



Winter Think Tank

Self-improvement in children's services: emerging practice

24th - 25th January 2018

The Manor House Hotel, Moreton-in-Marsh, Gloucestershire, GL56 0LJ.

The Staff College Think Tanks bring together Directors, their direct reports and others in senior leadership positions across the public sector to exchange practice and reflect upon and seek solutions to the challenges they face.

The themes this year will provide the opportunity to reflect on both education and children's social care.

PROGRAMME OUTLINE

DAY 1: THE CHALLENGES AND BENEFITS OF THE SEND REFORMS

Reforms introduced in 2014 were to be a once in a generation opportunity to change the way in which we work together, include children and young people with SEN and their families in decisions made about them and help them to achieve the best possible outcomes. However, implementation has been a difficult process. Whilst co-participation with families has been welcomed and improved integration with health a positive outcome in some areas, all too often, opportunities to find new and innovative solutions have been squeezed out by technical changes and rising demand. LAs are experiencing an increase in requests for assessment and in the numbers of pupils requiring an EHC plan to help them to achieve their potential. At the same time, exclusions from school for pupils with SEND has been highlighted by Ofsted as a cause for concern. Other examples such as *the single route of redress* is potentially just one more burden placed on LAs and their partners.

Improving support for children and young people with SEND is first and foremost a leadership challenge and, vitally important though they are, focusing purely on technical changes cannot deliver the systems change we need to see. The think tank will explore the challenges and benefits of the reforms from a leadership perspective to inform a thematic Think Piece for sharing across the children's services sector.

DAY 2: PROGRESS TOWARDS A SECTOR-LED IMPROVEMENT MODEL

The second day will broaden and deepen the discussion about sector-led improvement that started at the summer think tank. There is strong evidence that where local authorities value sector-led improvement, it works; with significant emerging evidence that sector-led support for councils in intervention is resulting in sustained improvement. We are beginning to see authorities which have been judged by Ofsted to be Inadequate move to Requires Improvement or Good with many more demonstrating improvement through monitoring visits, and through the Partner in Practice model (Kingston and Richmond / Isle of White and Hampshire / Lincolnshire and Rotherham).

The think tank will consider the progress achieved so far by the regional sector-led improvement pilots, allow participants to gain an early insight into the emerging learning and provide the opportunity to work on a possible RIA data set which will inform the self-assessment element of the RIA model. In addition, the role of other partners within any sector led improvement model will also be explored. The outputs of this second day will inform the discussion on the final RIA model at the ADCS annual policy residential in February 2018.



COST

Subscribing local authorities are entitled to one place for the DCS or their nominee free of charge on either of the Summer or Winter Think Tanks. A reduced rate also applies to any additional places for subscribing LA employees, to find out more please [click here](#).

For non-subscribing local authorities the following charges apply:

Attendance	Price
Full attendance both days of the think tank, inclusive of dinner, bed and breakfast at the venue	£385+VAT
One day attendance - Wednesday 24th January excluding dinner, bed and breakfast	£140 +VAT
One day attendance - Thursday 25th January excluding dinner, bed and breakfast	£140 +VAT
Wednesday attendance including dinner attendance on 24th January, excluding bed and breakfast	£185 +VAT
Wednesday attendance including dinner, bed and breakfast attendance on Wednesday 24th January, including dinner, bed and breakfast for the evening of 24th January	£265+VAT
Thursday attendance including dinner, bed and breakfast attendance on Thursday 25th January, including dinner, bed and breakfast for the evening of 24th January	£265+VAT
Thursday attendance including bed and breakfast attendance on Thursday 25th January, including bed and breakfast for the evening of 24th January	£220+VAT

HOW TO BOOK

Places on the think tank are limited and are allocated on a first come, first served basis. To book a place please complete the [booking form](#) and return to Jessica.Drummond@thestaffcollege.uk.

Please note: This event is subject to our cancellation policy, which can be found [here](#).