

Update from the Director of Education and Skills

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Your ref:

Our ref: SC/JR

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Dear Headteacher

Happy New Year! I expect the Christmas break is a dim and distant memory as you forge ahead with the sterling work to support and sustain improved outcomes for the children and young people in Lancashire.

I have been in Lancashire for 4 months now and it has been a very busy time. You will be aware that during that time the Council has received confirmation from the DfE regarding funding to support the implementation of Family Safeguarding, what this means in practice is that support to some of our most vulnerable families will be delivered in a way that builds resilience so that they are better able to support themselves. Alongside the Family Safeguarding approach, the Early Help offer in Lancashire will be reviewed so that there are stronger links with all of our schools.

Throughout January, I have been co presenting, with Paul Duckworth, a number of events across the County to share plans to develop a 'Team around the School' approach to school improvement. This means bringing together groups of schools in localities to work together with key services and partners to share good practice. Collaboration is not a new concept in Lancashire and there are many examples where groups of schools work together. The proposed model will build on these established networks of schools to develop a more systemised county wide approach to collaboration.

It is essential that any changes to our support to schools is developed with schools and with governors. Therefore, a number of events have been held with governors and schools providing opportunities to shape the proposals and raise questions. Common issues will shape 'frequently asked questions' that will be posted and regularly updated on the schools portal.

Change can create uncertainty and so I am urging schools and governors to share thoughts on opportunities and challenges so that we can work together to arrive at solutions. A steering group including representatives from different types and age phases of schools will be established to help shape and inform the new collaborative delivery model for school improvement. It is important that governors are included within this group. A template will be posted on the portal where 'expressions of interest' will be invited from governors and

Sarah Callaghan

Director of Education and Skills

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system leaders to nominate themselves for a task and finish steering group. I hope you may consider submitting a nomination.

A number of key documents will be posted alongside the 'expression of interest' template to ensure that the rationale for change and proposed new model is well understood. This includes:

- ISOS report on system leadership commissioned by the Local Government Agency- this is a useful report that draws from collaborative models across the country.
- North West data that sets out the Lancashire data position against all of our North West neighbouring authorities- this is useful as it helps to support the case for change.
- The power point presentation from the events

In addition, the senior advisors supporting the collaborative networks will be sending out information to the schools in their area.

Please do have a look at these documents, they provide background information to support the development of a Lancashire system- led model that will realise our shared ambition for all children and young people in Lancashire articulated in the Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board.

Vision statement: Children, young people and their families are safe, healthy and achieve their full potential

Thank you for your support and commitment to improving outcomes for the children, young people and families we all serve.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sarah Callaghan', with a stylized, cursive script.

Sarah Callaghan
Director of Education and Skills