

# **Designing A Sheffield Children's Strategic Partnership**

# Possible Vision for the Partnership

A shared ambition for 2030?

Achieving the best for our Children and Young People whatever their background.

That involves 'belonging', thriving, and living well, agency, knowledge, core skills and foundations and transparent competencies.

# The role of the Strategic Partnership

- To enable early years, schools, Trusts, the LA, Learn Sheffield, Colleges, Health, the Combined Authority, and other statutory and voluntary agencies:
- To help make a reality of the belief that the achievement of the City's children is a collective responsibility.
- To work together to remove key barriers and to improve the outcomes for all learners. We know we need to go beyond focus on just education and skills.
- To help provide that golden thread linking communities and the city.

# Underexploited Opportunities To Increase Capacity:

- **By maximizing the large pool of expertise** and innovation in Trusts, Sub Regional Hubs, Schools, and Early Years.
- **By achieving closer working** between the LA, Learn Sheffield, Early Years, schools, Trusts, and other agencies in key areas.
- **By promoting collaboration**, including the sharing of good practice between schools and Trusts.
- **By identifying a limited number of key shared priorities** for action and ensure effective implementation.
- **By linking with the City's wider strategic plan and other bodies** such as the Safeguarding Board and by seizing opportunities to help deliver the priorities and secure external funding.

# Some of the key challenges

- There remains inequity in outcomes, well-being and belonging.
- We are educating in uncertain times.
- Children and young peoples' mental health and well-being has declined, impacting on all aspects of their education including attendance, attitudes, and behavior.
- The demands on early years, schools, school leaders, colleges and other partners are increasingly large compounded by significant recruitment and retention challenges.
- The system is fragmented and inefficient.

# Ways of working

- The Board to promote a vision of what can be achieved building confidence by successfully tackling a small number of agreed priorities.
- The Board to be legally established as a formal partnership providing strategic leadership but would not deliver services.
- The Board would expect to meet about 3 times per year. The work would be done thro' priority area sub groups.
- **Should Trusts and schools be asked to sign a memorandum of understanding agreeing to support the vision and principles?**

# Suggested membership

Key is the need to assemble the partners who can make things happen. This will also impact on whether Trusts and schools will commit precious time to support its work. Need to ensure the membership reflects the diversity of the City and the need to link with communities.

**Questions about what organisations, size of representations and how selected?**

# Suggested Membership (1)

- **Independent Chair.** (Role to ensure that the Partnership delivers on its purpose. See Appendix B for outline JD)
- **The Local Authority:** Represented by Andrew Jones, Director of Education & skills.
- **Learn Sheffield:** Represented by CEO Stephen Betts
- **3 Trust CEOs:** How selected? Need balance Primary and secondary. (70% schs academies)
- **2 Maintained Heads:** How selected Both primary?



# Suggested Membership (2)

- 1 Early Years Head: How selected?
- 1 Special sch Head: How selected? Is the fact that some are academies and some maintained a problem?
- RC Diocese
- CofE Diocese
- Sheffield Hallam
- University of Sheffield

# Suggested Membership (3)

- Sheffield College
- Health. Who would be the right person?
- DfE Important to reduce fragmentation.
- 1 Trustee Rep
- 1 Maintained Governor
- There could be an 'anchor group' drawn from Board to oversee & support the Chair in between meetings.

# Membership (4)

- Other important voices:
- Pupil. Said pupil voice important How selected?
- Parent/Carer. How selected?
- Voluntary sector.
- Communities.

# Profile of Partnership

- This is the only body which would seeks to bring all the partners together and strengthen links with communities. Therefore, there is a strong case for giving it a high profile, primarily in the City but also in the sub region and nationally.
- It would be important to obtain high level endorsements from elected members and other leading City figures.
- This would argue for it having its own website to enhance its profile and report on its activities.

# Support and Funding (1)

- The assumption is that Learn Sheffield, the LA, schools and Trusts, Health will normally support working groups from their own resources unless funding has been secured externally.
- On this basis the suggested roles are:
- The independent Chair According to Isos is likely to cost £20k (incl expenses) p.a.
- Admin support for the Board and the working parties. The LA have agreed to fund Learn Sheffield to undertake these functions.

# Support and Funding (2)

- Project management and research support for the Board.
- Learn Sheffield have offered in the first year to host the Partnership work on their website.
- Estimated cost of about £50k. £12k for 2023-2024.
- Should there be a principle that all participants should contribute?
- Options for funding: Specific subscriptions paid by partners, Schools Forum, Learn Sheffield. LA.

# Approach to engaging Strategic Partners, Trusts and Schools

Questions:

How best to engage strategic partners in the consultation and if established to join the Board?

How best to engage senior political and other City leaders?

How to best engage early years, schools, and Trusts?

How to engage parents, carers, pupil and communities?

# Next Steps

Check what the Working Group have agreed today.

Work on the provisional priority begins immediately once decided at today's meeting.

Secure an agreed version of this paper for wider consultation by the end of November. Consultation to run until end of term.