



SDSA NEWS



March 2008

'creating a can do culture'

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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 growing number of associate consultants.

This newsletter provides a flavour of some of our recent and current work.

CURRENT LEICESTER PROJECTS

Academic Coaching

SDSA jointly leads this scheme to provide weekly coaching sessions to provide literacy and numeracy support to over 1,000 Year 6 pupils in Leicester primary schools. Part of the Transforming Leicester's Learning action plan, the scheme deploys over 40 coaches to provide focused support to strengthen progress for identified pupils.

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City Primary Heads (CPH) and Development Groups

Collaboration between headteachers in locality groups and across the city continues to provide essential support and strengthen the common purpose to meet the needs of Leicester's learners. SDSA serves these network groups with facilitation, clerking and communication to enable busy headteachers to get the most from these forums. CPH Executive also commissions SDSA to co-ordinate its city-wide support and development work.

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School Office Business Managers Network

A new and developing network to support the work of this key group of the school workforce. Like much of our work, SDSA provides administrative and organisational support to allow group members to concentrate fully on their professional agenda. cas.beckett@sdsa.net

Complementary Schools

Working closely with the Leicester Complementary Schools Trust, SDSA supports the development of strong links between mainstream and approximately 100 complementary schools within Leicester. Key projects include the roll-out of a quality framework, providing a Train the Trainers for over 60 complementary school teachers, developing a resource centre and accrediting and celebrating learning opportunities for young people. julia.leith@sdsa.net

Languages

SDSA is now an ASSET Languages Assessment Centre that has recently seen the first wave of 77 students complete their first stage awards on the route to GCSE Urdu and Arabic. Working in partnership with DCSF and language organisations, SDSA is creating a city-wide scheme whereby pupils from KS2 upwards can receive recognition for their progress in language learning, including community languages. DCSF is also funding SDSA to extend the emerging Leicester model into other cities. robert.vincent@sdsa.net or julia.leith@sdsa.net

Dads Matter

This NRF-funded family learning project is bringing together father and son pairings from Braunstone to work on activities that explore and record their sense of identity as individuals in their family and community settings.

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UK Youth Parliament

SDSA supports Leicester LA with several aspects of participation and student voice. Most recently we have supported Leicester's members of the UK Youth Parliament and are helping to facilitate the forthcoming city-wide elections. alan.curtis@sdsa.net

Children's Fund

SDSA is working for Leicester City Council's Children Fund to identify the most effective process to give the city's five to eleven year olds a voice on issues that matter to them and to develop links with the Young People's Council.

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National Healthy School Standard

The SDSA is implementing the Healthy Schools participation strand for Leicester LA through a programme of support, training and advice for city primary schools. alan.curtis@sdsa.net

THE SDSA can also be contacted at Alliance House, Bishop Street, Leicester, LE1 6AF or on 0116 229 5942

CURRENT EAST MIDLANDS PROJECTS

Masters-level learning for teachers – 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 becoming pro-active in helping to shape new opportunities. SDSA also represents the views of local universities and other regional partners on the TDA national PPD development group. grazyna.kennerley@sdsa.net

Regional Learning Project – networks

The 9 local authorities in the East Midlands commission the SDSA to support their shared learning needs in respect of children services and integrated working. This project is steered by the region's Directors of CYP Services and their AD teams through their annual awayday organised by SDSA. Within a wide ranging programme SDSA co-ordinates networks and partnerships that provide local authority officers opportunities to work and learn together in relation to Continuing Professional Development, Early Years, School Improvement and Advanced Skills Teachers. Government Office East Midlands, CWDC and TDA are also active partners in supporting the RLP. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

Regional Learning Project – events

The RLP also includes major conferences and seminars on priority themes identified by the region's Directors of Children and Young People Services. This year sees 3 major events that share and showcase emerging, significant practice from around the region: Nov 07 Integrated Working March 12th Participation in Action July 08 Co-ordinating Youth Support
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CPD Leadership in schools

SDSA is co-ordinating a TDA-funded project to support CPD Leadership in schools with the East Midlands CPD Partnership. Coming soon at www.cpdleader.com will be a significant training and development resource that will support the strategically important leadership of professional development in schools. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

Children's Service Foundation Degrees

Skills for Sustainable Communities are funding SDSA to explore potential collaboration between providers, employers and learners to create greater coherence in the development of foundation degree-level learning for the children's workforce. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

2012 Olympics

Sport England and Leicestershire County Council have asked SDSA to bring key partners together to develop a regional action plan for London 2012 that provides a distinctive East Midlands expression of what we seek to achieve through this historic event for our children and young people. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

Promoting Participation

CWDC, the Children's Workforce Development Council and Participation Works fund the SDSA to co-ordinate two projects that identify and showcase good practice in developing the participation of children and young people in service delivery and workforce development. pauline.smith@sdsa.net

CURRENT NATIONAL PROJECTS

National evaluation of Integrated Working

SDSA is working with CWDC and DCSF to undertake 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 150 local authorities. julia.smith@sdsa.net

Languages, including community languages

See the Leicester item overleaf for the national development of SDSA's innovative support for languages learning.

National rollout of Regional Commissioning Framework

DCSF is funding SDSA to introduce the regional framework to support commissioning of children and young people's services that we project managed in 2007 to other government regions around the country. The framework (at www.regionalcommissioning.com) has been endorsed by all East Midlands partners and is leading to significant cost savings and service improvements. peter.chilvers@sdsa.net

ICE – Islam and Citizenship Education

SDSA is being funded by central government to work with madrassahs in six cities to develop curriculum materials for complementary and mainstream schools that promote citizenship in terms that are consistent with both the national curriculum and the Qur'an. khalid.mahmood@sdsa.net or rukhsana.rana@sdsa.net

QCA curriculum development, including CUSP (cultural understanding of science project)

SDSA works with QCA to co-ordinate a number of development projects where schools are developing a more creative and relevant curriculum for their pupils. maurice.coles@sdsa.net