

Optimism of the will: the development of area-based education partnerships

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Successful area wide collaboration for improvement

Local
allegiance to
a shared
purpose

Resolute,
outward-
looking
leadership

Professional
power and
skills

Shared
responsibility

Sustainability

The opportunities

- ❖ The glue in a diverse and potentially fragmented system
- ❖ A force to drive improvement by energising teachers, leaders and schools to build expertise
- ❖ A focus for involving the local community and business in education
- ❖ An opportunity for efficiencies of scale
- ❖ A space to build children's social, emotional and cultural capital

The role of the local authority

'.....there is a clear role for the local authority to not only support the formation of partnerships but to use its current powers and influence to ensure sustainability for the future- to act as the midwife and to prevent schools being left as isolated islands.'

Claire Kershaw, Director for Education, Essex 2016

MODEL 1

Statutory school improvement
Traded school improvement
Traded business and support services
e.g. Herts for Learning, Octavo (Croydon)

MODEL 2

Statutory school improvement
Traded school improvement
e.g. Birmingham Education Partnership,
Learn Sheffield

The range of partnerships

MODEL 3

Traded school improvement
e.g. Brent School Partnership
Traded business and support services
e.g. Newham Partnership Working

MODEL 4

Various collaborative partnerships
e.g. between schools and LA in Wigan
e.g. SCHOOLS NorthEast, a school- led
regional network

Effective local area partnerships



Collective commitment & expectations

E.g. Lincolnshire Learning

COMMIT AND CONTRIBUTE	SHARE
<i>to supporting each other's improvement</i>	<i>and act upon evidence to improve learning</i>
BUILD NETWORKS	WELCOME CHALLENGE
and work together to serve children and their communities	from each other to ensure no school fails

The key challenges

- ❖ Danger of distraction from core purpose
- ❖ Developing new skills and finding capacity
- ❖ Maintaining rigour in the land of nice
- ❖ Shifting the current accountability mindset
- ❖ Resourcing the partnership

Successful area partnerships

- ❖ Collective moral purpose and vision linked to place and community
- ❖ A clear model of change, using professional power and skills, and aligned with evidence
- ❖ An inclusive culture of openness, trust and mutual accountability
- ❖ Attention paid to developing networks
- ❖ Good planning, quality assurance and business development
- ❖ Capacity building to develop a self-improving system

Optimism of the will

'I am a pessimist because of intelligence but an optimist because of will.'

Antonio Gramsci