

# Learn Sheffield September 2015 Update

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## 1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide an update on the progress of establishing a Schools Company. It follows on from the July 2015 update that you will have received just before the summer holiday.

As you will see below, the company has now been incorporated and is called Learn Sheffield.

The Interim board have appointed a Chief Executive and a Director of School Improvement who will lead the Company through this initial phase.

The team have moved into their new base, which is in the former CLC building on the Newfield and Talbot Schools site.

They are looking forward to seeing all of you at the various events that are planned for this half term.

## **2. Company Incorporation**

In July, Cabinet gave the go ahead for the Council to be a partner in the development of a School Company called 'Learn Sheffield'.

Over the summer the Council and education providers have worked collaboratively to establish Learn Sheffield, which is collectively owned by schools, colleges, and the Council.

Sixteen schools from the Primary, Secondary and Special sectors have signed up to be initial members, together with The Sheffield College and the Council.

Learn Sheffield founding members are as follows: Bradfield School, Chaucer School, Dobcroft Infants, Forge Valley School, Hallam Primary, Hillsborough Primary, King Ecgbert School, Lowfield Primary, Malin Bridge Primary, Meynell Primary, Newfield School, Rowan School, Sheffield College, Southey Green Primary, Tupton School, Tinsley Meadows Primary and Wisewood Primary

## **3. Board Members**

The Interim Board of Directors has been appointed to direct the work of Learn Sheffield.

The Interim board members are as follows; David Bowes (nominated by the Secondary School sector), Dean Linkhorn (nominated by the Specialist School sector), Paul Stockley (nominated by the Primary School sector) & Darren Tidmarsh (nominated by Sheffield College), Cllr Geoff Smith (nominated by Sheffield City council).

The board are in the process of identifying who will be the Chair and recruiting two additional co-opted Directors. Information regarding this will follow shortly.

The Interim Board will direct the company throughout the autumn term. During the spring term, once all Schools and Colleges have had the opportunity to join, a substantive board will be recruited, in accordance with the company's articles.

## **4. Leadership Recruitment**

The Interim Board completed the leadership recruitment process just before the end of the summer holiday.

Stephen Betts, Headteacher of Malin Bridge Primary School was appointed as the Interim Chief Executive and Bev Nicholson, Executive Headteacher of Halfway Junior and Shortbrook Primary Federation, has been appointed as Interim Director of School Improvement.

Stephen and Bev played leading roles in the development of Learn Sheffield through their involvement in the working groups which shaped the project throughout last year. The board are confident that their energy and vision will give the company the right leadership at this exciting time.

## 5. Learn Sheffield Accommodation

Learn Sheffield moved into its new accommodation on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September. The base is the former City Learning Centre (Sheffield South CLC), which shares a site with Newfield and Talbot schools. Fusion TSA, who started to use the building last year, will continue to rent office space.

The contact details for Learn Sheffield are below; further details (including specific emails and phone details) will follow shortly.

Learn Sheffield,  
Lees Hall Road,  
Sheffield  
S8 9JP

Email: [enquiries@learnsheffield.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@learnsheffield.co.uk)  
Temporary contact number: 07599 877369

## 6. Learn Sheffield Conference Facilities

Learn Sheffield will operate conference facilities as part of its business plan.

The building includes three conference rooms and a meeting room which can be booked for conferences, training events and meetings with parking space available.

Prices will be available upon request, with discounts for company members and prospective members. Contact [bookings@learnsheffield.co.uk](mailto:bookings@learnsheffield.co.uk) for more information.

## 7. Information for Governing Bodies

Information is going out to school leaders and governing bodies this week, this will be accompanied by a briefing note which will cover what a governing body needs to do if it wishes to join the company, including the wording for the resolution that it would need to pass and the form that it will need to complete to formally apply for membership.

By the conference, on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, a pack of materials will be available to support Governing Bodies in making their decision.

The pack will include;

- September update
- Governor briefing note
- Company Articles of Association
- Prospectus
- Interim operating model
- Interim summary business plan

- Presentation slides

If any Governing Body is holding its autumn term full Governing Body meeting before 25<sup>th</sup> September they should contact [stephen.betts@learnsheffield.co.uk](mailto:stephen.betts@learnsheffield.co.uk) in order to determine what support Learn Sheffield can provide at the point of the meeting

## 8. Commission

The commission and KPI's are in the process of being finalised. They will be shared at the conference on the 25<sup>th</sup> September, at which point wider company objectives will be considered beyond those that are part of the Local Authority commission.

## 9. Communication - Timeline & Events

The Learn Sheffield website and company branding is currently being developed, as you will have seen – we now have a logo!

The website will be on-line later this month and will be an important source of information about Learn Sheffield.

There are some key dates below which provide an opportunity to find out more about Learn Sheffield.

Date	Event	Location	Time
Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> September	<b>School Leaders Conference</b> (School Company / Inclusion & next steps in locality working)	St. Mary's	All Day
Thursday 1 <sup>st</sup> October	<b>Learn Sheffield Open Day</b> Briefing for Governors, and anyone who missed the conference, as well as an opportunity to have a tour around the building.	Learn Sheffield	10:00 14:00 18:00
Saturday 3 <sup>rd</sup> October	<b>Governor Briefing</b>	Town Hall Reception Room A	AM
Tuesday 6 <sup>th</sup> October	<b>Learn Sheffield Open Evening</b> Briefing for Governors, and anyone who missed the conference, as well as an opportunity to have a tour around the building.	Learn Sheffield	18:00