

WINNERS OR WHITE ELEPHANTS?

What should governors do now?

WHAT DOES WINNING MEAN?

- Results?
- Beating your neighbour?
- Personal aggrandisement?
- Winning ethically for your school?
- For your community?

AND HOW?

- Clear Objectives
- Strategy
- Leadership
- Teamship
- Willingness to think boldly and innovate

“It is amazing what you can achieve if you do not care who gets the credit” Harry Truman

MY LIFE AS A GOVERNOR

- 25 years -Three schools -Ten Ofsted
- Tricky improvement journeys
- Always learning
- Be strategic – know when to intervene (and when not to)
- Know your school and community
- Get the right head
- Role of the chair

LONDON SCHOOLS

- 1990s London schools a “basket case”
- London now outperforms other regions
- Envy of many parts of the world
- High achievement
- Narrower gaps
- Can still improve more

WHY?

- More money
- Quality of leadership
- Changing demographic
- Access to work and cultural opportunities
- Pool of governors and young energetic teachers
- London Challenge – brought these together

LONDON CHALLENGE – A WINNING STRATEGY

- 2002 to 2012
- Clear objectives
- To raise standards in the poorest performing schools
- To narrow the attainment gap
- To create more good and outstanding schools

LEADERSHIP – CENTRAL AND LOCAL

- Central government invested £80 million
- Minister for London schools
- Senior civil servants
- London Schools Commissioner – Sir Tim Brighouse
- London Challenge Advisers
- London Leadership Strategy
- Chartered London teachers

TACTICS

- Use of data – exams, school characteristics, local intakes, families of schools
- Key boroughs- local vision plus DFE resources
- Collaboration /sharing good practice
- Challenging conversations with schools and LAs
- Keys to success- no naming and shaming

EFFECT

- Less defensiveness about failure
- Sense of (shared) moral purpose
- Energy and confidence
- Openness to external scrutiny
- Use of coaching
- High levels of trust and collaboration
- Proof that a strong coherent collaborative plan can produce equity and excellence

CURRENT CONTEXT

- Ongoing attainment gaps
- Legacy of diversity and parent choice
- Funding crisis
- Chronic teacher shortages
- Fragmented local oversight
- Lessons from Brexit – social cohesion, skills, “left behind” communities
- Workload/stress, new exams, tests and accountability. Coasting schools, floor targets, Ofsted

GENERAL ELECTION

- More money
- Free school meals or breakfasts
- Smaller classes
- National Funding Formula
- Grammar schools
- Review of admissions

RADICAL SOLUTIONS?

- Shared local accountability
- Start a NFF from scratch
- A real National Baccalaureate
- Make teaching a high status high paid job
- New middle tier
- Tackle school segregation

WHAT SHOULD GOVERNORS BE DOING?

- Ensure schools are solvent
- Stay good or outstanding
- Raise our game – lessons from London
- Improve together?
- Shared values, principles and resources
- How do we see our local communities?
- What do they need?

WHAT IS THE LOCAL WINNING SOLUTION FOR BARNESLEY?

You tell me!