

Review of the Challenge Partners Pilot MAT Peer Review

Information sheet for participants

What is the aim of the research?

Challenge Partners have commissioned the National Foundation for Educational Research (NFER) to undertake a review of the Challenge Partners Pilot Peer Review in four Multi-Academy Trusts (MATs). The aims of the research are:

- to support Challenge Partners in developing a peer review model that is demonstratively improving the performance of MATs
- to identify how effective the model is in providing continual professional development (CPD) opportunities for peer reviewers that in turn, supports improvements in their own MATs.

The review's findings will inform Challenge Partners plans to roll out the Peer Review Model more widely and potentially provide some early indicators around how peer review in MATs contributes and makes a difference to MAT and school improvement. Findings from this early pilot review should also be used to inform a more formal evaluation as the programme rolls out in the academic year 2019/20.

What activities will the research involve for participants?

The research involves the following data gathering activities with participants:

1. Interviews with peer reviewers

We will undertake telephone interviews with six peer reviewers to understand their role, expectations, experiences and potential benefits to themselves and their MATs.

2. Interviews with key MAT personnel

We will conduct telephone interviews with senior staff in four MATs including the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) (with their Head of Operations/Systems or equivalent) and a member of the Board of Trustees. The interviews will provide a strategic perspective on the pilot peer review model.

3. Interviews with the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) in MAT schools

We will carry out telephone interviews with SLT staff in up to two schools in each of the four MATs (eight interviews in total) to include a mix of primary, secondary and special schools across the four MATs. The interviews will provide feedback from academy school leaders on the pilot peer review model and process.

4. Interviews with Challenge Partners members

We will conduct telephone interviews with two key Challenge Partners members: the two lead peer reviewers.

What's in it for research participants?

At the end of the study (autumn 2019) all participants will be sent a link to the research report and executive summary. MATs will not be identifiable in the final report.

When will I need to get involved?

The telephone interviews will take place in June and July 2019. The interviews will take between 30 to 45 minutes and will be carried out by research team members Louise Starks, Tami McCrone or Amy Suddards.

Who is NFER?

NFER is an independent research organisation with many years' experience of undertaking research and evaluation with schools. For more information please visit:

<http://www.nfer.ac.uk/>

Where can I go for more information?

More details about the research including a link to this information sheet and a privacy notice can be found here: <https://www.nfer.ac.uk/for-schools/participate-in-research/t-levels-research-study/>

In addition, Louise Starks, Project Leader, is very happy to answer any questions you might have. Please contact her on 07745391365 or at: louise@starkconsulting.co.uk . David Sims, the Project Director at NFER, is also available on 01753 637216 or at: d.sims@nfer.ac.uk

Thank you very much for your support with this research.