

Ipswich Opportunity Area Summer Term Newsletter

Edition 2 – May 2018

Ipswich



Introduction

We've been incredibly busy implementing the delivery plan and its testament to the hard work, commitment and investment of all our schools, stakeholders and colleagues that we have been able to be where we are in a short space of time.

We would like to say a big thank you to you all for your continued support and we hope this is the start of a long term partnership.

Look out for the  symbol in this newsletter for funding opportunities.

Vision

All young people in Ipswich are happy, confident, ambitious and flexible lifelong learners.

We want to ensure all young people can fulfil their potential and access the opportunities available to them regardless of their background.

In this issue

Launch of the Workforce

Development Strategy: Top-up funding and support to enable every school to develop their education professionals



Facilitating Links: £50,000 allocated to fund visits to schools outside of Ipswich and share best practice



Improving transitions: Tenders soon to be released to support disadvantaged pupils moving to secondary school and college in September 2018



Ipswich Evidence Based Practice Fund: Second round open!



Improving communications between schools and parents: A call for schools to get involved in fully funded trials



Meet the Partnership Board:

Read our deep dive with the Volunteering Matters Regional Head



Priority 1: Skills to learn

■ Activity underway

In the last newsletter we were just going out to tender for delivery partners for some key activity.

THE BEHAVIOURAL INSIGHTS TEAM

We are delighted to be working with the Behavioural Insights Team, to develop our **parenting support programme** and will be going out to tender for the delivery partner for the intensive support for our most vulnerable families during the Summer Term.



We also have contracted with the National Literacy Trust and Easy Peasy to develop our **programme to support our early year's practitioners** to strengthen their skills to support young children to develop the skills they need to learn for life. Look out in the coming months for this opportunity for your nursery and/or early year's foundation teachers. All settings will be fully funded to receive this training for a maximum of two practitioners.



GET INVOLVED:

Improving communications and partnerships with schools and parents. We are keen to ensure that we enable schools and parents to work together to create a holistic approach to children and young people's learning.

We will be collaborating with a delivery partner to help us trial some approaches across Ipswich to see what will make the most impact.

We are keen to hear from any settings; early years, nursery, primary, secondary, post 16, SEND or Alternative Provision who would like to take part in these trials.

If you want to find out more or **express your interest** to be involved, please contact Katrina: k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk

■ Out to tender

We are soon to tender for a partner to increase the participation in Youth Social Action across the town, see www.suffolksourcing.uk for more information.

Priority 2: Strengthen the teaching profession in Ipswich by providing world-class support and development

Launch of the Workforce Development Strategy

We want every educational professional in Ipswich to access high quality CPD so that:

- They become more skilled practitioners (leading to improved outcomes for pupils, measured through progress and attainment)
- They are able to lead fulfilling careers within Ipswich
- Ipswich is seen as a destination of teaching excellence and a place where education professionals are valued and developed.

We will be commissioning a partner to design an audit template for education settings supports senior leaders to analyse the development needs of their education workforce and formulate this into a plan for addressing those needs.

Settings will be allocated funding to use to implement this plan.

Look out for more news on the fund and the partner in the coming months.

■ National Professional Qualifications

Many existing and aspiring school leaders in Ipswich have already registered to access a **fully funded National Professional Qualification (NPQ)** course.

Fully funded NPQ's are open to all teachers and senior leaders within the Ipswich Opportunity Area where the NPQ will meet a development need. They are aimed at those who would like further development to be a high performing middle or senior leader.

A full list of the NPQ providers can be found **here**.

If you would like any further information about how you or a member of your staff can benefit from this offer, then please do not hesitate to contact Katrina: k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk

Priority 3: Improve attainment for disadvantaged pupils by embedding evidence based practice in the teaching of English and Maths



APPLICATIONS NOW OPEN

Facilitating Links

We want to enable educational settings to learn from other settings so we are launching **a fund to support groups of schools to visit schools and colleges** in other areas of the country that perform highly in terms of the attainment of disadvantaged pupils; the aim of this is to stimulate long-running and mutually beneficial partnerships.

Funding is available to cover:

- ◆ actual 'reasonable' travel and subsistence costs for visits, for a maximum of three members of staff per school/ college.
- ◆ Actual reasonable costs will also be reimbursed for schools/ colleges outside of the Opportunity Area to make a return visit to the Ipswich school/college.
- ◆ Cover costs for a member of staff from the host school/college to facilitate the visit will also be reimbursed as per Suffolk County Council's set rate.

To access funding, you will need to complete an application form, and after the visit, you will be expected to complete an evaluation form outlining how you will apply the learning from the visit.

For application forms and more information please contact Katrina:
k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk



Evidence Based Practice Fund

Enquiries about the **Evidence Based Practice Fund** have been encouraging and the first round received interesting applications from four schools. Applications included the implementation of THRIVE, using metacognitive and self-regulation skills for improving attainment in English and catch up numeracy and literacy.

We look forward to sharing with you all how these projects are going in future issues of the newsletter.



Reminder:

The **Ipswich Evidence Based Practice Fund** is open to any school which wishes to implement or trial evidence based practice that seeks to increase attainment in English or Maths. Schools can apply for grants of up to £25,000. For more information and a copy of the application form please contact Katrina, **k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk**. Don't forget the Ipswich Research School is on hand to help with your applications! Contact the research school via Eileen Allpress: **eileen.allpress@highfield.suffolk.sch.uk**

The second round of the fund is now open. Applications should be returned to Katrina by Monday 25 June.



Improving Outcomes For Pupils at transition

We are inviting schools or commercial providers to test the types of strategies and programmes outlined in the Department for Education 2017 'Literacy and numeracy catch-up strategies' report to improve outcomes for low-attaining, disadvantaged pupils within the Ipswich Opportunity Area as they **transition to secondary school in September 2018**. We want to test at least two of the approaches in at least six schools in Ipswich. We will then offer successful strategies/ programmes to other Ipswich schools to support the September 2019 transition.

We will also soon release a tender for a Research Partner to work with Suffolk New College and Suffolk One to test the structures that can be put in place to better support disadvantaged pupils transitioning to college in September 2018.

For more information or to express an interest in this opportunity please contact Katrina: **k.gardiner@uos.ac.uk**

Priority 4: Inspire and equip young people with the skills and guidance they need to pursue an ambitious career pathway

■ Opportunity Open for tender — coming soon

We are looking to commission one or two providers to **support young people aged 14-17 who have been identified as being at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training (NEET)**. These projects will run from September 2018. See www.suffolksourcing.uk for more information.

As part of our commitment to provide the strongest possible support to young people, about the full range of their options and what they can do to achieve their goals; we are working with The Careers and Enterprise Company, NEACO and NCS. Here is an example of their activity recently in the Opportunity Area.



Ipswich OA Rate Card Launch Event

On Wednesday 21st March, The Careers & Enterprise Company hosted an event for Schools & Providers to meet and exchange ideas and discuss how they will further spend their allocated funding on the providers.

The main aim of the Opportunity Areas Fund is to scale up existing, effective careers and enterprise programmes and ensure that young people get multiple opportunities to learn from employers through the course of their education. The Careers & Enterprise Catalogue is designed to give schools and colleges in these Opportunity Areas greater choice in selecting programmes that can best meet the needs of their pupils. Schools and colleges have the power to select services that will work best in their community and address gaps in their existing careers and enterprise activity. We have assessed each of the programmes in the Catalogue to ensure they offer high quality and value for money.

Ipswich OA Mentoring Event

Copleston High School hosted their first Mentoring event with business mentors during March, with support from the New Anglia Enterprise Adviser Network. Over 25 business volunteers came out to support 100 pupils during

this crucial period in the lead up to exams, and support post-exams. The aim of the event is to not only support attainment, but to boost aspirations, confidence and communication skills amongst the Year 11's ensuring when they leave Copleston, they are resilient learners.

Andy Green (Vice Principal) and Jordan Holder (Enterprise Coordinator & Governor at Copleston) jointly organised the event and hope to continue the momentum and hold more successful events in the future.

■ Northgate High School Sixth Form student ambassador afternoon



The sixth form ambassador scheme has been running since the beginning of the academic year. It was introduced to provide support to recruitment of local students to encourage continuation of their studies in the sixth form before building and supporting aspiration to higher education. It was also seen as an opportunity for the students to create their own legacy by promoting positive learning, progress into study after school and mentoring of younger students.

Kieran Miles, a young, local entrepreneur and also relevant and relatable to these students was brought in to help with communication skills through public speaking, presentations and general motivation.

Kieran's workshop focused on the power of social and digital medium, public speaking and creating a good first impression.



MEET THE PARTNERSHIP BOARD

In each newsletter we are hoping to find out a bit more about the members of our Partnership Board, for this issue we spoke to **Stephen Skeet, Head of East of England for Volunteering Matters.**

Q1. All a bit blind date, but what's your name and where do you come from? What's your day job, and how long have you been in post?

Stephen Skeet, Ipswich
Head of the East of England,
Volunteering Matters
2 years

Q2. Why did you want to get involved with the Ipswich Opportunity Area, particularly being part of the partnership board? How did you become a member?

Having grown up in the town and worked for statutory and voluntary organisations in Ipswich, predominantly with young people who were experiencing complex and multiple issues, I felt that I had an insight and experience to offer the Opportunity Area. I am passionate about Ipswich and passionate about the experiences of young people growing up in the town and recognised the chance the town had to change its offer and support to young people growing up in Ipswich as a DfE Opportunity Area.

Q3. What do you think you bring to the board?

Firstly, I am one of the Board members that sits outside a formal education setting. I believe that I am able to present a view of young people and families living in Ipswich that is based on their experiences within their wider community. I have worked in roles supporting young people in prison, young people who are homeless, Intensive Family Support Services and young people that have serious mental health concerns and vulnerabilities. All of these young people had experiences and strengths which needs to inform the Board Delivery Plan to ensure that the Opportunity Area reaches the communities that need it the most.

The power of Social Action in social mobility has always been a passion of mine and I have seen it utilised to great effect; whether in supporting young people to build The Mix, a world class youth facility in Stowmarket or developing a nationally recognised domestic abuse toolkit in schools, my role on the Board is to continue to advocate for the role of social action in driving greater aspiration and social mobility for young people in Ipswich.

Q4. Bit of random trivia – if you were on mastermind, what would your specialist subject be? Or which quiz show would you rather be on?

Ipswich Town
American History

Q5. Anything else that you think would be relevant to schools in Ipswich OA?

I would be very keen to hear from schools on how they feel young person led social action and volunteering can play an active role in their attainment and increasing their aspirations.



You can contact Stephen at
Stephen.skeet@volunteeringmatters.org.uk



The National Citizen Service

The National Citizen Service builds essential skills for life and work, investing in our country's future talent – they are working to ensure that more of Ipswich's young people can experience and benefit from this four week programme of personal development and volunteering. For more information on NCS please contact Lauren Ogboru, Innovation Project Manager, laurenogboru@ncstrust.co.uk



The Careers and Enterprise Company

A dedicated Enterprise Coordinator for Ipswich working to ensure that every secondary school and college in Ipswich has access to an Enterprise Advisor. For more information please contact Jordan Holder, Jordan.holder@suffolk.gov.uk



Network for East Anglian Collaborative Outreach

Higher Education Champions work with all Secondary Schools and sixth form colleges and Suffolk New College, delivering a range of targeted activity to years 9-13. For more information please contact Miles Cole, m.cole@uos.ac.uk



Department
for Education

Governance leadership development programme

The programme aims to build the capacity of governance leaders (e.g. chairs, vice chairs, committee chairs) in maintained schools and academies, and support them to improve the effectiveness of their board.

For more information about what training is available and how to apply.

Visit www.gov.uk/guidance/school-governors-professional-development



Breakfast Clubs

If at least 35% of pupils in your school are recorded as eligible for FSM, or 50% as Ever 6 FSM, then you may be eligible to receive support through the new National School Breakfast Scheme.

The Department for Education is funding Family Action, in partnership with Magic Breakfast, to support over 1770 schools in disadvantaged communities, including Opportunity Areas, to improve access to healthy breakfasts and learning. Eligible schools will receive a £500 start-up grant to set up their breakfast club and schools who do not currently have healthy, sustainable breakfasts already in place will receive free breakfasts.

The funding for food is only available until March 2020 – but the Magic Breakfast will work with you to put a longer term, sustainable plan in place.

If your school might like to explore the benefit of removing the hunger barrier to learning for all your pupils, please click for an **expression of interest form**. Further information on the programme is **here** and **here**.