City of Sunderland College

Why leadership matters now more than ever

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City of Sunderland College

The Issues

- Very high numbers of adults with poor literacy and numeracy skills
- Difficulty in engaging adults in learning
- Poor achievement in college at level 2 and 3
- High drop-out rates particularly at level 3
- Poor achievement of literacy & numeracy in schools (GCSE – 34%)

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- Needed a whole college/city approach to improving literacy & numeracy
- Needed a new model to engage people
- Evidence showed that much of our poor achievement on progressions was due to poor basic skills

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Developed ‘Test the City Model’

- People on the streets
- Encourage people to take the test
- Provided support to help them improve
- Advice & guidance to help progression
- Adapted the model – Developed Maths & English solutions

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Outcomes

- Over 4,500 people have achieved literacy or numeracy qualification
- Many have progressed to other programmes in the college
- Raised profile of literacy & numeracy with employers
- Won Queen’s Anniversary Prize

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16-19 Provision

- Developed a literacy & numeracy strategy for all students
- 20 weeks x 3 hrs per week – literacy/numeracy
- 10 weeks x 3 hrs per week – Key Skills

Outcomes

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- Overall success rates have increased dramatically
  2006/07 – 79%
  2007/08 – 83%
  2008/09 (6 week rule) – 86%
- Points above national average

	16-18	19+
Level 1	+8	+18
Level 2	+8	+7
Level 3	+6	+11

- Key Skill achievement – 06/07 – 55%, 07/08 – 77%, 09/10 – 83%
- Significant improvement in value added
- Significant improvements in number achieving high grades
- Significant improvements in progression between levels and to University

Leadership – Now more than ever

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- Commitment to the concept – led from the top
- Innovation – new ways of doing things
- Whole college approach – get everybody signed up to the reasons why
- Give people who are experienced their own heads
- Commit resources for training
- Continually review the model as things change
- Adapt what you do to meet funding constraints
- Recognise and reward achievement

THESE LEADERSHIP QUALITIES/ACTIONS WILL SEE US THROUGH IN THE FUTURE

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