

## A vision for Shropshire learners

We have one aim: to maintain and continue to improve excellent education in Shropshire.

Children and young people in Shropshire will have the opportunities to achieve their best and develop a love of learning.

Shropshire's early years providers, schools, colleges and others who contribute to education will share responsibility for the success of all children and young people. We will all work together with parents and carers and the wider community so we can ensure we achieve better outcomes for our children and young people through collaboration than we would individually. We aim to prepare them for the next stage of their lives, in terms of learning and their social and emotional development.

The vision reflects the overarching statement of values and behaviours which has been developed for Shropshire Council, which are to:

- Focus on meeting the needs of our customers
- Value each other and achieve more by working and learning together
- Use the resources we have responsibly
- Recognise the value difference can make and treat everyone with respect
- Build trust by expressing ourselves openly and honestly

Any strategy for change developed from this vision must:

- be adaptable, and able to develop over time
- recognise the need for diversity, acknowledging that one solution is unlikely to meet the range of contexts, needs and aspirations within a county as varied as Shropshire; and
- above all, put the learners' entitlements at the heart of the decision-making

### To meet the needs of our learners we will:

- reflect the **benefits of learning, living and working in Shropshire**, with all of its particular characteristics, and build on the existing strengths of our education provision
- ensure that wherever they live everyone feels they belong to the **larger learning community** of Shropshire, and that they have the opportunity and the aspiration to develop and achieve to their potential;

- ensure that all children and young people in Shropshire: are **healthy**; stay **safe**; **enjoy and achieve**; make a **positive contribution**; and achieve **economic well-being**;
- ensure that **learning is enjoyable** because teaching is exciting and challenging, and that learners are happy and sustain their engagement in learning throughout their lives;
- ensure that through a **broad curriculum and extra-curricular activities** they gain knowledge, skills and experience and develop creativity, thinking skills and social and emotional skills. Our aims are that they become successful learners, confident individuals and responsible citizens;
- provide a journey through education, **from pre-school to adult education**, which is coherent; and
- develop **individual learners' talents and interests** and ensure that their **needs are met**. We will challenge the more able, meet the needs of those with particular talents and identify and tackle additional learning needs early. Our aim is to narrow the gap between those who achieve well and those who underachieve.

**To value each other and achieve more by working and learning together we will:**

- ensure effective partnerships between the Council and all key partners<sup>i</sup>;
- promote the importance of **families and carers** working together with providers in their communities to help their children;
- **actively involve learners** in the design and development of education provision, including school buildings;
- **increase the use of information technology** to support all learners, for example through the use of the Shropshire Learning Gateway and video conferencing;
- **encourage providers to innovate** and develop models of excellence through extending links within and beyond the LA, developing local, national and international links and working with higher education centres;
- support the continued development of **higher education** in Shropshire; and
- encourage **all providers to work in partnership**, with different approaches being explored and developed<sup>ii</sup>.

### **To use the resources we have responsibly we will:**

- develop schools and other education buildings as **centres within their localities**, with assets that can benefit children, young people and the wider community;
- provide **flexible, high quality learning environments** so that teaching and learning can be as effective as possible;
- provide **advice and support** to develop further teaching, learning and achievement;
- ensure that funding for all providers is **sustainable, fair and transparent** to all, including additional sources of income (e.g. project or grant funding); and
- establish a **sustainable and coherent network of provision** to meet learners' differing needs at all stages.

### **To recognise the value difference can make and treat everyone with respect we will:**

- encourage all providers to develop their **own visions and characteristics**;
- **celebrate diversity** both within and beyond Shropshire;
- support providers to **look outside their own communities**, and Shropshire's particular context, so that learners come to understand their place in the wider world; and
- invest in the **development of all professionals**, continuing to develop the full workforce.

### **To build trust by expressing ourselves openly and honestly we will:**

- build on our shared values, beliefs and aspirations;
- ensure that decision-making is as **inclusive, open and transparent** as possible.

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#### <sup>i</sup> These will include:

- all learners and their families and carers;
- professionals working within the early years, schools, colleges, Children's Centres and extended schools;
- diocesan partners;
- other agencies that support learning across the county; and
- representatives of the wider community of Shropshire

#### <sup>ii</sup> Through, for example:

- ensuring all schools are aware of the range of current partnerships, and enhance these where necessary;
- developing further formal partnerships between, for example, small primary schools, larger and smaller primary schools, primary and secondary schools, between secondary schools, between schools and colleges, in order to build and sustain a viable network of provision across the county;
- further developing models of sharing staff who work across a number of schools or providers, for example specialist teachers, teaching assistants, one-to-one tutors, learning mentors and school administrators;
- linking up schools across the county to work on specific areas of development - e.g. developing curriculum innovation or the role of the school business manager; and

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- considering alternative models of leadership (including governance) to secure sufficient and effective future leaders across the county.