



Lead practitioners help to develop teachers, and teaching, in schools across Coventry

[Blue Sky Teaching School Alliance](#) became involved with the Lead Practitioner Accreditation in 2015 to support the development of the schools across the City of Coventry.

Leanne Casey, Deputy Head of St Michael's Primary Academy, was one of the first cohort members for the alliance to undertake the LP accreditation. She undertook the accreditation as she knew it would add weight to and enhance her SLE role, and allow her to work with a more outward facing agenda upon completion.

As a cohort from across the alliance they worked in small groups to identify work where they had or could collaborate on to use as the evidence within the accreditation, such as projects within the teaching school drivers (the Big 6 aims) and within the schools SIP (Maths subject knowledge) .

LPs provide coaching across the alliance

Across the cohort, many LPs had the opportunity to strengthen their experience of coaching and developing staff within their own setting and by becoming involved with school to school support within the TSA. The lasting legacy of one such project was an initiative to research, experiment with, model and train a Singapore Maths approach with a view to developing a cluster of schools' maths provision. The approach is now embedded in a number of schools in Coventry. In addition to this many LPs were supported by the TSA to develop their skills in delivering professional development in English, Maths and the city NQT programme. A number of the cohort also supported the CHIP programme designed to induct new Headteachers in the city. Throughout the support process, delegates also used the support provided by the group to peer review and audit each other's applications before submission.

The main outcome of the LP cohort for the alliance was to establish a professional network that would work collaboratively across the city, which although still in its infancy will be really beneficial not only to individual schools but to the city of Coventry.

When asked what Leanne was most proud of, she said "The impact of the Subject Knowledge Enhancement course was evident. It was amazing to see so many people working together and strengthening the maths provision within the school."

Support for all lead practitioners

The challenge for any cross-cluster cohort, such as a TSA, is to provide the right level of support for all LPs to ensure, regardless of the seniority of their role in school, they are able to be involved in projects which will allow them to have an impact they can evidence. However this is a challenge that the Blue Sky TSA are working on in collaboration with Castle Phoenix TSA; a working group has been established to strengthen the programme looking specifically at developing differing levels of support with a view to establishing a second cohort in September 2017.

Blue Sky Teaching School alliance's vision is to set up a group of lead practitioners across the city to learn from each other's expertise and support each other school to school.