

BSF Knowledge Sharing Workshop

The Sheffield BSF team recently hosted a 'BSF knowledge sharing workshop' on 27th February, 2009 at Newfield /Talbot School for Local Authorities that have yet to reach financial close of their BSF programmes.

Mark Peat, Director of Capacity Planning and Development, who hosted the day on behalf of Sheffield City Council commented:

'As a pathfinder authority Sheffield was keen to share our experiences to date with local authorities who are at the beginning of this journey so that they can gain benefit from them. We prepared an interesting programme of presentations from officers, partners and external organisations with an emphasis very much on telling it 'as it is'. We would have welcomed this guidance two or three years ago to avoid some of the inevitable pitfalls you fall into. We were also proud to provide, as part of the day, a tour of Newfield/Talbot School, since this represents an innovative BSF project involving the co-location of a Secondary and Specialist school in one building'

Local Authorities from neighbours in Barnsley, Rotherham and Doncaster attended, as well as some those from further afield in North East Lincs, Halton and Birmingham. Good links have been established and further follow up meetings are likely to look in more detail at areas such as PFS approvals, affordability and the exemplar ICT managed service developed in Sheffield.

'Tony Brumfield BSF Programme Director, North East Lincolnshire said of the event " not only was it very constructive to hear from the experiences of Sheffield, as a pathfinder authority in BSF, but also to discuss these experiences with colleagues from other BSF authorities. BSF is an active initiative, with new ways of working being developed from past lessons learned, and to distil these in such an event is important"