

Testimonial for Judith Johnson

9th July 2014



Warwickshire County Council

Judith Johnson commenced contracted Project Work for **Warwickshire County Council**, Learning and Achievement Service, in February 2014. Judith was initially commissioned to undertake an agreed block of time over 3 months to assist the Local Authority preparation for Ofsted Inspection of LA School Improvement Services.

The LA commissioned Judith to conduct an Audit against the Ofsted Framework Indicators as part of its necessary self-evaluation processes in order to establish its strengths and issues against the Ofsted inspection framework - and to plan its recovery strategy in the light of this self-evaluation activity and evidence base.

The Audit and the detailed Review Report produced by Judith enabled WCC to:

- Prepare its Self-evaluation Statement against the Ofsted Framework indicators
- Prepare staff and Members for the external scrutiny they will face
- Identify LA strengths and analyse LA gaps in arrangements and their effectiveness/impact.
- Compile an LA Action Plan for the financial year 2014-15
- Develop an ongoing 'SI Inspection Ready Programme' (SIIRP) focus group that is representative of the LA and the functional areas under review and which can be held accountable for ongoing improvement of LA systems for school improvement and their impact.
- Initiate an LA Evidence File in readiness for eventual inspection

Judith quickly established effective working relations with staff across the LA and also with Head teachers and Elected Members. Judith has the ability to synthesise information very quickly and thereby develop a good strategic picture of the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation. Judith is forensic in her approach and quickly gains the trust and respect of the teams she is working with. In order to build sustainable capacity Judith identified, supported and developed key staff to take the project forward when the contracted work is completed.

Judith has demonstrated a wealth of knowledge, experience and skills, responding flexibly to additional requests to develop aspect of her work in line with emerging findings and LA issues. As a result the LA extended the original commission in order to use her skills and knowledge to action some of the priorities which emerged. Her contract is now planned to conclude at the end of July 2014.

Judith has kept the plan on track, enthusiastically driving forward responses to the development areas identified.

Warwickshire has benefited enormously from the analysis and guidance provided.

Claudia Wade

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Interim Learning and Performance Manager