

Partnership Update

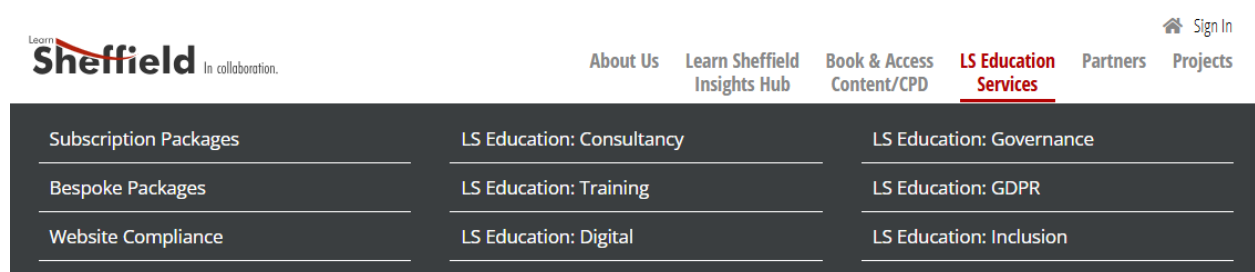
Autumn 1 (September) 2026

This partnership note provides a Learn Sheffield update. It accompanies the recorded briefing below and will be emailed out to leaders along with the slides from the briefing and the documents referenced throughout the note.

Autumn 1 Leader Briefing (recorded): <https://youtu.be/RsY8fcW2r7Y>

- **LS Education Services**

Our traded services are now part of the LS Education brand. This includes our subscription packages and the individual services. They can be accessed via the Learn Sheffield website – see below.



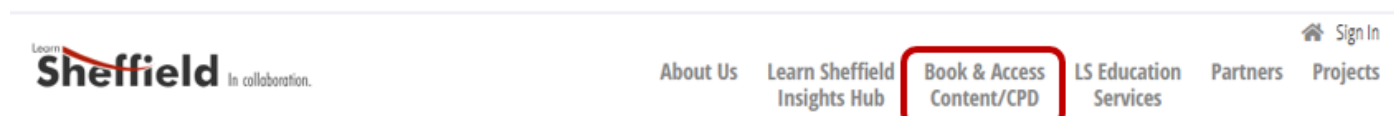
- **Subscription Packages**

More information about the subscription packages can be found below, including a recorded briefing. The LS Education bespoke packages are generally intended for settings and MATs outside Sheffield, but everything is available if required.

[School Improvement Subscription Packages / LS Education Services & Bespoke Packages](#)

- **LS Education: Training**

The training programme will be released over the coming weeks, as usual. Look out for emails and colleagues will be able to view and book the content via that part of the website.



The programme is different this year, with the introduction of self-directed training and the wider focus on meeting the needs of the whole team of the setting or MAT. Later this half term we will release a recorded briefing to walk colleagues through the new offer.

○ LS Education: Digital

Our new digital service has launched and you can now access this content online:

<https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/LSEducation-Services/LSEducation-Digital/Resources>

We are launching the service with first examples of our five different types of content. This includes:

- ❖ a **Community of Practice** asking what advice you would give to a new teacher – available now
- ❖ a **Tag Conversation** and an **Enquiry** both focused on attendance – available now/shortly
- ❖ an **Interview** and a **Roundtable** which reflect on our summer conference and what is to follow this year – available later this week.

You should be able to listen to the content (see below) on any device, including a phone, so do let us know if you have any issues. In the opening week or so of term, we have disabled the need to log in to listen – but we will contact subscribers during this time to make sure everyone has an account set up so that they can access locked content.



Resources

**What advice would you give a new teacher?**
Community of Practice for ECTs • 3 September 2026

This is our first piece of digital content. It is a Community of Practice where Sheffield school leaders offer advice to ECTs. Thanks to the school leaders who contributed. Abstract background music by hifijohn -- <https://freesound.org/s/245585/> -- License: Attribution 3.0

▶ 0:00 / 5:03

**What interesting attendance practice have you seen?**
Attendance tag conversation • 3 September 2026

In this tag conversation we asked the Learn Sheffield Improvement Partner team to share interesting examples of attendance practice that they have seen settings use to improve attendance. Abstract background music by hifijohn -- <https://freesound.org/s/245585/> -- License: Attribution 3.0

▶ 0:00 / 7:30

As part of this work, connected to the Insights Hub (below) we will also be developing some virtual focus groups to enable us to capture the professional voices of leaders, teachers and others. Look out for the emails about this in the coming days.

● Learn Sheffield Insights Hub

The projects that are developing in the Insights Hub to support the four priorities will be moving across to this part of the website over the coming weeks.



[About Us](#) [Learn Sheffield Insights Hub](#) [Book & Access Content/CPD](#) [LS Education Services](#) [Partners](#) [Projects](#) [Sign In](#)

Insights Hub Overview	Learn Sheffield Publications	Insights Hub Partners
Insight Hub Priorities	Priority 1: Educational Outcomes	Priority 2: Successful Childhoods
Priority 3: Lived Experience	Priority 4: Sheffield City Goals	Insights Hub Events

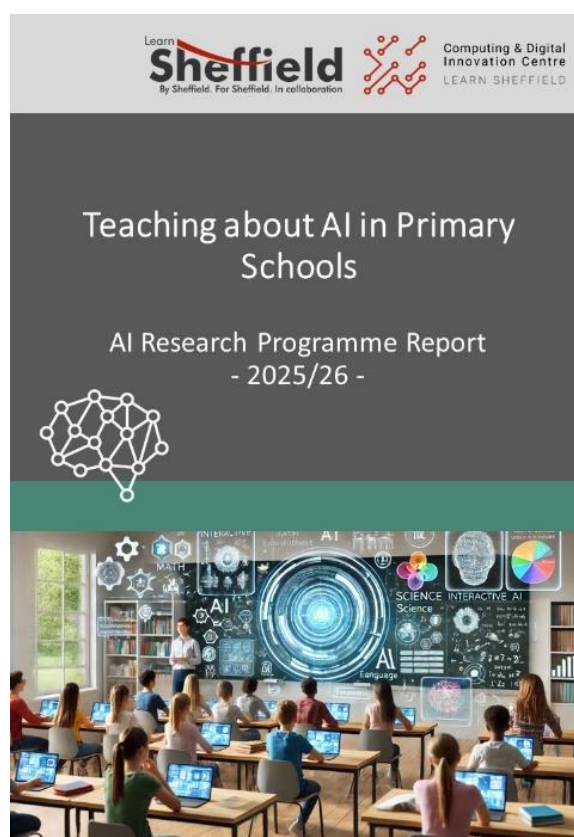
The 2026/27 Insights Hub projects will provide opportunities for Sheffield settings but also need the support of colleagues:



- To develop new ways to capture and share professional voices
- To support the development of the Outcomes Framework by collecting the voice of all Y5s & Y8s using SenseMaker
- Developing the use of SenseMaker more widely across a range of projects, including some in neighbourhoods
- Using the poverty proofing tools from Children North East to develop our approach to understanding the impact of poverty on our school communities – including starting to explore things which mitigate the impact
- Healthy Child Development – as we trial and develop resources
- To develop a new approach to research through collaboration and innovation supported by SenseMaker.

• AI Research Programme

First year reports on both AI research projects, with findings and recommendations based on action research conducted in Sheffield schools, will be published later this month.



Spaces still available on both 2026-27 projects - for more information or to get involved, email cdicentre@learnsheffield.co.uk

- **Partner Updates: Sheffield City Council**

- **Early Years Service**

Learn Sheffield is now contributing to the SCC Early Years traded service – this includes hosting the information online: <https://www.learnsheffield.co.uk/Partners/Early-Years/CPD-Training-and-School-Support>



We hope that this development will make the offer to settings more coherent. The new SCC commission for Learn Sheffield also now includes the programme of networks and forums for school leaders and those involved in governance – this removes any cost to settings.

- **Smartphone-Free Childhood**

SCC is supporting a 'Smartphone-Free Childhood' letter to settings to support communication with parents and carers. Learn Sheffield is planning some digital content later this term which explores the context and issues for educators and families.

- **Public Health Updates**

Colleagues should have received the two updates below, from Sheffield Public Health, but are reshared here. It is important that colleagues in each setting are aware of the information.

[Health Protection Briefing](#) and [Measles Information](#)



• Sheffield Young Carers – ‘Our School Cares’ Programme

This fully funded programme provides bespoke training, practical tools and ongoing specialist support to help schools identify and support young carers, improving attendance, attainment and wellbeing while meeting statutory expectations.

To have a conversation about how this could work in your setting or across your group of settings, contact Shuna Beckett (Education Development Lead) shuna.beckett@sycp.org.uk / 07923 254043.

THEY CARE. DO YOU?

SHEFFIELD YOUNG CARERS

Invitation to CEOs and Leaders of Multi Academy Trusts

Begin a conversation with Sheffield Young Carers about joining Year 3 of the **Our School Cares** programme and access free bespoke training and support for staff across your MATs in 2027.

This fully funded programme provides bespoke training, practical tools and ongoing specialist support to help schools identify and support young carers, improving attendance, attainment and wellbeing while meeting statutory expectations.

Young carers may provide practical, personal, physical or emotional care to a loved one with either a long-term illness, physical or learning disability, mental health difficulties, or alcohol or substance misuse issues. Many remain hidden from support.

- Identification and support for young carers is an expected standard in the Ofsted framework (since 2025)

Young carers are a specifically named group in:

- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2026)
- Working Together to improve school attendance (July 2026)

Our School Cares is a tried and tested programme

Across 10 supported schools in Sheffield between 2022-25:

-  There was a 268% increase in the number of young carers identified
-  Attendance improved for 56% of young carers
-  Attainment improved for 27% of young carers

Free support includes:

 Staff training
  High quality resources
  Ongoing specialist advice
  Stronger outcomes for young carers



Book a meeting to discuss how this could work across your schools:

Shuna Beckett, Education Development Lead
shuna.beckett@sycp.org.uk | 07923 254043

1 in 10 pupils are likely to be young carers yet 88% of young carers remain unidentified in Sheffield

46% of young carers are persistently absent at secondary school

Young carers in Sheffield are 9% less likely to meet the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in Key Stage 2 and are 12.3% less likely to achieve 5 or more Level 2 GCSE passes

“Without the support from Sheffield Young Carers to set up our young carers identification process and make use of the resources available, we wouldn’t be able to support as many young carers as we do.”
 Young Carer Lead, Handsworth Grange Community Sports College (where 161 young carers were identified in 2025-26).

• SEND Update

The **Sheffield SEND Local Area Partnership Update** will follow as a separate recording in the next few days. Improving SEND Communication is a key priority for the partnership in 2026/27.

This will also include improved **SEND Education communications and events**, which will include:

- ❖ Termly in-person development sessions for SENCOs
- ❖ Monthly partnership SEND newsletter for education
- ❖ Half-termly Locality SENCO meetings (at Learn Sheffield)
- ❖ Locality SEND meetings (within the structures of each locality)



• RSHE Update

Primary colleagues received an email and letter in the summer term about the Sheffield Primary RSHE Curriculum, which is being updated to incorporate the new statutory guidance (from September 2026) plus consultation and training.

This work is slightly delayed with information to follow about what is available, when the rest will follow and what consultation activity will be happening.

If you have any questions about this contact Learn Sheffield or Sue Finnigan directly:

sue.finnigan@learnsheffield.co.uk

• Learn Sheffield & Sheffield Theatres: Shakespeare for Sheffield Workshops

Sheffield Theatres and Learn Sheffield have partnered to bring you a choice of workshops that bring Shakespeare's language, themes and dramatic approach to storytelling to life. The workshops offer students the opportunity to engage with the power of live performance and relate this to their lived experiences. Three different workshop options are available:



Power Play: Romeo & Juliet and Macbeth combined

- Aimed primarily at KS3 students - exploring contemporary themes of power and identity in *Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet*.
- A standalone workshop at your school led by a professional actor and teacher-facilitator from Sheffield Theatres.

Twelfth Night: Two options available

- Unlocking Twelfth Night: suitable for KS3, KS4 and KS5
- Accompany seeing Twelfth Night with a pre-show page-to-stage workshop at the Crucible with the cast and production team.
- Unpicking Twelfth Night: suitable for KS3, KS4 and KS5
- Accompany seeing Twelfth Night with a post-show follow-up workshop at your school with a teacher-facilitator from Sheffield Theatres.

More information is being shared by email, including workshops aims, key dates and information about costs, discounts and bursary support available for eligible schools. The partner consultants on this project are Sarah Hubbard (Learn Sheffield) and Dr Ursula Clayton (Assistant Professor in Early Modern and Shakespeare Studies at University of Warwick).

Further information can also be found on Sheffield Theatres' website for information on how to book: [Shakespeare for Sheffield | Sheffield Theatres](#)

If you wish to discuss the workshops, please contact Samuel Erskine at Sheffield Theatres: s.erskine@sheffieldtheatres.co.uk

• Learn Sheffield Communications

The Learn Sheffield website contains all of our most recent communications, including the quick links on the homepage: www.learnsheffield.co.uk to some of the above and our recent publications.



This is also where you can find links to our most recent communications, including the latest Opportunities Bulletin: [Learn Sheffield Opportunities - September](#)