

Next Practice in System Leadership – Practitioner Profile

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1. Please give a brief outline of the System Leadership project that you're involved with.

We are currently considering the formation of a Trust involving 23 schools, which focuses on students' progression and care, and therefore acts as a brokerage service for all of the agencies that could make that successful.

2. What is your role?

At the moment, I am 'championing' the Trust and trying to pull all of the heads and governing bodies together.

3. What is most exciting to you about the work that you're involved in?

The chance to take a blank piece of paper and design a system that is focused on the child rather than on buildings or staff. The potential for different forms of leadership is very exciting.

4. We're interested in issues of governance and leadership. What, if any, formal structures have you put in place, and how did you decide on this model?

We are looking at forming a formal Trust because this is the model that best serves the number and diversity of schools in the area.

5. What do you see as the key challenges for your partnership at the moment, and how are you setting about overcoming them?

The key challenge is persuading people that students and their progress are more important than power, institutions and buildings. Collective benefit linked to collective and local accountability.

6. If you are as successful as you hope to be, what changes will there be in 12 months' time, and what difference might that make for young people?

The Trust will be in existence and a plan for transformation of the system will exist.

7. If you could give advice to others working on a similar project, what would it be?

- Find other champions to support you
- Recognise that other leaders will be needed once the system has been changed
- Believe in what you are doing and remember that it's grounded in moral imperative

8. What are your passions outside of work?

Rugby (coaching and watching), reading (about organizations and leadership and novels and trash!), my family.