



Department
for Education

Trust partnerships

Trust and School
Improvement Offer 2021/22

Overview:

Trust partnerships (TP) are a time-limited arrangement (usually 12-18 months), allowing schools and trusts to come together in mutually beneficial partnerships. They do not deliver the full benefits of formally joining the trust but are a time-limited way for all parties to explore how a permanent arrangement might work.

There are a variety of reasons why a school and trust might choose to enter a TP. Partnerships allow exploration of benefits and collaboration (for instance, sharing expertise, headteacher and subject expert networks).

During a system leader deployment and through the trust and school improvement offer, system leaders will assess if the school may benefit from a TP.

System leaders should indicate in their end of deployment report or during their period of support whether a school is interested in accepting this offer.

Further information on a suitable match, where identified, and contextual information which may help to identify a suitable partner trust should be provided via the end of deployment report.

Case study

Context:

Following 2 requires improvement (RI) Ofsted judgements in Nov 2017 and again in Jan 2020 the school was matched through the Trust and School Improvement Offer (TSI) with a strong MAT whose CEO provided system leader support. The support provided primarily focused on lifting the lid on the school's improvement needs and establishing a working relationship based on mutual respect. This built an extremely positive relationship, allowing the school to benefit from the MATs experience of improving schools and led to the school and MAT entering into a trust partnership. The local authority is supportive of the partnership and the school considering joining the MAT over time.

Support provided to date:

Following initial support provided through the TSI Offer, further support being provided through the trust partnership includes:

- Curriculum development through an evidence-based approach of what best practice exists in the supporting trust's academies.
- Strong subject leadership and support from supporting trust's staff.
- Creating the best conditions for professional development by using specialists within the trust and deploying coaches to increase the pace of teacher development.
- Leadership development review and training opportunities.

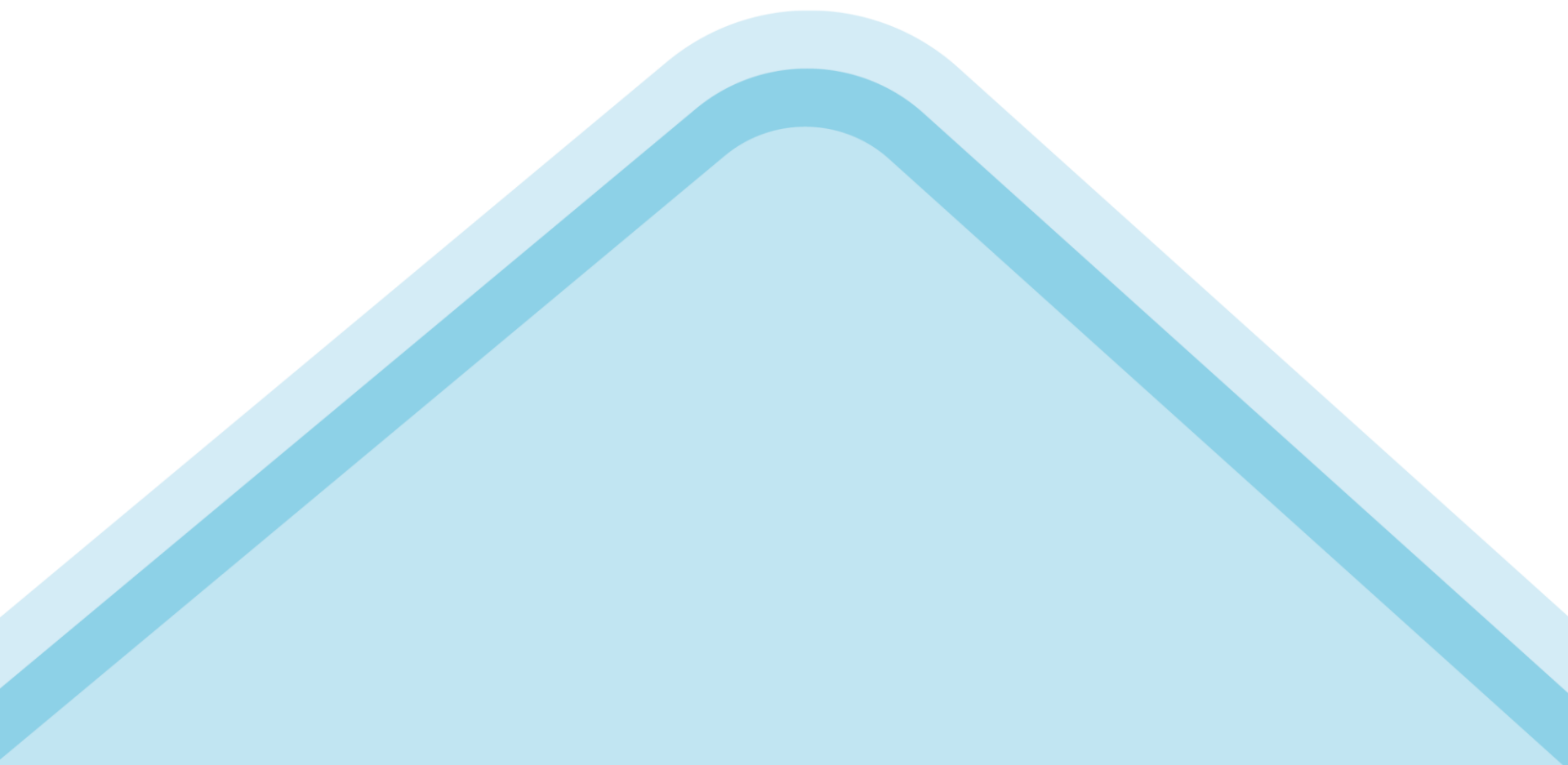
Plan for future support:

The trust partnership will continue and focus on:

- Sharing resources from across the trust to ensure effective delivery of the school improvement plan including supporting monitoring and direction setting by the MATs central team and CEO.
- Continued improvement support from an outstanding school in the MAT who are geographically close by.

Early Impact

- A clear 'road map' to lead the school to a 'Good' Ofsted judgment has been created.
- The school has appreciated the benefits of working within the MAT and is considering the opportunities joining the MAT could bring.



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