



Locality Working in Education: Why it matters and what it takes

Thursday 30 January 2025 | Transport House, 18 Smith Square, Westminster, London SW1P 3HZ

Agenda

- 10.00 – 10.15 **Coffee and Arrivals**
- 10.15 – 10.45 **Why Locality Working Matters** – key note speaker tbc.
- 10.45 – 11.10 **Introduction to the work of the pilots**
- 11.15 -12.10 **Pilot presentations: rotation 1** (Participants choose one from below)
1. Developing new models of professional Accountability – School Report Cards (Sheffield and Milton Keynes)
 2. Developing new models of professional accountability – Peer Review and Inclusion (Surrey and Ealing)
 3. Support for Vulnerable Young People – Tackling Severe Absence (Rochdale and Wakefield)
 4. Support for Vulnerable Young People – Supporting Transitions (Coventry and Wiltshire)
- 12.15 – 12.45 **The potential contribution of Combined Authorities.**
- 12.45 – 13.30 **Lunch**
- 13.30 – 14.15 **Lessons from the evaluation of locality working**
- Professor Toby Greany and Dr Susan Cousin – University of Nottingham and external evaluators of the LocalEd 2025 pilots
- 14.20 – 15.15 **Pilot presentations: rotation 2** (Participants choose one from below)
1. Developing new models of professional accountability – School Report Cards (Sheffield and Milton Keynes)
 2. Developing new models of Professional accountability – Peer Review and Inclusion (Surrey and Ealing)
 3. Support for Vulnerable Young People – Tackling Severe Absence (Rochdale and Wakefield)
 4. Vulnerable Young People – Supporting Transitions (Coventry and Wiltshire)
- 15.20 – 16.00 **Final reflections and implications for national policy – panel discussion**



Speakers and pilot presentations:

Introduction to the work of the pilots

- Jonathan Crossley Holland – Project Lead, one of the authors of the original research on ‘Developing New Locality Models for English Schools’ and former DCS in Sheffield.
- Christine Gilbert – Adviser on developing new models of professional accountability pilots and formerly Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector at Ofsted (2006-2011).
- Ben Bryant, Simon Day, Simon Rea – Directors, Isos Parntership, providing coaching advice and support to pilots on implementation and action research.

Developing new models of professional accountability – School Report Cards (Sheffield and Milton Keynes)

Hear from two local areas that have been piloting the idea of school report cards, working with school leaders, parents, and their local communities to gather ideas and feedback on potential models

- Stephen Betts – Chief Executive of Learn Sheffield, a local education partnership of 184 schools and colleges; Stephen was previously a primary headteacher in Sheffield.
- Carrie Matthews – Headteacher, Willen Primary School, Milton Keynes
- Jo-Anne Hoarty – Headteacher, St Paul’s Catholic School, Milton Keynes

Dame Christine Gilbert will also share learning from Camden Learning Partnership’s development of a school report card during this session.

Developing new models of professional accountability – Peer Review and Inclusion (Ealing and Surrey)

Hear from two local areas that have been strengthening professional accountability within their education partnerships through peer enquiry reviews in a high challenge/low threat culture, digital self-evaluations of inclusion, and work in school-based learning clusters

- Julie Lewis - Director of Learning, Standards and School Partnerships at Ealing Council
- Dr Clare Rees – Principal Quality and Partnership Lead, Ealing Learning Partnership, former Headteacher
- Maria Dawes - Chief Executive, Schools Alliance for Excellence, a schools-led company in Surrey working in partnership with Surrey County Council and other stakeholders. Maria is a former Deputy Regional Schools Commissioner and Ofsted HMI

Support for Vulnerable Young People – Tackling Severe Absence (Rochdale and Wakefield)

Hear from two local areas that have focused on severe absence as a lens to understand the needs of vulnerable children, by taking a granular approach to looking at specific cohorts of children who are severely absent and how this work has helped individual young people and shaped practice across the local system.



- Steve Kay – Director of Schools and Employability, Birmingham City Council, formerly Assistant Director, Early Help and Schools Rochdale
- Katie Digiorgi – Attendance and Safeguarding Team Leader, Rochdale Borough Council
- Nathan Heath - Service Director, Education & Inclusion Children and Young People's Service, Wakefield Council
- Deborah Barker – Education Welfare Team Leader, Wakefield Council

Support for Vulnerable Young People – Supporting Transitions (Coventry and Wiltshire)

Hear from two local areas that have focused on "transitions" for vulnerable children, both as a factor that can exacerbate need and an opportunity to improve practice, how school leaders have taken this on, and the difference this has made to individual young people.

- Rachael Sugars, Head of Service – Education Improvement & Standards, Coventry Council
- Sharnna McSharry, Project Support Officer, Transformation Team, Coventry City Council
- Louise Lewis – Head of School Effectiveness, Wiltshire Council
- Kate Wilkins – Disadvantaged Learners and School Leadership, Wiltshire Council

The potential contribution of Combined Authorities.

Hear from colleagues from the North East Combined Authority about their lessons from working with local authorities, schools and trusts across a combined authority to deliver an innovative regional education improvement programme.

- Adrian Dougherty - Head of Public Service Innovation · North East Combined Authority
- Andrew Garrad, Senior Programme Manager, Education Improvement, North East Combined Authority

Lessons from the evaluation of locality working

- Professor Toby Greany and Dr Susan Cousin – University of Nottingham and external evaluators of the LocalEd 2025 pilots