



The National Association of
School-Based Teacher Trainers

NASBTT Opinion Piece

Emma Hollis

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Why teacher educators need professional development

It was pleasing to see Damian Hinds, the new Secretary of State for Education, saying that tackling teacher shortage is a “top priority” in his first speech to Heads at the recent Association of School and College Leaders conference.

For five successive years, recruitment targets for teaching have been missed and whilst the background to this is complex, schools have ultimately complained of the expense and disruption of relying on temporary staff or having to use teachers who are not specialists in the subjects they are teaching. Schools are spending £835 million per year on supply agencies, according to government figures.

Most of the rhetoric is around in-school recruitment and retention, but those who may not always get the attention they need are those responsible for the education of teachers from the start. There has never been a more important time for investment in School-Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT) providers and, especially, teacher educators whose remit it is to provide schools with high-quality candidates. That’s why we have launched a suite of Teacher Educator Programmes to develop the knowledge and skills of those people working in schools who support and educate other teachers.

Discussions with our members revealed there was a clear need for these. Increasingly, teacher education is happening in schools – designed and facilitated by teachers for teachers. This is not just in the field of schools-led ITT but with the expansion of teaching schools and large CPD departments in multi-academy trusts, across the whole spectrum of a teacher’s career. But whilst there has been a revolution in the way teachers are being educated, there has been no corresponding growth in professional development opportunities for those that are taking up these teacher educator posts.

Our Teacher Educator Programmes are tailor-made for school-based teacher educators and are written and quality assured by expert current practitioners. Our Level 4 programmes are specifically designed for managers of SCITT and School Direct programmes whilst the Level 1 to Level 3 programmes are suitable for all teacher educators including newly-appointed mentors, coaches, CPD co-ordinators, CPD facilitators and teaching school managers. The term ‘level’ attached to each programme is used in the layman’s sense and does not equate to HEI or any other levels, but is there to indicate a sense of progression and the seniority of the intended audience. Each programme consists of a number of modules and includes some face-to-face training sessions at a central location.

Our aim is to provide a clear pathway for teachers interested in developing their careers into teacher education whilst remaining in schools. The uptake for these so far has been incredibly positive, and we will host more in the 2018-19 academic year. By offering licensing opportunities to our members, we will also roll out these programmes across the country.

WHAT'S ON OFFER?

For Programme Managers:

Level 3 Programme: Training Excellent Mentors, Coaches and Facilitators

Level 4 Programme: Effective SCITT and School Direct Management

Level 4 Programme: Effective Finance for SCITT and School Direct Managers (in preparation)

NASBTT Certificate in Leading Schools-Led Provision

For Facilitators, Mentors and Coaches:

Level 1 Programme: Effective Mentoring and Coaching

Level 2 Programme: Advanced Mentoring and Coaching

Level 2 Programme: Facilitating Inspiring CPD

For Administrators:

Level 1 Programme: SCITT and School-Direct Administration (in preparation)

Level 2 Programme: SCITT and School-Direct Administration (in preparation)

Emma Hollis is Executive Director of the National Association of School-Based Teacher Trainers (NASBTT).

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NASBTT is a registered charity committed to promoting high-quality schools-led programmes of training, education and professional development of teachers.

NASBTT represents the interests of schools-led teacher training provision in relation to the development and implementation of national policy developments. Our members include SCITT providers, School Direct Lead Schools, Teaching Schools, HEIs as well as a range of other organisations involved in the education and professional development of teachers. We have 195 members representing almost 7,000 individual trainees.

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