

The Ego has landed

“The Ego has Landed” was the headline in The Guardian marking the arrival of Donald Trump into the UK. The “Great Disruptor” after issuing broadsides to Germany and Europe has wasted no time in telling Theresa May what he thinks of her approach to Brexit, lauding Boris Johnson’s Prime Ministerial qualities and deriding the Mayor of London’s ability to run our capital city. You do wonder quite how Theresa May will be reflecting on her desperate rush to be one of the first leaders to meet Trump following his election and indeed to issue this invitation for his current visit!



But it would also seem that you don’t need to be loud and brash to capture your fair share of newspaper headlines and the contrast between Gareth Southgate and Donald Trump is quite a stark one. The qualities of leadership that Southgate has demonstrated over the last month have been hugely impressive exuding a calmness, clarity of purpose, a humble approach that looks to praise those around him for their efforts whilst accepting his own accountability. A good lesson for us all, although personally I am not so sure about the waistcoat! The World Cup hasn’t ended in triumph for England but frankly given recent tournaments to go and win four matches even if they included Panama and Tunisia provided some welcome national cheerfulness as a buffer against Brexit turmoil as I am sure President Trump would say.

The calm purposeful leadership, a la Gareth Southgate, has been on display over the last couple of weeks in our own Children and Young Peoples Service. We have been subject to one of the national Ofsted unannounced inspections of our Children’s Services. These are major events which look at how well you are dealing with better safety and outcomes for vulnerable young people and are always faced with some trepidation because of their rigour and uncompromising nature. Two weeks ago eight inspectors descended upon the Council and visited all parts of North Yorkshire meeting staff within CYPS, sitting next to social workers and looking into literally 100s of cases. Every aspect of our safeguarding work was examined. The initial feedback that we have had is more than positive and we have quite a number of stories of how inspectors were overwhelmed by the quality of the people working in these areas and the outcomes that they are producing for families and young people in North Yorkshire. We have to wait a few weeks before we get the official verdict from the Inspection but I think we have every reason to believe that it will paint a really optimistic picture for young people in North Yorkshire and how their lives are improved by the impressive quality of the staff who work on these issues at the County Council. My thanks to everybody who was involved in the inspection.

Finally, if we are talking about impressive people then a highlight of my last week came last Friday at the annual conference of our Local Enterprise Partnership when the show was absolutely stolen by two fabulous apprentices from Dale Power, a company just outside Scarborough.



These were Hannah McGowan, advanced apprentice and Natasha Pitts, electrical design engineer.

The youngest of the two was just 19 and described to an audience of over 250 people how she was setting out on a career in electrical engineering and how together they were challenging many of the stereotypes of engineers and also going around schools to encourage other girls and young women but also boys and young men that apprenticeships with local companies is a valid and fulfilling career opportunity. The calm, confident assuredness of these two young leaders of the future definitely struck me to be much more Gareth Southgate than Donald Trump!

Best wishes,

Richard