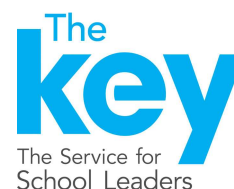


Enabling local authorities to focus support for schools



Durham County Council works closely with The Key by providing all its new heads with free access to The Key and offering subsidised access to other schools in the area.

08000 89 00 52
www.usethekey.org.uk
enquiries@usethekey.org.uk

Phil Hodgson, Durham's Senior Lead on CPD Development, talks about how the relationship with The Key has worked and plans for the future.

He said: "The decision to get involved was, for me, a no-brainer. At the touch of a button a school leader can access information which would take hours to search for independently. I can only speak in the most positive terms about The Key.

"Everyone who has used the service here, both in schools and within the Education Development Service speaks very highly of it. Our local authority advisers have read-only access to The Key's website, which is very useful.

"The information offered through The Key gives a balanced view. It's very refreshing, when usually you only find information which is coloured by a particular perspective.

"It was obvious when I first met with The Key that the service was fiercely independent and wasn't going to be toeing a party line.

"We've made sure our schools are aware of it through information on our extranet, posters and literature in our training rooms, and various events where our school leaders can meet researchers from The Key.

"I stay up to date with the service through regular activity reports provided by my account manager at The Key showing the interests of Durham school leaders. It's useful to see Durham's data in comparison to the national picture.

"I also sit on The Key's partnership board and get the chance to give my opinions on the future direction of The Key.

"In the future I see local authorities having less and less of a role in signposting school leaders to information, and instead concentrating their resources on providing tailored support on more complex issues.

"Over the next few years the challenge for all of us in education will be to maintain services while budgets are cut to the bone. This is why The Key fits so well. It allows local authorities to deliver support which needs to be provided in person locally, and takes on all the information-finding tasks which can be provided just as well, if not better, nationally."



Phil Hodgson,
Durham's Senior Lead CPD
Development

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The Key is an independent service that supports school leaders by providing practical, expertly researched answers to questions on all aspects of school leadership and management.

To find out more about The Key, visit www.usethekey.org.uk, or call 0800 89 00 52.