

This is the fourth partnership meeting note of 2024/25, following the last one in November. We plan to provide a meeting note at the start of each half term, to provide a Learn Sheffield update for sector partnerships and locality meetings.

- **Learn Sheffield Insights Hub**

Two reports were added to the Insights Hub (<https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/LS-Insights-Hub/>) in December.



The **[Good Practice in the Improvement of Pupils' Attendance in Sheffield Settings](#)** was published in December 2024. Learn Sheffield committed, following a working group in the city, to undertake a piece of work to look at strong practice in the city and produce a report on the learning from this to share across our partnership and more widely. Wide ranging contextual data supported the identification of a small group of schools who appeared to be outperforming their context with regards to pupils' attendance. Settings were visited to discuss attendance processes and practice and the learning from these conversations, with primary and secondary settings in Sheffield, informed the report recommendations. The report also includes a list of questions about attendance that any school could use.



The **[Sheffield SAFE Taskforce: Annual Report Year 2](#)** report was published in December 2024. It provides an overview of the DfE's SAFE programme in Sheffield and covers the period from September 2023 to September 2024. The report includes further information about the project and the Sheffield Taskforce, and the impact of the project on pupils who have received evidence-based interventions. It also reflects on the findings from the first two years and how this learning will inform the final year of the project and beyond.

Two further reports will be added this half term, which colleagues might find interesting:

- Report Cards: Learning from the Sheffield project
- Sheffield Performance Analysis 2024

- **SEND Manifesto Commission: January 2025 Update**

As you will be aware, Learn Sheffield has been commissioned by SCC to support improvement in SEND in the city. We used the Leader Breakfast last week as an opportunity to update colleagues on the progress that has been made since my last update on 30 September. The slides from the breakfast will be shared alongside this update.

We plan to use the Leaders Conference (Friday 4 July), Governance Conference (Saturday 5 July) and a festival week across the following week as an opportunity to set out the final SEND Manifesto and its implications for 2025/26 and beyond. This update comes, therefore, one term into this initial three-term piece of work.

In the breakfast presentation we set out how our thinking has developed during the autumn term, shared the key activities to develop the manifesto across the spring term and discussed how the building blocks are being developed at the same time. The commission includes both leading the development of the strategic approach and the delivery of some specific activities and reforms. We continue to develop the strategic approach and work on the building blocks at the same time.

We remain convinced that the strategic planning must be long-term and based on genuine shared accountability from all partners in the local area SEND system, without this we do not believe that significant or lasting change can be achieved. Senior colleagues from SCC, health and care are engaging constructively in the development of the SEND Manifesto.

The manifesto seeks to increase the number of children who have positive experiences and achieve good outcomes without requiring additional or different provision at the same time as transforming the arrangements for identifying, assessing and meeting the needs of those who do. We see these goals as connected and inter-dependent.

When we provided an update at the end of September we were working on five building blocks, As you might expect this has expanded during the autumn term and we discussed the nine areas below at the breakfast:

- The **Learn Sheffield SEND Team** is now in place – we are considering how it will need to develop to provide access to additional expertise by September 2025.
- We have paused the development of **Locality SEND** processes until we know more about changes to funding (to avoid doing this twice) but the support of the **Inclusion Taskforce** has now moved to Learn Sheffield along with some additional project support from SCC,
- The **Resourced Provision** quality standards were published in October and we will have completed 20 enquiry visits by February half term. Almost every Sheffield setting completed the audit and we will publish the learning from this in March. A second cohort of 20 further visits will take place by the end of the year, when we will again publish the learning.
- The development of more effective **health pathways** continues to involve colleagues from SCC, Sheffield Children’s Hospital, the Integrated Care Board and the Parent Carer Forum. We anticipate that a pilot to explore earlier assessment will be scoped this term and be completed by the end of this year.

- We have scoped an intense **SEND Enquiry** over 5 days in late February and early March. This will quickly build the evidence base upon which the Manifesto's shared priorities are built. The enquiry will also be the first time that we have used the Sensemaker tool to collect the experiences of young people, parents/carers and professionals.
- The work to develop a detailed and holistic description of **healthy child development** has been scoped by a wide multi-disciplinary group of colleagues. The writing group has been formed and will provide a first draft of birth-11 years this term before moving on to 11-18 years in the summer term.
- Work to **reengineer the graduated approach** has also begun, initially involving the Learn Sheffield SEND team. We will discuss a phased test and learn approach this term with the intention of completing this in the summer term to inform the manifesto proposals. We also discussed the general and unique differences approach that we have been exploring at the breakfast.
- The developing manifesto is also exploring how to **rebalance accountability** and measure those things that we value, rather than those things that are more easily measured. We are working with national partners, including ISOS, to support this.
- We shared some conclusions from the [Institute for Fiscal Studies Report](#) into **SEND funding** at the breakfast. The options of delivering more support within mainstream schools and enhancing services to support children align with the SEND manifesto position appears to reflect the long-run position of the new government. This report underlines that doing nothing is an increasingly unviable option and that the transition to a new system will be likely to entail some strategic overspending to enable double funding for a period of time. This aligns with local thinking.

The breakfast presentation concluded by reflecting on when the changes will lead to a different experience in Sheffield. This returned to the conclusion of the September update, recognising that colleagues will be sceptical about change in advance of feeling and seeing it. Clearly there is a huge amount of work taking place, but we appreciate that this will not impact everywhere at the same time and is often the groundwork that is required for system change rather than change itself.

We believe that we have the expertise and resources to make a difference to the local area SEND system in Sheffield but also recognise the extent of the impact of these challenges on all our settings. It is helpful to have the scale of the problem recognised by external bodies and the new government, but there remains much to do before you and the communities you serve feel a practical difference in the way that you experience SEND.

The spring term will be another period of intense work and we will try to keep sharing as much information as possible, in the hope that you will feel that the SEND Manifesto can deliver the shared accountability that will be required for long term and sustained change in Sheffield.

Stephen Betts (10.01.25)

- **Young Carers Project**

As you know, we are working with our colleagues at [Sheffield Young Carers](#) to improve the identification of young carers and our ability to understand their outcomes.

You should have received an email last week (on Friday 10 January), in advance of the census return, which included the recently published [Management Information System Guidance for young carers](#) (by MyTime Young Carers) which supports input of recorded young carers in the census return.

It also included a presentation for students at Meadowhead school, which they've kindly allowed us to share, which you might find useful for your own setting. If you would like more information about identifying and supporting young carers, please get in touch with Sheffield Young Carers: [shuna.beckett@sycp.org.uk](mailto:shuna.beckett@sycp.org.uk) or 0114 258 4595 / 07923254043

- **Learn Sheffield Communications Events**

The Learn Sheffield website contains all of our most recent communications, including the quick links on the homepage: [www.learnsheffield.co.uk](http://www.learnsheffield.co.uk)

**Leader Briefing:** [Spring 1 Leader Briefing](#)

**January Opportunities Bulletin:** <https://sway.cloud.microsoft/CsnBJ6Qm6qzNWkvT?ref=Link>

**Summary of training:** [Spring Training Sway](#)

**SPRING LEADERSHIP SEMINAR**  
Friday 7 March  
8.30-10.30am  
Niagara Conference and Leisure

**Botheredness- Making learning matter**

- Developing practice with professional imagination
- Leading creativity in a concrete system
- Promoting pedagogical discernment
- Storytelling and learning: the research into how narratives can support progress and attainment
- Embracing enactive practice
- Encouraging great oracy across the curriculum
- Let's Say – a motivational invitation
- People/Place/Problem as a boon to creative practice and placing learning into contexts
- Imaginative acetates – how curriculum intent is implemented creatively using practical examples
- Moving from engagement to investment in learning
- Towards a curriculum of empathy, contribution, and compassion
- So what? Now what? Reflections and conversations

Learn Sheffield

Hywel Roberts

**Spring Leadership Seminar**

Friday 7 March 2025

Keynote: **Hywel Roberts**

[Book Here](#)

Learn Sheffield

Directors' Strategic Report  
2023/24

ANNUAL REPORT TO MEMBERS  
LEARN SHEFFIELD AGM

THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

Learn Sheffield

LEARN SHEFFIELD  
FUTURE SHAPE

THURSDAY 6<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2025

Finally, keep an eye out for the Learn Sheffield AGM papers, which will be out this week.

The meeting is on Thursday 6 February 2025 at 6pm online.

The papers will include the Director's Annual Report and a Learn Sheffield Future Shape document.