The co-operative membership

Co-operative Schools

Mags Bradbury – National Projects Manager
Membership Services Unit

What's driving the change in education?

"Our aim is to give children and young people the chance to fulfill their potential, by equipping them with the skills, knowledge and understanding they need to succeed in the modern world"

Rt Hon Ed Balls MP

Secretary of State for Children,Schools and Families

A changing environment

Local Authorities

- To become the commissioner of services – not the provider
- Holding schools to account NOT running schools
- Greater freedom for schools

Schools

- Extended schools
- All through schools
- Soft federations
- Hard federations
- Curriculum
  - Diplomas
  - Enterprise

A changing environment

- Devolution – significant differences in educational strategy in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland to England.
- Every Child Matters
- Children's Plan

“to put the needs of families, children and young people at the centre of everything we do”.

So where do co-operative schools fit in?

What does a co-operative approach offer?

- An alternative approach
- Strong values fit with Every Child Matters
- Strong governance model
- Focus on members/learners
- A shared commitment to raising expectations and achievement
- A gateway to the global co-operative movement
- Engaging parents in the running of schools

Co-operative Approach

"Most business specialist schools concentrate solely on the plc model and fail to include the co-operative alternative to running a business. We are showing young people that the co-operative way of doing business is very relevant in the 21st century."

Dave Boston, Head Teacher Sir Thomas Boughey Co-operative Business & Enterprise School

Co-operative Approach

"The school's specialist status and strong links to the Co-operative movement have had a major impact on standards and achievement, which have improved considerably in the last two years".

Ofsted Report 2006

Global Co-operative approach to Schools

- Over 600 Co-operative schools in Spain
- Wide range of support structures
- Over 100 co-operative schools in Sweden
- Co-operative schools in Tanzania – supported by producer co-operatives

The co-operative membership

Co-operative sponsored Schools

Sponsored Schools – where the journey started

- 10 Co-operative Group sponsored Business & Enterprise Schools
- A sponsor governor in ever school
- Regional membership teams supporting
- A strong Head Teachers network
- Working in partnership with the Co-operative College and Government organisations
- Named as adding value in the schools' OFSTED reports

Training Day for Members

The co-operative membership

Co-operative Trust Schools

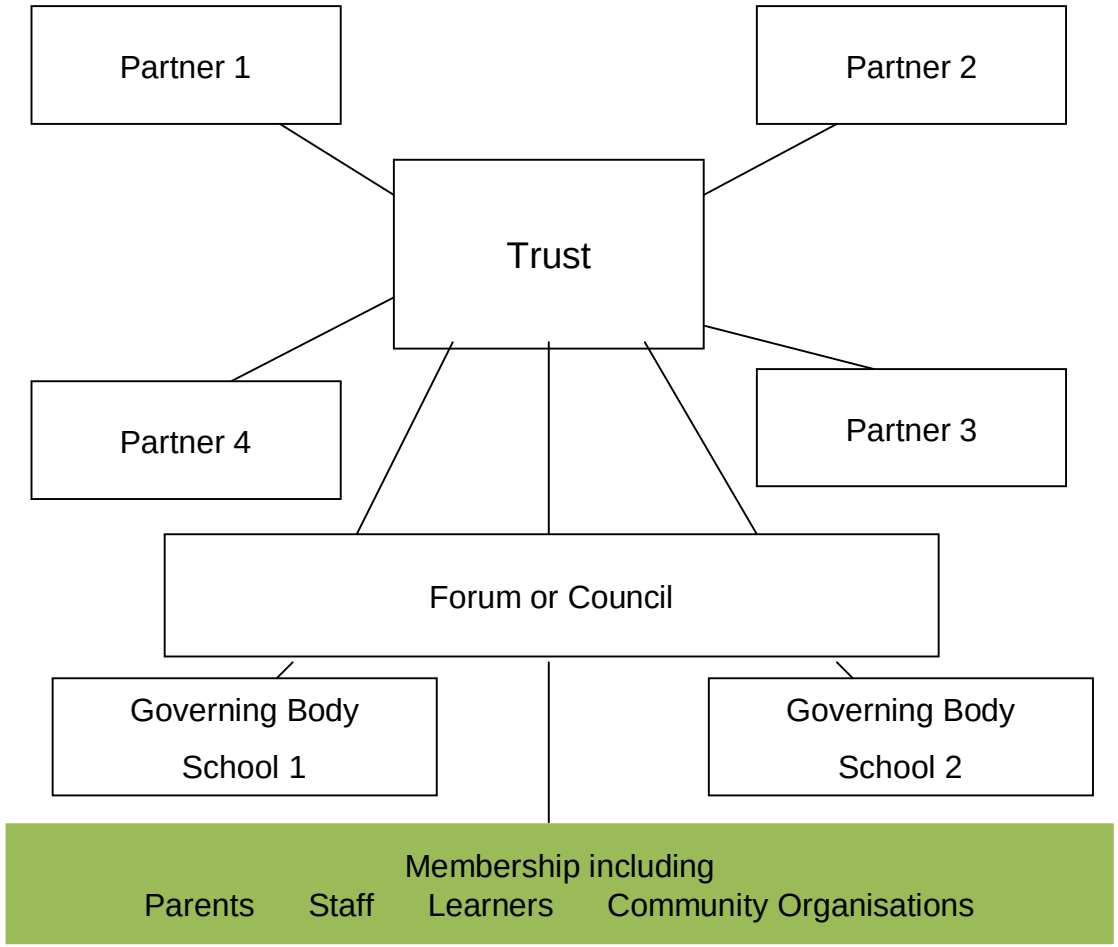
Why are we engaging with co-operative Trust Schools

- Schools run as co-operatives
- To embed values and a shared ethos
- To provide a co-operative governance model for trusts– empowering stakeholders through membership
- Young people understanding the co-operative business model

Co-operative Trust Schools

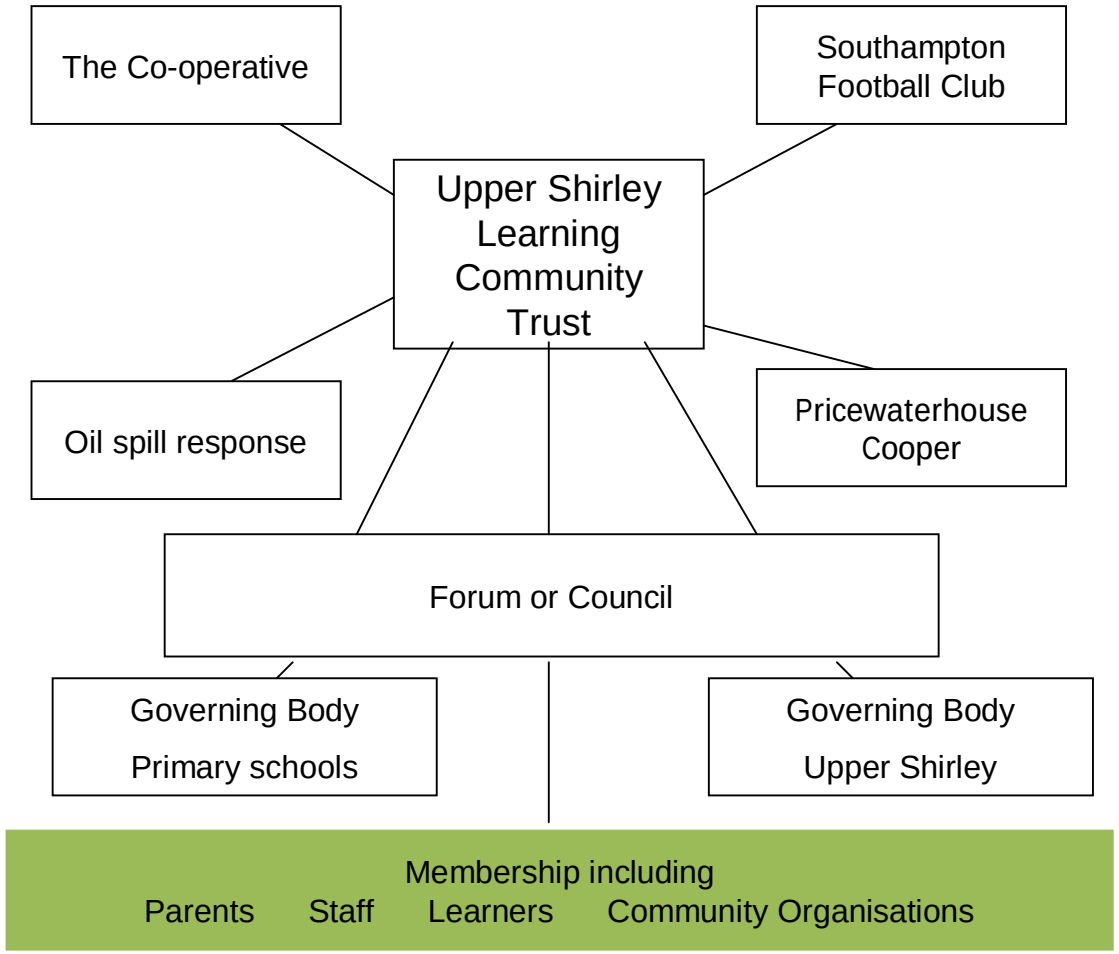
- Collaborative partnership between the Group, the Co-operative College, Mutuo and Cobbetts
- Reddish Vale, Stockport – First Co-operative Trust school
- Major support from the Ed Balls, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families
- Government funding agreed for an initial 100 Co-operative Trusts as a pilot
- Positive response from schools and from other societies

Co-operative trust model



- **Engages key stakeholder groups through membership**
- **Forum/Council provides a vehicle for accountability and high level consultation**

Co Upper Shirley Learning Community Trust



- Supported by the South West Regional team
- Trustee – David Parker, Chief Officer Co-operative Food

The co-operative membership

Co-operative Academies

The Co-operative Academy Programme

- Embedded in the community
- Built on Co-operative Values & Principles
- Working in partnership with:
  - Co-operative Businesses
  - Local Authorities
  - Local FE providers
  - Universities
  - Local Communities
  - Young people
- Skills for Life and building aspirations

What next

- Strong national network of co-operative schools

- Co-operative schools working with co-operative/mutual approaches:
  - Credit Unions
  - Foundation Hospitals
  - Social enterprises
  - Sustainability/ethical solutions

Any questions?