

This is the third partnership meeting note of 2024/25, following the September and October meeting notes. 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 Communications

Firstly, we want to apologise to colleagues for the number of surveys and clustering of emails that happened before half term. We have changed our internal processes to try to make sure that we don't overload school leaders, even when there is a high volume of information moving forwards.

Autumn 2 Leader Briefing: If you are a Sheffield Member Offer customer, this will be emailed to you separately.

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

A quick reminder of other comms from the start of the year:

Summary of training: [Autumn Training Sway](#)

Sheffield Schools' Data Hub

Learn Sheffield work in partnership with the PAS (Performance and Analysis Service) team at Sheffield City Council to provide data and analysis to Sheffield settings. This service is part of our subscription, in the [Sheffield Members Offer](#) which is available to Sheffield settings.

Colleagues can access the hub here: [Sheffield School's Data Hub](#) and it can also be accessed via the scrolling partners & projects section on the website homepage.

Partners
& Projects



Governance Engagement Project

A new video to support the recruitment of governors and trustees can also currently be accessed via the website homepage. It can also be accessed here:

Governance Engagement Video: <https://youtu.be/3vd-MbZkvFc>

Learn Sheffield continues to work in partnership with Sheffield Association of School Governing Bodies (SASGB) and Sheffield City Council (SCC) to promote engagement in school governance. This project aims to increase the pipeline of volunteers interested in becoming involved in the governance of Sheffield settings, with a focus on increasing diversity amongst Sheffield governors and trustees.



Governance Engagement Project Launches Video

Learn Sheffield is working with the SASGB (Sheffield Association of School Governing Bodies) and Sheffield City Council (SCC) to increase the pipeline of volunteers interested in becoming involved in the governance of Sheffield settings, with a focus on increasing diversity amongst Sheffield governors and trustees. This video is designed to support settings and organisations across the city by promoting the benefits of becoming involved.

[Learn More](#)

In the most recent report from the NGA Annual Governance Survey 76% of respondents said it was hard to recruit new governors and trustees. Boards with two or more vacancies has reached an all-time high of 44% nationally. We hope this project can support Sheffield settings to overcome these challenges – find out more: www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Projects/Governance-Engagement.

Young Carers Project

As you will know, a young carer is a child or young person who provides substantial unpaid care for a relative who has disabilities, long-term physical illnesses, mental health difficulties and/or drug or alcohol issues. We agree with our colleagues at [Sheffield Young Carers](#) that it is the right of every young carer to be recognised in their role and have the same opportunities as other children and young people of a similar age.

Learn Sheffield are working with Sheffield Young Carers to improve the identification of young carers and our ability to understand their outcomes. We believe that these two things will improve the support that can be provided to children and young people in the city and also enable us to better understand the barriers and challenges those young carers in our city face.

We believe that young carers are significantly under identified in national data. The [All-Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry into Young Carers and Young Adult Carers in 2023](#) suggested that approximately 10% of all pupils will provide high or very high levels of care – equating to an average of two or three young carers in every class.

Analysis of census data in January 2024 tells us that the proportion of identified and recorded young carers nationally is currently less than 1% and that, in Sheffield, this figure is even lower.

	<i>Primary</i>	<i>Secondary</i>	<i>Special</i>
England	0.46%	0.88%	0.26%
Sheffield	0.12%	0.76%	0%

We know in Sheffield for example that the January 2024 census data above was based on 334 children and young people being recorded as a young carer. The local young carers register (held by Sheffield City Council) had 879 recorded young carers in July 2024. This suggests that there is a disconnect between management information systems in settings and the actual number of identified young carers in Sheffield. If 879 young carers had been recorded the overall proportion would increase from 0.39% to 1.03% in Sheffield.

Our working assumption, however, is that even this figure would only capture a fraction of the children and young people providing high or very high levels of care. We therefore have only a partial understanding of the outcomes of young carers and the nature and intersectionality of the cohort. For example, the 2022/23 national data suggested that 39% of young carers are persistently absent from school, almost twice the rate of their peers, but we know that this may be based on a sample of less than one in ten of the actual cohort. Better and more complete analysis of the outcomes of young carers would help settings and those who support families to make the case for greater support.

In the first phase of this project (in 2024/25) to ensure that:

1. All Sheffield settings are capturing any identified young carers in their census return in January 2025.
2. All Sheffield settings have a good understanding of how to identify and support young carers in their community.

We are working with Sheffield Young Carers, Sheffield City Council and Sheffield's education settings to ensure that any identified young carers are included in both the city register and the census return of their setting. We will develop guidance to support this during the autumn of 2024.

In 2025 we will work with our partners to increase everyone's understanding of how to identify and support young carers in Sheffield.

Extended School Improvement Commission: Primary Writing Project

As we outlined last time, Learn Sheffield have agreed an extension to the SCC School Improvement commission for 2024/25 to support a shared priority in improving outcomes. The focus of this work will be primary writing outcomes. This work being commissioned and funded (rather than just available through the subscription) is important, as it means that the activity is available to all Sheffield settings and staff.

The primary writing project will have a dual focus, to support both improvement in 2025 outcomes and the development of the curriculum for writing across the primary phase. The information below has been emailed out to all Sheffield primary settings.

Learn Sheffield will support schools to moderate the standards of writing at set points in this academic year to identify pupils who are not on track to achieve the expected standard and to highlight their learning gaps.

Y6 teachers are invited to bring examples of writing from selected pupils to a short moderation session at Learn Sheffield on Thursday 5th December, Thursday 12th December or Friday 17th January. Sessions will last for an hour and will be facilitated by Diane Stokes and a number of experienced,

STA-approved, Y6 moderators. Sessions are available throughout each day and can be booked by emailing bookings@learnsheffield.co.uk.

There will be a second round of moderation on Friday 14th March, Friday 21st March or Thursday 27th March for the same settings to track their progress or for other settings who would like to check their standards at this point.

We appreciate that this may be an additional pressure for Y6 colleagues, but hope that you will agree that having additional funded moderation activities before SATs has the potential to make a difference.

#DiverseEd Sheffield Hub at Learn Sheffield

We are pleased to be running a #DiverseEd Sheffield Hub in the 2024-25 school year.

Each half-term we will host an in-person 90 minute session for DEIB leaders, champions and advocates to come together to grow consciousness, build confidence and develop competence. All sessions will take place at Learn Sheffield.



Each session will include:

- An inspiring guest speaker
- Sharing best practice from the network
- Reflecting on current challenges
- Discussing what is having impact
- Networking with colleagues to forge collaborative projects

Further details of the content and the booking links for each session are available on our website: <https://learnsheffield.co.uk/Projects/DiverseEd-Sheffield-Hub>

#DiverseEd Sheffield Hub Membership

It will cost £20 + VAT per school to attend a hub meeting (you can send multiple people) or £80+VAT to attend all 5 sessions. Invoices will be sent by Learn Sheffield.

If you have any queries about this offer, please get in touch with enquiries@learnsheffield.co.uk.