

Stuart Carlton
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Service

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Contact: Stuart Carlton

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Dear Colleague

County-wide education partnership

Over the past few months I have been working with colleagues in schools and across the Council to ensure that we can build upon North Yorkshire schools' undoubted success, build upon their strengths and together address the challenges that we face. I have been keen to maintain the support that is provided to maintained schools, continue to develop a sector-led school improvement model and move to yet stronger, professional relationships with Teaching School Alliances, Diocese, Academies and Multi Academy Trusts. In short to develop a strong North Yorkshire education partnership. We are continuing to explore the establishment of a county wide body that would be able to act as an advocate for all schools, academies and settings and inform all our work as we seek to make North Yorkshire "England's greatest classroom" and the place where all children achieve and enjoy a happy and health childhood.

As you are aware there are significant funding challenges for the LA, as nationally. These relate especially in regard to pressures from increasing numbers of children with complex SEND: we have and we will continue to respond to these pressures. At the same time the Council is committed to ensuring that all the county's schools and academies are as strong as they possibly can be and it will continue to invest in schools and school improvement.

Head of School Improvement

In this context we have decided to secure the leadership of school improvement within the county by creating a Head of School Improvement Service post from within the School Improvement Team thereby ensuring that the Council's role as a lead strategist can be effective. This was put to an internal ring fence of Principal Officers and I am pleased to announce that Andy Lancashire was appointed to this post with effect from 1 November 2017. I know that Andy has a very strong track record as a Headteacher himself. He also has a wealth of experience at strategically leading effective school improvement, he knows North Yorkshire well and he is totally committed to the work of the county's schools. I am sure you will join me in congratulating him as he sets about this work in earnest.

Andy will now be looking to shape up the School Improvement Service to ensure that it develops further in the strongest possible partnership with the Teaching School Alliances, Multi Academy Trusts, Dioceses, Ofsted, universities and the RSC.

Assistant Director Education and Skills

In the next few days I will also be starting the recruitment for the post of Assistant Director for Education and Skills. This will be advertised nationally for starting at Easter. This is the post currently held by Paul Brennan who was recruited to the role to manage transition at a time of substantial leadership change within Children's Services as Carolyn Bird, Jill Hodges and latterly Pete Dwyer retired from the Council. It was planned by the Council to enable me to recruit a new Assistant Director at an appropriate time for the service and once I was established in post. Paul and I believe that the role of the Local Authority is now more secure and that this is a good time to recruit to this post. North Yorkshire will undoubtedly attract a strong national field and I would be very interested in discussing applications from serving headteachers and principals who would be interested in a challenge such as this. I am really pleased that Paul will be with us until such time as we have secured a strong new Assistant Director, but I also wish him well as he looks to retire after 37 years in education.

Finally please accept my sincere thanks for all that you are doing for our county's children. If you wish to discuss any aspect of this letter please don't hesitate to get in touch with me directly.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Dwyer', written in a cursive style.

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