative MS shared with members his findings from lesson observations taken at North Town. These findings have resulted in a new needs driven curriculum being introduced in September 2011.

11. Somerset Outdoor and Residential Learning Service:

Jo O'Callaghan, Interim Director, attended for this item and gave a presentation on the services provided at Kilve, Kilve Outdoor Centre, Great Wood and Charterhouse. These facilities are now self-financing with no LA funding and are constantly trying to improve the programmes offered and to continue investment in the centres. A review of the services offered is being carried out by contacting all Headteachers, childcare and youth groups. Members were asked to complete and return the questionnaire which will be looked at by an independent assessor with the outcome presented to the Directorate Management Team in the autumn.

12. Tone School Sports Partnership:

12.1 Dave Bullock attended for this item. He tabled a paper setting out the current position with TSSP. Secondary Schools will receive funding for one day release post for two years to deliver festivals, although this is not ring-fenced, and existing sports coordinators will remain in post. In addition there will be three day School Games Organisers, these contracts will be hosted by King Arthur's School at Wincanton.

12.2 It was noted that 90% of TLP primary schools have bought into the Enhanced affiliation service at £3 per head. It was noted that Dave Bullock is taking the redundancy offer and Lucy Mowlem is taking a maternity cover teaching post from October. Schools need to confirm their commitment to the £3 affiliation. Members asked whether the £5 per head payment would guarantee the continuation of all the festivals. DB will email schools with information regarding the future provision.

12.3 On behalf of all TLP schools EG extended thanks to Dave and Lucy for their excellent work with schools over the past seven years.

13. UNICEF and the Rights Respecting Schools Award (RRSA):

13.1 Edward Waller, UNICEF Education Officer explained that the RRSA seeks to put the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's culture and ethos to improve well-being and develop every child's talents and abilities to their fullest potential.

13.2 Leaflets were distributed setting out an evaluation of the UNICEF UK's RRSA, a summary of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and a leaflet setting out how schools can become rights-respecting. The website for further information on available resources is:
www.unicef.org.uk/resources

13.3 Ruth Clench, Dorset Primary Headteacher, described the journey taken by her school in achieving their RRSA and stated that the whole school had been positively affected. The award is also taken into account in Ofsted reports.

14. Possible Industrial Action on 30th June 2011:

Members were advised to take practical steps to follow LA guidance in respect of risk assessments on whether to close schools. EG stated that there was also information to be found on The Key.

15. Working Groups Update:

It was agreed that updates from each of the Working Groups would be circulated by email after the meeting. A copy of the CPD Update is attached to these minutes.

NBd MA PH

16. Dates of Future Meetings:

A copy of the proposed dates for TLP meetings during 2011 and 2012 was tabled. It was noted that members would like some meetings held on Tuesdays. Venues for the dates would now be booked and firm dates circulated as soon as possible.

MR
