

School Led Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Research with Greater Manchester Learning Partnership

About the project:

The purpose of this project is to improve know and understand the impact of school led ITT programmes and develop recommendations for programme improvement.

School lead teacher training was launched in 2012. The longitudinal impact is currently unknown as no coordinated research has taken place. We currently don't know:

- Where alumni teaching now?
- How long they anticipate staying in teaching?
- Their reflections about their training and the extent to which they were prepared for a career in teaching?
- What hopes they have for their future careers?

Schools are keen to demonstrate the impact of their work and make improvements based on evidence. They are also keen to have material to help with marketing and recruitment for future programmes. An added benefit from the research will be impact evidence for Ofsted inspections and Teaching School reviews.

The research aims to create new understanding and theory to inform ongoing practice.

The Challenges:

Many ITT leads in schools are raising concerns about their limited capacity and experience to carry out the research. An additional challenge is the number of researchers who will be involved and the potential for variations in the research process which could impact negatively on validity. Building confidence and competence in the school led ITT research community will underpin the success of this project.



What we're doing:

The plans have been brought to the Greater Manchester Learning Partnership (GMLP) workforce planning steering group and the North West ITT network for endorsement and support. A set of [slides](#) are available and updated so communications are consistent.

We've engaged the support of an experienced research associate from Middlesex University to advise on the design of the research tools (questionnaire and semi-structured interviews). Prestolee Primary Academy have carried out a research pilot to test the tools, guidance and process.

To overcome the challenges of experience and confidence all ITT leads expressing interest in the project are invited to a research workshop in September. The outcomes of the workshop are to:

- Know the purpose behind the project and the research process
- Practise research skills
- Review initial findings from the pilot
- Familiarise ourselves with the research project guidance
- Develop confidence to carry out research

Outcome so far:

High interest in this area of research is evident from the numbers of ITT leads joining the project.

Over 95% of pilot respondents said the ITT programme had prepared them well or very well for a career in teaching. Over 82% said they intended to remain in teaching for over 10 years. 100% would recommend the school led teacher training route to a friend.

Further research during 2017/18 will provide additional data to test these findings and qualitative themes emerging from the semi-structured interviews.