



**Welcome**

Welcome to the second edition of the SWLSEP newsletter.

The purpose of this newsletter is to raise the profile of SWLSEP across the six SWLSEP local authorities.

*'Brighton in the snow at the Aspiring Heads conference'*



**Our successes and our challenges**

Dear colleagues,

I'm delighted to write to you as the Chair of the SWLSEP Management Group. As one of those who was there right at the start of SWLSEP it has been fantastic to watch and participate in the development of our partnership over the last four years.

Our mission, *'This partnership allows individual southwest London authorities to build their capacity for school improvement, through co-operation and joint project work'*, is being achieved on an ever larger scale.

Across our boroughs of Croydon, Kingston, Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth, and with our associate the Anglican Diocese of Southwark, we are working in a whole variety of informal partnerships to enable us to offer the highest quality of school improvement services to our schools. We have seen particular successes in our work in governance, 14-19 developments, SIPs, succession planning and CPD. Much of the work in SWLSEP has been exceptional and has paved the way for us to work more creatively, effectively and efficiently across a number of areas. SWLSEP is considered by most organisations to be **the** effective School Improvement Partnership in London.

Two of the latest initiatives: those of Narrowing the Gap and SIP trialling are being supported by

considerable funding from the DCSF and City Challenge. These recognise the unique position of SWLSEP representing, as it does, almost a fifth of London authorities. At the same time we are exploring a stronger association with specialist schools and Academies Trust with a view to delivering a wider CPD offer.

The next few years are going to see some of the tightest budgets local authorities have ever seen but in SWLSEP we are already working on more innovative ways of work. We are well placed to continue to provide high quality support to schools and settings in our own authorities and beyond.

On behalf of the Management Group I thank all colleagues, whether from local authorities, schools or many of our other partners, for their support and determination in providing first rate support for our children and young people.

Peter Simpson  
Executive Head of School Improvement,  
London Borough of Sutton  
Chair, SWLSEP Management Group.



# News and events

## Aspiring Heads Conference

Despite adverse weather conditions, over 40 aspiring headteachers attended a two day conference in Brighton on 6 and 7 January. The snow meant that two presenters were unable to come, and only three participants failed to make the journey to the south. The programme for the conference included workshops on managing difficult people, managing a school budget, and preparation for interview. The governance group presented 'Working with Parents'. Both the C of E and RC diocesan boards were represented and delivered a workshop on 'Working in a Faith School'. Viv Grant from Integrity Coaching delivered a session on working with BME staff. The days were full but time was given for networking and feedback from the conference was excellent. A 'follow up' session is being planned, which will cover issues such as working with the SLT, putting vision into practice and delivering presentations. Those with NPQH will also have the opportunity to undertake practice interviews.

## Becoming a Coaching School Conference

Wandsworth authority hosted a successful conference on becoming a coaching school on 8 February 2010. The day was led by Glyn Rawlins, National College consultant and director of Third Field Coaching. The importance of coaching in promoting learning and building capacity has been increasingly recognised as a key factor in securing school improvement. The event was planned to enable school leaders to audit their own

expertise in this area, and that of their staff, and consider ways in which coaching could be further developed, including pupil-to-pupil coaching.

In the afternoon, workshops included developing individuals coaching skills and finding out about the learning journey of one of our special schools, Paddock, in becoming a coaching school.

## SIPs Conference

The third Annual SWLSEP SIP Conference was held on Friday 22 January at the Charing Cross Hotel, London. Fifty eight SIPs who work in schools in Merton, Kingston, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth attended. This year Croydon attended as observers because they had already organised a CPD event for their SIPs but in the future they will be fully represented at the conference.

The focus for the morning was the SIP's role in supporting schools in narrowing the gap in educational performance between pupils from more or less deprived backgrounds. Patrick Leeson, Development Director (Education and Care) Ofsted addressed the meeting on this subject and two schools outlined their work in this area.

In the afternoon, Linda Kennedy, Assistant Director, Raising Standards Division, DCSF spoke about the new role envisaged for SIPs by the Government and talked through the various issues about the role of SIPs that are currently being consulted upon by DCSF. The evaluations from the conference were extremely positive. This event has become well established as a key part of the professional development of SIPs across SWLSEP.

## Upcoming SWLSEP events

9 July

SWLSEP 14-19 Conference, Sandown Park

## Contact information

Please see the [SWLSEP website](#) for further information and opportunities.

For any queries on SWLSEP, email [Mike Smith](#), SWLSEP website Lead Officer.

## Glossary

**CPD** Continuing Professional Development

**SIPs** School improvement partners

**DCSF** Department for Children, Schools and Families

**BME** Black Minority Ethnic

**SLT** Senior Leadership Team

**NPQH** National Professional Qualification for Headship