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Letter from the DAPH Executive DAPH Structure 2008

20th May 2008

Dear Colleagues

The past five months have been a period of great transition and change for DAPH. Charlie Werner, our long standing link officer, retired at Christmas and Peter Nash, the lead person for Head Teachers Support, took up a new position with Plymouth at the same time. Charlie's position was one that had evolved over a number of years. He was originally appointed as a Link Officer to improve the communication and working relationship between the LEA (as it was) and Devon's Headteachers. He was employed and line managed by the Local Authority. Peter's role was paid for in part by Headteacher Support subscriptions and was also line managed by the LA. Times have significantly changed and with the establishment of a Children and Young People's Service and the changing role and relationship between the LA and schools DAPH needed to respond to these fundamental shifts. As Headteachers and schools we are more and more responsible for the commissioning and procurement of services, individually and more importantly collectively. DAPH needs to be a positive and active player in these areas. We also need to continue to provide the schools voice to CYPS on the large number of decision making Boards, Task Groups and Forums.

The DAPH Executive after consultation with Headteachers has restructured DAPH's organisation taking on the supervision of both the Area Officers and Head Teacher Support service. We also wish to support, current and potential school leaders, through partnerships with National Agencies and utilising the tremendous leadership talent currently in our schools.

The new structure will have new Area Officers, new Head Teacher Support workers and an increased capacity within the DAPH Office.

Area Officers

These key people will be drawn from current Headteachers working in Devon on a SLA with DAPH. After representation from a number of schools in North and West we have recognised Devon's difficult geographical nature and will ensure that

briefings and Council meetings will be held in both North and West Devon. Roy Souter from Stoke Hill Junior School will cover Exeter and East Devon, Tracey Hart from Denbury Primary School will cover South Devon and we are still looking for a Headteacher or Headteachers who will cover North and West Devon. The DAPH Area Officer role includes:

- Organising and facilitating termly DAPH Area Briefings
- Chairing termly DAPH Area Council meetings
- Attending when required Local Learning Communities meetings
- Attending as observers Schools Forum meetings
- Attending DAPH Executive meetings
- Membership of the DAPH Senior Management Group
- Acting as a DAPH member on LA Boards, Task Groups and Forums
- Attending the DAPH AGM

Their role is to enable Headteachers and school leaders to:

- Have input on and the chance to discuss the most relevant and up to date issues facing schools
- Identify and voice ideas, issues and recommendations to the DAPH Executive
- Have a clear system for communication and information between school leaders and the DAPH Executive.
- Identify local training needs and to facilitate courses and conferences

To ensure that all this is possible we need to maximise the attendance of both Briefings and the Council meetings. Initially these meetings will be held over a single day with Briefings in the morning followed by a DAPH Council meeting in the afternoon. All Learning Communities have the right to have one representative on the DAPH Council and increasing it is more and more important that every Learning Community has a DAPH representative who is able to attend DAPH Area Council meetings and the AGM.

The work of DAPH is closely aligned with the work currently under taken by Chairs of Learning Communities on 'Learning Communities and Extended Services.' The Core Values and Aspirations set out by this group has been distributed to Headteachers along with the new funding streams. It is important that we establish a clear timetable of meetings enabling good, coherent communication. The DAPH Executive would strongly request that all LLC's meet before the termly Council Meeting enabling them to have the opportunity to voice their views, opinions, questions and recommendations. Their next LLC meeting in that term would be the opportunity for each community to be informed and consulted on a range of issues brought forward from each Council meeting.

Headteacher Support

It has been necessary to redefine the relationship between DAPH and the Head Teacher Support service, ensuring it complies with good employment practices. We apologize for the delay and any resulting confusion this may

have caused but we are now delighted to announce the appointment of three Headteacher Support Officers:-

Bob Freshwater : rfresh1030@aol.com

01626 774147 (home), 07989 384305 (pers), 07980 732644 (DAPH mobile)

Brendan Harcourt: bharcourt50@yahoo.co.uk

01271 379162 (HTS Helpline, 24 hrs), 01271 314950 (home), 07840120500 (pers), 07792 129892 (DAPH mobile)

Alan White: suzalan@aol.com

01237 470771 (home), 078131 44764 (pers), 07792 133017 (DAPH mobile)

The allocation of Learning Communities between the three HTS Officers is: -

Brendan HARCOURT	Alan WHITE	Bob FRESHWATER
Axe Valley	Crediton	Bideford
Barnstaple	Culm Valley	Braunton
Exeter Heights	Exeter Beacon	Chulmleigh
Exeter West Exe	Holsworthy	Clyst Vale
Exmouth	Okehampton	Dartmouth
Honiton	Tavistock	Dawlish
Ilfracombe	Teignmouth	Exeter Central
Newton Abbot	Teign Valley	Ivybridge
Ottery	Tiverton	Kingsbridge
South Dartmoor	Torrington	Sidmouth
	Totnes	South Molton

DAPH Office

We have been very fortunate to be able to appoint Anna-Marie Tooth as the new DAPH office administrator. Anna has entered this post at a time of considerable change and is doing a fantastic job.

With regards to the appointment of the DAPH Business/Project Manager, the Executive were unable to appoint back in March and therefore have decided to re-advertise this position. An advertisement will be placed in Choice magazine and on the DAPH website shortly. Closing date for applications is Thursday June 12th, with interviews taking place on Thursday June 19th.

DAPH Conference – Friday 13th June

This year's conference is at Sandy Park, Exeter. Dr Andrew Curran, a practising paediatric neurologist and a member of The Independent Thinking Group, will be presenting during the morning. He is a controversial and very entertaining speaker who will challenge and develop your ideas about both the science of the brain and

the effect of human emotions on learning. Dr Curran recently spoke in Torbay and the feedback from Headteachers was that he was very entertaining, challenging and really fired up their thinking. Feedback from other presentations have included :-

- *Andrew Curran made sense of complex science and instinctive emotional stuff*
- *Thank you for your AWESOME contribution to our conference which was extremely well received*
- *Andrew Curran was brilliant both in terms of content and delivery - what an excellent role model for teachers!*
- *It was a real privilege to be informed and stimulated by him and to have beliefs and practice reinforced*
- *Inspirational breath of fresh air! Not the same old stuff!*

During the afternoon, **Roger McGough** will be performing. 'A trickster you can trust', Roger is one of Britain's best-loved poets and a poetry party-thrasher of distinction. Top-selling *The Mersey Sound* with Brian Patten and Adrian Henri, hits with *The Scaffold* and club dates with GRIMMS led to an acclaimed body of books, broadcasts and gigs.

It's an event not to be missed, and is open to Headteachers, Deputies and Subject Leaders – if you haven't booked your place yet, you can do so by visiting the DAPH website and select 'Conference 2008' to submit your online booking form www.devon.gov.uk/daph

We wish to clarify the position of the cost of tickets for this year's Conference. The Executive has identified that there was a mistake made on last year's SLA published in the Portfolio. Head Teacher Support, Briefings, DAPH representation at meetings with the LA and the cost of a place at the DAPH Conference were all included within the SLA. We have therefore have had to ask for a contribution to the costs of this year's Conference. The cost of the tickets are as follows:

Subscribers - £30 each for first ticket, additional tickets £60 each

Non-subscribers to DAPH - £120

We look forward to seeing you on the day.

DAPH Calendar Dates

Dates are currently being agreed for the next academic year, and these will be distributed in due course together with all dates for Standing Groups.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking you for your continued support and for the partnership work to follow, and look forward to seeing you at future DAPH events.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Paul Jones, Chair of the DAPH Executive