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David Hussey

Experienced investigator in education, providing independent and objective recommendations.

Previously Headteacher for pupils with learning difficulties for 26 years; independent and state sectors.

Executive Coach to leaders in the education and charity sectors.

Summary of skills, knowledge and experience

- Independent investigator of safeguarding, disciplinary and complaints often of a complex and sensitive nature.
- Expert witness at educational tribunals.
- Executive Coach with clients such as Headteachers, Senior Managers and Chief Executives having taken ILM Level 7 Executive Coaching course at UWE.
- Headteacher for 26 years, 19 years at a Briarwood Special School, spread over 3 sites in East Central Bristol.
- Previously a Teacher for 16 years; English and drama, qualified teacher of the visually impaired.
- Outstanding or good judgements in 5 Ofsted Inspections while Head.
- Qualified Local Leader in Education supporting local school and charity leaders
- Designated Safeguarding Lead for 130 pupils with complex needs and 140 staff including 'Prevent' training.
- Experienced at managing multi-million pounds budgets.
- As HR lead, managed several major HR issues including disciplinaries and redundancies.
- Oversaw 5 major capital developments while a Bristol Headteacher; new secondary department, new Early Years provision, new post 16 provision, new alternative education provision and the doubling in size of the primary provision. The school population grew from 68 to 135 while I was the Headteacher.

Institute of Expert Witnesses

PROVIDING PROFESSIONAL ADVICE IN PHYSICAL EDUCATION, SPORT & EXERCISE

- Experienced Chair: Bristol Children and Young People’s Board, Bristol Attainment Group, Bristol Special Schools Headteacher Partnership
- Strategic Governance: in addition to Briarwood’s Board of Governors I was also a member of Bristol Learning City group focussed on achievement, and a school Governor of Bristol Metropolitan Academy. I am currently a Trustee for the Enable Academy Trust.
- Partner in art / education partnerships including with Bristol Plays Music, Open Up Music, an Open Orchestra, achieving Artsmark and an artist-designed external play area to meet the complex needs of the Briarwood pupils.
- Experienced at inclusive working - over 50% of pupils at Briarwood from families where English is an additional language. 2018 award for my contribution to the Bristol Somalian Community. Achieved International Schools Gold Award from DfID for work with school in Uganda.
- Since September 2019 I have worked part time as a Freelance Cycle Instructor for Bristol Life Cycle.
- Experienced with voluntary sector through strategic governance roles, managing a charity and personal volunteering for charities such as Young Bristol.

Education

- ILM Level 7 Executive Coaching course at UWE.
- BEd (Hons) Reading University – English and Drama. Additional Qualification as a Youth Worker

- 2018 – present Retired as Headteacher and worked as independent investigator and executive coach in the education and charity sectors.
- 1999 – 2018 Briarwood School – Headteacher.
- Briarwood provides education for pupils with severe and profound learning difficulties including children and young people within the autistic spectrum, challenging behaviours, sensory impairment, physical impairment. Pupils are aged between 3 and 19 years with separate early years, primary, secondary and post 16 departments. A separate alternative education provision (the Nexus) caters for pupils who have been excluded or are at risk of exclusion due to significant challenging behaviours. The school is based on 3 sites; 2 in Fishponds and 1 in Barton Hill.
- 1992 – 1999 RNIB Rushton Hall – Headteacher.
- RNIB Rushton Hall provided education for pupils with a visual impairment and additional learning difficulties including children with hearing loss, within the autistic spectrum, severe and profound learning difficulties and physical impairment. Rushton Hall was a residential school for primary aged children with a range of additional services for children who did not attend the school such as functional assessments, respite and holiday schemes. A satellite provision was established in a local school for day pupils which grew to 3 classes. I contributed several articles on the curriculum for visually impaired pupils with additional disabilities to publications and spoke at international conferences at this time.
- 1978 – 1992 Youth Leader part time – Belmont Allcomers Youth Club
- Belmont Allcomers Youth Club ran for 2 evenings per week in a bespoke youth club in Shrewsbury. It provided a range of activities in an inclusive setting with mainstream and complex needs children and young people as members; 12 to 18 years. In 1982 Shropshire CC removed funding for youth clubs so I managed the youth club as a charity until I moved to Northamptonshire to take up a Headship.
- 1978 – 1992 RNIB Condover Hall – Teacher with curriculum leadership responsibility
- RNIB Condover Hall provided education for pupil with a visual impairment and additional learning difficulties including children with hearing loss, within the autistic spectrum, severe and profound learning difficulties and physical impairment. Condover Hall was a residential school for secondary aged children. I qualified as a teacher of the blind (CTB) while at Condover. The National Curriculum was introduced at this time but it made no provision for pupils with learning difficulties. I started a lobby group (VITAL) to ensure pupils with visual impairment and additional disabilities would be included and worked closely with the National Curriculum Council in filling this gap; the publication of “Curriculum for All” was the start of the inclusion of all pupils with severe learning difficulties.
- 1976 – 1978 Fanshawe Comprehensive School – English and drama teacher
- Fanshawe School was a co-educational school and provided mainstream education to secondary and Post 16 pupils. I taught 80% English and 20% drama across the age range. I achieved NQT status at the school.