

Making the Difference Programme

Raising the attainment of disadvantaged pupils in Sheffield- A long term approach.

What

- A partnership between Sheffield City Council, Learn Sheffield, EEF, Research School Network and South Yorkshire Teaching School Hub.
- A long term programme focussed on raising the attainment of disadvantaged and vulnerable pupils, taking an evidence informed approach. The relative underperformance of disadvantaged pupils is an entrenched issue in Sheffield.

How

The programme will improve capacity and expertise across the city to support better outcomes for all pupils, especially those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Ongoing evaluation will be part of the programme.

The programme will involve:

Stage 1: Launch, self-evaluation, collaborative working, evidence and best practice.

Stage 2: Research School professional development on improving outcomes for disadvantaged learners and evidence informed planning and decision making.

Collaborative diagnostic Pupil Premium reviews to help identify priorities, effective practice and priorities for development.

Stage 3: Agreement of school priorities and support (matched funding) for implementation.

Focused Research School professional development on priority areas identified through reviews and training. Themes include literacy, numeracy, self-regulated learning and SEMH.



When

The programme will include two cohorts of 20 schools. The first cohort will launch in spring 2021 and the second in summer 2021. Both will conclude in summer 2022.

Who

- The programme is open to Primary, Secondary and Special Schools. Some places are reserved for schools with higher proportions of disadvantage pupils, and in the event of higher demand than places, we will work with the EEF to prioritise schools.
- Schools will be expected to commit £1000 (which will be matched by the project) to an implementation budget.
- Participating schools and academies will need to commit to the scale of this project and make this their principle development focus.
- Alongside the programme, there will be development of a group of system leaders that will be expert in addressing educational inequality in schools, and maximising the impact of the Pupil Premium. System leaders will primarily support the diagnostic Pupil Premium reviews.

Impact

The programme will be expected to have an impact on outcomes for disadvantaged pupils over time. It is also expected to build better expertise and knowledge about addressing disadvantage across Sheffield Schools. The programme evaluation will be carried out by EEF.

How to get involved

- If you would like to find out more, please email mrowland@unitysp.co.uk. We will hold an online seminar about the programme at 4.30pm on Tuesday 3 November (details will be shared by Learn Sheffield and the session will also be recorded and made available).
- If you are interested in working on the project as a system leader please email stephen.betts@learnsheffield.co.uk. We will share more information about this opportunity and hold an online seminar after half term.

Marc Rowland & Stephen Betts

