



# Sheaf Co-operative Learning Trust

Annual Report for School Year 2017 to 2018

## **Chairperson's Introduction**

The Sheaf Cooperative Learning Trust (SCLT) was established in 2016 by a number of like-minded school leaders. As the name suggests, SCLT is a cooperative and collaborative arrangement between a number of local primary schools that believe that by working together they can help improve outcomes for all their children. Each of the schools involved have a similar ethos and in many ways have similar characteristics; inner-city schools serving diverse communities whilst facing many familiar challenges in relation to finance, recruitment and retention of staff, old school buildings etc.

SCLT involves Lowfield, Sharrow, Netherthorpe and Springfield primary schools, Broomhill infants school as well as Broomhall Nursery. The Chairs and Headteachers from each of these schools meet together regularly as the 'Board' of the SCLT and work together, trying to identify what is best done collaboratively for the benefit of all the schools involved. The Board recognises that all of the schools are doing well individually and so is determined that the work of the SCLT should add to this and must not be a distraction. Since the SCLT started, we have worked together on things such as sharing best practice in relation to certain curriculum subjects, sharing resources between schools and bidding for funds together.

I have personally been involved in the SCLT from the very beginning and firmly believe in what we are trying to do together - it's exciting. I hope that you find the remainder of this annual report interesting and that it may even stir and interest in you getting involved in some way.

Best wishes,

Colin Havard

## Achievements

During the 2017-18 school year, SCLT did many things, but some of the highlights which probably best illustrate what we are trying to do include -

- The development of a Trust action plan covering the key areas of Assessment, Leadership, Management of School Office and sites, Staff development, and Governance
- For assessment this includes success criteria such as:
  - Development of a shared understanding of age expected levels for writing in Y1, Y3, Y4, Y5
  - Writing in Y2 and Y6 is moderated to ensure accuracy of judgements
  - Standards within Foundation Stage are moderated to ensure accuracy of judgements
- Regular collaboration between the schools' business managers looking to jointly purchase goods and services for all of the schools collectively, thereby saving money.
- Peer assessments of schools whereby headteachers from a couple of schools visit, review and assess agreed aspects of another school's work using a nationally recognised (National Education Trust) approach to the assessments. During the year around half a dozen such assessments have taken place in schools across the SCLT focussing on particular aspects of school business, such as the teaching of Maths, how a broad curriculum is delivered throughout a school, etc. All of the schools involved in these assessments during the course of the year have welcomed and benefited from the process. This represents how the SCLT seeks to actively support the sharing and development of best practice in our schools.
- Collaboration with the Local Authority in relation to the in-year admission of children into schools within the SCLT. In doing this, the schools and the Local Authority are working together to actively try and ensure the best outcomes for children and families whilst also trying to ensure that local schools aren't put under undue pressure to cope with greater numbers of children than they need to.

- In terms of governance development we held a successful 2nd annual gathering of governors from all schools to share experiences whilst also running joint induction training for new governors and developing a common approach to the opportunities / challenges of MATs

### **Financial information**

SCLT does not currently have a bank account or formally spend any money and so no accounts have been produced to date.

### **Legal information**

SCLT was constituted as a company limited by guarantee on 15th August 2015, company number 09734621.

The formal members of the Trust are Sharrow Primary, Broomhill Infants, Netherthorpe Primary, Springfield Primary, and Lowfield Primary. Broomhall Nursery are currently associate members while they assess the benefit of becoming full members and so the current officers are:

Evelyn Abram (Head, Sharrow)  
Liz Gray (Head, Netherthorpe)  
Derek Grover (Chair, Broomhill)  
Colin Havard (Independent Chair of Trust)  
Chris Holder (Head, Lowfield)  
Ghazala Hussain (Cahir, Lowfield)  
Linda Joseph (Head, Springfield)

Mike Patterson (Chair, Springfield)  
Emily Pickles (Chair, Sharrow)  
Kath Rangely (Chair, Netherthorpe)  
Catherine Timbers (Head, Broomhill)

### **Looking Ahead**

Everyone involved with the SCLT is concerned about many of the challenges facing our schools in the months and years ahead, but we remain optimistic that together we will stand a much better chance of overcoming the challenges. In that respect, we are planning to build upon the good work that was done over the last year (such as the peer assessment activity) and to add to this by looking into what else we might usefully do to support the work of our schools. Some of the ideas that the SCLT is looking into include -

- Raising money for the schools by fundraising activities including bidding to charitable foundations and trusts
- Developing common approaches to GDPR
- Possibilities for sharing some staff roles across schools
- Attracting new governors