

Minutes of Conference held on Thursday 24th June 2010 held at Taunton Racecourse

Present: E Gregory (Chair), M Amos, S Baker, D Barrett, B Berks, S Billington, N Bradford, N Bright, L Clark, H Cunningham, A Grainger, P Hanratty, P Harper, E Hedges, A Hinchcliff, M Hope, M Lunn, S McBride, J McCarthy, H Millard, K Milton, K Nelson, G Pascoe, L Porter, A Boxer (coordinator), A Mills-Jones (Treasurer), M Reader (secretary).

Apologies: R Adams, J Bevans, R Bullock, D Collin, A Cox, G Crees, N Dalton, B Dennis, R Garbett, K Freedman, T Khodabandehloo, S Mills, R Prins, P Sheehan,

1. **Welcome:**

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the TLP Day Conference.

ACTION:

2. **Minutes of the TLP Day Conference held on 25th February 2010:**

The Minutes were signed by the Chair as a correct record.

3. **Matters Arising from the Minutes:**

6. CPD Coordinator: Moira Hope has been appointed to the role of CPD Coordinator.

8. SATs Boycott: EG noted that the DfE had indicated that SATs would continue therefore it is proposed to invite Jeremy Browne MP to attend a TLP meeting and to hear members' concerns. Heads were also advised to share information, to prepare the way for any potential future action.

9. TLP Mutual Support: MH thanked members for providing the information which will be circulated again at the Annual Conference to be updated.

4. **Finance Report:**

4.1 AM-J distributed copies of the latest Chart of Accounts which showed a balance of £176,026.95. In addition a cheque for £45,000 had been recently received which would be credited to Behaviour Management.

4.2 A meeting between AM-J, EG and AB had been held to agree the budget for this year. Items outstanding include unpaid fees (£3,000) and salary commitments.

4.3 EG thanked AM-J for managing the TLP accounts. At the Annual Conference finances will be reviewed in relation to agreed priorities.

5. **Give it a Go:**

MH outlined this scheme which provides £300 of funding per child receiving free school meal entitlement. The fund, managed by the school, can be used for a wide range of school based activities. Details were circulated. It was agreed to consider a collective TLP activity which could be organised for next year. AB would contact the coordinator, Mike King, for further information.

AB

6. **Maths Coordinator:**

NB agreed to resume this facilitating role in September. MA advised that he is running a Maths Makes Sense training day in September, anyone who requires further information to contact MA.

ALL

7. **Gifted and Talented:**

BB reported on a presentation by Jules Offord given to the Steering Group. He had signposted that terminology is changing and the focus now is more on 'gifts' and 'talents', 'stretching' and 'challenging' with an emphasis on under-achieving able pupils. It is proposed that a TLP strategy for Gifted and Talented be prepared and to invite JO to the Annual Conference. JO would also welcome invitations to visit schools who request further information.

AB
EG

8. **CPD Coordinator:**

8.1 In her newly appointed role as CPD Coordinator MH outlined the areas she will be concentrating on. An assessment will be made on the use of existing TLP CPD services.

8.2 Members agreed that in these changing times, with the reducing role of the LA, which does not have a CPD group, there is a growing need to address a long term strategy within the TLP. The TLP must be proactive and facilitate CPD for schools.

8.3 It was noted that the recent Lunchtime Supervisor training lead by MH was the only example of this training in the county and could be an example of how TLP training might be extended and shared with other CLPs.

8.4 Mentoring: in discussing the need for mentors for new Headteachers it was agreed to assess requirements in September. MH asked for comments from the more recently appointed Headteachers to let her know of areas they would recommend should be looked at for the mentoring programme. It was noted that SALT and SASH provide mentors for secondary Headteachers.

8.4 EG advised that Paul Birbeck had provided data for TLP schools on achievement and attainment, however the data is confidential as it contains information from other CLPs.

9. **Skills for Life:**

9.1 The Skills for Life Scheme is being monitored by AB. The scheme has been very well received and AB welcomed comments on progress, problems and any issues which have been identified; please send information by email to AB.

ALL

9.2 AB advised that Wendy Stevens is now employed for 2½ days per week and is looking for more schools to join the project in September. Schools who wish to buy in for next term to email AB.

ALL

9.3 BB suggested that the TLP could use this initiative to raise the public profile of the TLP. However it would depend on whether staff were willing to let their personal progress as students be put in the public domain. NB to contact AB regarding this proposal.

NB

9.4 A more detailed update will be given at the Annual Conference.

10. **Learning Vision Group Update:**

10.1 MA reported that there are two pilot projects based on The Castle School and Bishop Fox's School and their respective feeder primary schools. The topics which are started in Year 6 and continued into Year 7 are based on Citizenship, Rules and Regulations for the Castle project and Myself at Bishop Fox's. It is proposed that next year one common topic be used across the TLP.

10.2 MA advised that funding from the NCSL was no longer available.

10.3 It was noted that small schools (eg Kingston St Mary and Cheddon Fitzpaine) and St George's are also feeder schools within these catchments and have not been included in either project. It was felt that these small groups of children should not be excluded to ensure equal status on transition.

MA

10.4 It was further suggested that the projects commence in the autumn term to provide more benefit to primary schools. MA agreed to take this on board.

10.5 The Learning Vision Group also proposes a future debate to discuss what the 'Learning' in TLP really represents. It is felt that there should be a

discussion to look at the primary curriculum, to share ideas and agree a common outcome, also where possible taking into account the views of the secondary schools. AH requested that Children's Centres and parents should also be involved at an early stage to strengthen community cohesion. LC also advised that there are to be changes in the curriculum for Key Stages 3 and 4. It was agreed that a future discussion on learning should be held.

10.6 PH commented that the Behaviour fund may be able to contribute to costs where it is for the benefit of those children with behaviour issues who find transition a difficult process.

PH
MA

10.7 HC shared details of the successful learners' project which are available on SiX. NB also advised of a four day training session led by Di Pardoe on Assessment for Learning which had been received very well at his school.

10.8 KN noted the need for an event where schools reaffirm their commitment to the TLP. The children involved in the first commitment session had now left primary education and there is a need to involve the next cohort. NBd outlined a service of celebration held in her previous authority and suggested that a similar service could be held to recognise champions of learning in the TLP. This item would be discussed by the Steering Group.

EG

11. INSET 2010 Update:

EH reported that the theme will be based on 'Creative Maths' and to date twenty two workshops have been booked. The keynote speaker will be from BEAM who are providing five workshops. Feedback from the 2009 Inset Day highlighted that some attendees did not receive all the information. This year information will be sent to all users and Headteachers will be asked to collate the return.

12. Continued Professional Development Group Update:

12.1 BB reported that the Early Years Group and the Deputy Heads Group continued to meet regularly and were progressing well; the Maths Group would resume in the Autumn Term. The training for Lunchtime Supervisors organised by HM had been extremely well received and the Skills for Life training has been very successful.

12.2 LC advised of an inspirational speaker, John Jones, used by SASH who would be pertinent for training to Heads, Deputies and Senior Leadership Teams on basic principles of leadership and learning.

13. Behaviour Group Update:

- 13.1 PH advised that ongoing areas include Nurture Groups, Forest School training and Lunchtime Supervisors. Standard attendance letters will be introduced in the Autumn term.
- 13.2 HM is also carrying out research into two areas: Mental Health and Well-Being in Schools and Speech, Language and Communication Disorders. The latter item being requested through the SENCo forum.
- 13.3 HM had distributed the questionnaire for Primary Behaviour Consultation and following a brief discussion the TLP response was agreed.

14. Jason Davis - Vice-Principal, Taunton Academy:

EG welcomed Jason Davis to the meeting, JD advised that he would be the TLP contact at the Taunton Academy and would be attending future meetings.

15. Music in Schools:

- 15.1 Glyn Bowen Assistant Director for Somerset Music attended for this item. He explained that Somerset Music is self-financing and the funding for the Wider Opportunities scheme is ring-fenced until 2011. He distributed copies of handouts entitled 'ten things you should know about Music Services' and 'Wow, it's Music Next'. He outlined the ways in which Somerset Music has been working with schools in Somerset and proposed ways in which Somerset Music and the TLP could work together in music workshops or a performance day.
- 15.2 Performances with TLP schools could be held over a four day period, students would practise in the afternoon and put a concert on in the evening, each day concentrating on a different group of students. Somerset Music would retain any profits made. Members agreed to support the idea and GB and AB would investigate dates and venues.
- 15.3 A questionnaire had been emailed to schools and copies were tabled for completion to collate details of what is currently happening in schools and identify areas where help may be needed.

AB

16. Business Initiative for Schools (BIS):

LP gave a power point presentation for this item, the presentation being commissioned by a student who had received help from the BIS to start a business. LP explained that the BIS gives advice and help to students from the secondary sector with the possibility of investment from local businesses. The

annual launch through a series of school assemblies will be held in the Autumn term. A paper was tabled setting out the schedule for the launch. Following the successful pilots in secondary schools it is now proposed to run a similar pilot in primary schools to engender the entrepreneurial spirit of young people. LP stressed that the aim is to encourage ideas and help develop them. The scheme is being managed by LP and Peter Heath, an application has been made to Taunton Deane Borough Council for funding and the BIS will be looking for help, time and support from schools. LP agreed to email contact details to schools.

LP

17. Behaviour and Attendance Team:

Harriet Bell, Team Leader for Education Attendance at the Taunton Localities Team, attended for this item and outlined the developments planned to monitor and improve attendance across the TLP. Following a meeting with HM and PH the outcomes had been agreed and an action plan prepared. The new standard letters will be introduced across the TLP from September, these are available on SIMS and leaflets will also be produced to send home to parents. It is proposed to identify the main reasons behind attendance in order to focus on and address how to improve attendance.

18. Tone Schools Sport Partnership:

18.1 Dave Bullock and Lucy Mowlam attended for this item and tabled copies of their power point presentation on the PE School Sport for Young People (PESSYP) Strategy. The presentation centred on how to resolve and increase the provision of the required three hours of PE and sport in schools each week. It was noted that secondary schools are moving towards provision of activities specific to children's identified requests. The Sports Leaders UK courses for the young leader awards are being extended to primary schools, Years 5 and 6. Details of the course are available on line:

www.tsspartnership.co.uk

Logon - TSSP

Password - rabbit

18.2 DB outlined the facilities and future proposals to develop outdoor activities centre at Long Run Meadow which opens on 28th August. Members expressed their concerns regarding the space being open to the public and the lack of toilet facilities.

19. TLP Country Dancing Festival Friday 25th June 2010:

Members confirmed that arrangements for the first TLP Country Dancing festival were in place. Schools are to meet at St Mary's Church and then process to Vivary Park.

20. James Heald Anthology Writing Competition:

Schools were reminded to return entries for this competition by Monday 28th June 2010.

21. SAPHTO:

21.1 KN gave an update on issues discussed by SAPHTO; including, ICT, Action Plus funding and CRB. HC informed further regarding ICT meetings which are now held every two weeks to try and resolve the problems experienced by outage over Easter. HC and PS attend these meetings and feedback to KN.

21.2 It was noted that the role of SAPHTO will be vital to schools as the role of the LA is reduced. Members were asked to make a note in their diaries of the next SAPHTO conference to be held on Friday 11th March.

21.3 Discussion also raised two other issues for consideration; Admissions dates for 2011 and temporary contracts.

22. Dates of next meetings:

A draft meeting schedule had been circulated before the meeting and AB agreed to revise this in light of the comments made at the meeting. This will be circulated once venues have been confirmed.

AB MR

23. Farewell Celebration:

Following the meeting members attended a farewell celebration at the County Hotel for those Headteachers who are retiring or leaving. On behalf of the TLP, the Chair thanked the following for their support of the TLP and wished them well for the future: Richard Adams, Paul Dalling, Kevin Freedman, Paul Harper, Elsa Hedges, Moira Hope, Tracey Khodabandehloo, Glyn Pascoe, Lee Porter and Jenny Venning.