

PROJECT BRIEF FOR HILLINGDON EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP DEVELOPMENT REVIEW

Isos Partnership have been commissioned to undertake a review of current education partnership working in Hillingdon to help to develop a well-structured and sustainable education partnership moving forward that can secure better educational outcomes for children and young people within the borough. This briefing note sets out more details of what Isos Partnership plan to do and how schools will be consulted and engaged in the work.

Background to the review

There are a number of partnership structures in place in Hillingdon. These include:

- The Strategic Schools Partnership Board which is intended to be the key liaison point between the local authority and representatives of the school sector in the borough
- The secondary heads association (HASH), which is open to all secondary heads and which counts around 13 of the secondary heads as active members
- The Primary Forum which is open to all primary heads with a large number – but not all - participating
- The LLE network which is the forum for the existing LLEs and teaching school provision in the borough that has a focus upon providing school-to-school support

The review will look at these existing partnership structures and consider what is working well currently that we should be looking to build on as well as any gaps or weaknesses in the current partnership model. Feedback from the groups above have already identified two consistent themes that the review will seek to address. The first is a sense of frustration or weariness with the quality of the partnerships that currently exists, both between the borough and schools and in some important respects between schools themselves. The second is a real desire to play a part in developing a wide ranging and deep partnership to ensure schools are able to draw support from each other and the borough thus supporting their own improvement for the benefit of their communities.

How will schools be engaged in the review?

Isos Partnership have been asked to assess the appetite amongst key school stakeholders for the development of stronger partnership working within the borough and understand what schools think the scope of such a partnership should be (for example, would it just be school improvement, or would it draw in wider strategic issues such as alternative provision).

Isos Partnership have also been asked to draw on their learning from other education partnerships in other local areas to help us think through what model of partnership working might work best for Hillingdon. Isos will provide options and recommendations for the development of the partnership including proposals around governance and the partnership service offer and the financial implications of different options.

School leaders will be engaged and consulted throughout the review, so the proposals are developed and tested iteratively. The aim is to get this right but also to move forward quickly so we can start implementing any recommendations during the next academic year.

Set out below is an overview of how Isos Partnership plan to engage school leaders and governors over the coming months:

- **Short survey of all school leaders and chairs of governors to be completed by June 18th.** Isos Partnership will send out the survey to seek views on current partnership structures and the support available to schools and priorities for future partnership development. Schools will respond directly to Isos Partnership.
- **Workshops with sample of school leaders from all phases during June** to further test and assess views on current partnership structures and priorities for future development. Isos Partnership have asked HASH and Primary Forum to support them in identifying volunteers to participate in these workshops.
- **Conference for all Headteachers to share the initial findings and recommendations** from the review in July and discuss and agree proposed options and models for partnership working moving forward.
- **Development of more detailed plans and proposals during the Autumn term.** Dependent on agreement to proposals around any new partnership model Isos will then want to develop and agree more detailed proposals for the new partnership model during the Autumn Term and seek to test and agree these with school leaders.

Role of the Steering Group

The review will be overseen and managed by a steering group with the following membership representing the different groups within the current education partnership:

- Nigel Clemens (HASH)
- Duncan Greig (Primary Forum)
- Andrew Wilcock (LLE Group)
- Abi Preston (Head of Education Improvement and Partnerships, Local Authority)
- Adrian Percival (Strategic Education Lead, Local Authority)

Each of the groups above are also contributing funding to meeting the costs of the review.

About Isos Partnership

Isos Partnership is a research and advisory organisation, specialising in working in education and children's services. Isos Partnership have significant and wide-ranging experience of working at a local level to support the development of local education partnerships, working in partnership with school leaders and local authorities, in a range of different contexts. In the last five years they have supported the development of local education partnerships in the following local areas: Bexley, Camden, East Sussex, Essex, Gloucestershire, Haringey, Milton Keynes, North Yorkshire, Poole and Surrey. Isos Partnership have also undertaken a number of influential national research projects into the development of local education systems and the changing role of the local authority. The most recent of these for the Local Government Association in 2017 looked at the development of local education systems and identified nine key conditions for successful partnership working – see the final report [here](#).

If you have any questions about this review please contact Simon Day at simon.day@isospartnership.com.