


Monday 16th July, 2018

Dear Colleagues

Re- Learn Sheffield Peer Review Report

(Report online - <http://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/About-Us/Our-Work>)



“We were highly impressed by the terrific work that is happening in Sheffield. The approach of Learn Sheffield, particularly given the size and stature of the city, makes it a standard bearer for partnerships everywhere. The very high level of engagement from schools is testimony to the inclusive approach that has been developed. The City Council, the education sector and everyone involved in Learn Sheffield should be very proud of what they have achieved to date and excited about the platform they have for the future.”

Christine Gilbert (July 2018)

We are delighted to be able to share with you the report on the Peer Review of Learn Sheffield, which was carried out on the 24th and 25th May 2018. The review was led by Christine Gilbert (Chair – Camden Learning) and included Jon Abbey (MD – Camden Learning) and Tim Boyes (CEO – Birmingham Education Partnership), with support from Owen Rees (a senior officer from Camden Learning). The review was a very constructive, supportive and challenging experience and we would like to take this opportunity to thank Christine, Jon, Tim and Owen for the way that they approached the task.

We would also like to thank the colleagues who were involved in the process for their honest and thoughtful contributions. The report includes numerous examples of comments made and the verbal feedback we received at the end of the review referenced how much the team had enjoyed all of the conversations that they had undertaken.

The report contains a great number of positives for Learn Sheffield and our education community. The team was impressed, for example, by our *very inclusive and cohesive community of schools* and the *emotional and working commitment to the city and its children*. Key elements of our work together, including the approach to categorisation and the use of data were singled out for specific praise.

The key report findings and recommendations are listed below.

Learn Sheffield is a thriving local area partnership which is working collaboratively and effectively to improve outcomes for children and young people in Sheffield. Supported by a commission from Sheffield City Council, it has established a strong partnership over the last three years to improve outcomes for local children and young people. It now faces the challenge of a much smaller commission from the Council but the extent of school sign-up to its subscription offer from 2018-21 reflects a strong commitment to the partnership and a desire from schools to make it work for the benefit of the education community.

We recommend that Learn Sheffield builds on its many strengths by:

- Strengthening its vision and new strategy*
- Building and strengthening system leadership across Sheffield*
- Giving a harder edge to its intervention model*
- Doing more to demonstrate progress and impact*
- Producing a strategy for financial sustainability*

We will be hosting two events, early in the autumn term, to share with you some of our thinking in relation to the next steps for Learn Sheffield and also to provide an opportunity for our stakeholders to contribute to our strategic development.

These events will be open sessions on the morning of Wednesday 12th September (8:30-10:30am at the Learn Sheffield Hub) and the evening of Monday 17th September (6-8pm at the Learn Sheffield Hub). These sessions will be open to any stakeholder and places can be booked via the links below.

Wednesday 12th September (8:30-10:30am at the Learn Sheffield Hub) -
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peer-review-event-tickets-47989737597>

Monday 17th September (6-8pm at the Learn Sheffield Hub) –
<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peer-review-event-tickets-47989854948>

We hope that you enjoy reading the report and agree with us that it both reflects the great progress that we have made together and provides a useful perspective on which things we should prioritise in the next stage of development. We look forward to seeing you at the events in the autumn and thank you, as always, for your ongoing support.

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Betts
(Chief Executive)