



SDSA NEWS



Jan 2009

'creating a can do culture'

Jan 2009

This newsletter is provided to share news and information about the School Development Support Agency

The SDSA continues to thrive as a not-for-profit company, providing leadership and co-ordination for a range of partnerships and projects that improve outcomes for children and young people. Based in Leicester, we employ a small core team and work with a number of associate consultants. This newsletter provides a flavour of some of our recent and current work. Further copies of this newsletter and additional information can be found at www.sdsa.net.

CURRENT LEICESTER PROJECTS

Academic Coaching

Building upon the success of last year's academic coaching involving over 1,000 Year 6 pupils that made a significant contribution to improved standards across Leicester, SDSA continues to co-ordinate and lead a similar scheme during 2008/09 on behalf of Leicester City Council. All 69 schools with Year 6 pupils are being funded to provide regular coaching to identified pupils, to help them make enhanced progress to achieve National Curriculum Level 4 in their reading, writing and mathematics. SDSA also provides a training and development programme for coaches. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

School Linking – One Leicester Learning Project

SDSA is co-ordinating a school linking opportunity for pupils in 20 local schools to work with and learn alongside other pupils who they would not necessarily otherwise meet. Designed specifically to help schools deliver their responsibility to promote community cohesion, this Leicester project has been funded as part of a national scheme in partnership with Leicester City Council. alan.curtis@sdsa.net

Raising Achievement Project

The Raising Achievement Project has been developed to explore ways of raising the achievement of young people who are working below the age appropriate SATs level, through a combination of teaching, mentoring and liaising closely with families. SDSA has produced stimulus and support materials for this innovative work with pupils in Leicester schools. alan.curtis@sdsa.net

City Primary Heads (CPH) and Development Groups

SDSA continues to provide a support role for Leicester's primary schools, as they work together in locality Development Groups and in their city-wide CPH Executive. SDSA's work includes extensive clerking of meetings, professional co-ordination between groups and support for headteachers when they fulfill representative roles. From Spring 2009 SDSA will also support the new role being created and funded by CPH **Strategic Primary Lead Headteacher** to champion the improving contribution that primary schools are making to children's outcomes across the city. cas.beckett@sdsa.net

Special Olympics Education Resource Pack

SDSA is working with the Special Olympics Games Director and the Lord Mayor's Appeal Fund to maximise opportunities for children and young people to learn about and link up with the GB Games when they come to Leicester in 2009. SDSA has led a volunteer working party to design and produce an education resource pack, **SO Let's Learn!** that will be distributed to schools in March/April 2009. julia.smith@sdsa.net

School Office Business Managers Network

This network meets termly to provide a forum for school business managers to support their learning and development and to promote collaboration between colleagues facing similar issues. SDSA provides administrative and organizational support for this group. cas.beckett@sdsa.net

Complementary School Network

SDSA works closely with the Leicester Complementary Schools Trust to help improve the quality of provision made for children and young people in complementary school settings in Leicester. In particular, SDSA has been supporting the local authority by promoting the National Quality Framework for complementary schools and supporting the 50 settings that are currently working towards accreditation. robert.vincent@sdsa.net

CPD Development Leaders

SDSA manages a regional project (more overleaf) that provides support for CPD Leaders in schools through an online school improvement framework at www.cpdleader.com and provides funding for six CPD Leaders to provide support to other schools in Leicester. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

CURRENT LEICESTER PROJECTS continued

Languages

SDSA is currently working (with SSAT) to support clusters of mainstream and complementary schools to enable them to work together to improve language learning outcomes for young people. Building upon methods developed in Leicester, the current phase of this project is supporting Polish learning in Peterborough, Arabic in Grantham and Gujarati in Leicester. steven.newlands@sdsa.net

Young People's Participation

SDSA continues to support Leicester LA with some aspects of participation and student voice. Recent and ongoing work includes the support of elected YPC members, training work with school councils and support for the Healthy Schools participation strand through a programme of support, training and advice for city primary schools. alan.curtis@sdsa.net

Madrasah Network

SDSA is bringing together mainstream and complementary schools in Leicester to identify effective working processes and mutually supportive collaborative initiatives that can help promote improved educational outcomes for children and young people. robert.vincent@sdsa.net

CURRENT EAST MIDLANDS PROJECTS

Child Poverty

SDSA co-ordinated the first regional Child Poverty conference for East Midlands' government office in October 2008, attended by over 150 colleagues from around the region. The key element of the event was the sharing of emerging practice from around the region through 'intelligent conversations', that has been identified to make a significant contribution to the child poverty National Indicator 116. Over 25 resources from this event can be downloaded from the www.changeforchildren.co.uk website. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

Supporting Transitions Strategies

East Midlands NHS (the strategic health authority) has commissioned the SDSA to manage a project to develop a regional support pack for those who oversee transition between children's and adults' services in the East Midlands. The need for support materials has been identified both within health services and across some local authority partnerships in the region. The scope and design of this support pack will be shaped at an introductory seminar in late January and compiled and developed thereafter during 2009. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

MLA project

The Museums, Libraries and Archives sector, through MLA East Midlands, has asked SDSA to lead a project to strengthen the strategic links and understanding between those leading Children and Young People's Services in the nine East Midlands' local authorities and colleagues in the Museums, Libraries and Archives sector. The purpose of this project is to map out some of the ways in which the MLA sector can make a strategic contribution to outcomes for children and young people, including within Local Area Agreements. Resources from a recent development seminar can be found at www.changeforchildren.co.uk julia.smith@sdsa.net

Children's Service Foundation Degrees

Linking with colleagues across the region through the Skills for Sustainable Communities network, SDSA has been identifying and developing key partnerships that might promote and develop a coherent, regional approach to Foundation Degree provision for the children's service workforce. pauline.smith@sdsa.net

Regional Subject Conferences

SDSA continues to provide a series of occasional subject conferences for colleagues working in schools, that complements other local training. Successful events have recently been held for Science, Mathematics and PSHE and more are planned for a range of subjects during 2009. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

CPD Leadership

SDSA co-ordinates a TDA-funded project on behalf of the region's local authorities to support the development of CPD Leadership in schools. A substantial online school improvement and support framework has already been created at www.cpdleader.com and, during this year, 100 CPD Leaders from across the region are being trained to work, through their LA Advisers, with other CPD Leaders. This is a significant outcome for the East Midlands developed through the regional CPD Partnership, also supported by SDSA. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

East Midlands Early Years Group (with West Midlands)

This thriving forum now links 50 or more colleagues who have a leadership role in Early Years work in the East and West Midlands. Meeting four times per year in Birmingham, SDSA provides a co-ordination and facilitation role to enable these colleagues to obtain significant benefits for their professional learning and policy development and creates a communication channel for national and regional policy leads from DCSF, CWDC, government offices and other partner organisations. cas.beckett@sdsa.net

EMRAG East Midlands Regional Admissions Group

This new group was formed in 2008 to provide support for those leading on schools admissions arrangements around the East Midlands. With the increasing diversity of school organisational structures, admissions policies are becoming increasingly complex and senior officers have identified key benefits from meeting together. The group also provides a key interface with DCSF policy officers, who welcome the opportunity to work on a regional basis through this group. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

Teaching as a Masters-level profession – PPD

The SDSA is lead applicant on behalf of seven East Midlands' universities to bring over £1m per year to subsidise masters-level learning for teachers. We also provide an information and advocacy role for this work and are proactive in helping to shape new opportunities. The SDSA also represents the views of local universities and other regional partners on the TDA national PPD development group. grazyna.kennerley@sdsa.net

Regional SEN/Inclusion CPD Group

This group brings together those promoting workforce development for colleagues who work with children and young people with special needs. Colleagues from local authorities (typically Special Needs Support Services), the regional SEN/LDD National Strategies Hub, universities with specialist SEN/Inclusion provision and special schools with Training School status - meet four times per year. cas.beckett@sdsa.net

Regional Learning Project – regional events

In addition to a range of regional networks, the SDSA plans, co-ordinates and manages a number of 'mass dissemination' events to support policy delivery and workforce development in children and young people's services. All events are built around the principle of learning from one another through the sharing of practice that is making a positive contribution. 2008 events addressed young people's outcomes and participation strategies and the first event in 2009 will explore effective integrated working practices in and around schools. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

CURRENT NATIONAL PROJECTS

National evaluation of integrated working

All 150 local authorities are currently receiving local, regional and national reports from the CWDC's evaluation, carried out for them in 2008 by SDSA. This was the first comprehensive evaluation of integrated working, exploring both strategy and implementation of multi-agency working, the Common Assessment Framework, the Lead Professional role and Information Sharing with all local authorities. julia.smith@sdsa.net

ICE – Islam and Citizenship Education

As part of a project being funded by central government, the SDSA has developed a series of 40 Citizenship lessons for KS2 and KS3 pupils that address aspects of British citizenship for young Muslims. These lessons have been thoroughly researched to harmonise National Curriculum and Qur'anic principles and are currently being trialled in madrasahs (mosque schools) in Leicester, Bristol, London, Bradford, Kirlees, Oldham and Rochdale. Further details are available at www.theiceproject.com khalid.mahmood@sdsa.net or rukhsana.rana@sdsa.net

What makes a good CYPs leader?

The SDSA is working with groups of children and young people in Cambridge, Leicester, Wakefield, Middlesbrough and Coventry to investigate and identify 'what makes a good children's services leader or manager'. Each group will depict their learning in a 'product' for CWDC which will be used in the new national leadership and management website. pauline.smith@sdsa.net

Every Muslim Child Matters

The SDSA's former Chief Executive, Maurice Coles has recently seen some of his material published under this title by Trentham Books. A series of national conferences (London 4th March, Bristol 11th March, Birmingham 18th March, Bradford 25th March) will introduce this seminal work alongside other innovative practice that improve outcomes through cultural inclusion. Further information about the conferences is available at www.everymuslimchildmatters.com. Also currently under development is guidance and support for British Muslim families. khalid.mahmood@sdsa.net or rukhsana.rana@sdsa.net

Cultural Understandings of Science and History Project

Building upon the success of previous work with QCA, the Foundation of Science, Technology and Civilisation has commissioned SDSA's Maurice Coles to lead a Key Stage 3 project to develop and trial materials for Science and History that deepen pupils' cultural understandings. maurice.coles@sdsa.net