

Summer School 2012 Towards a Self-improving System

8th & 9th August 2012

The Marine Hotel, North Berwick

On behalf of ADES, the Virtual Staff College Scotland launched the first Annual Summer School in 2005. Since then, it has taken place every year at The Marine Hotel, North Berwick and provides a unique opportunity for local authority and partner colleagues to come together in advance of the new school year and focus on a theme of national importance, learn from each other and from interesting and stimulating contributors from the public and private sectors.

Over the past two years in particular, the pace of change within local authorities has escalated rapidly due to legislative, curricular, governance and economic challenges which combine to produce an unprecedented climate of turbulence within the public sector.

In response to these challenges, those responsible for leading and managing services for children, young people and families increasingly have to consider new and innovative responses to improving outcomes as they seek to deliver more for less. At the heart of these responses is the growing realisation that a number of the traditional approaches to improvement are no longer fit for purpose or, are simply, no longer available due to diminishing resources.

As a result, creative, imaginative and enterprising new models for improvement are emerging which are beginning to demonstrate sustainability and effectiveness. These models have a consistency of approach, which requires a shift in the ownership of the means of improvement and, consequently, is changing the relationship between delivery organisations and the agents of scrutiny at both national and local levels. This is an international phenomenon and one that we in Scotland will need to consider and utilise appropriately.

Using the theme “**Towards a Self Improving System**”, this year’s summer school will provide opportunities to share and to learn about the developments such as sector-led improvement in England, consortia for school improvement in Wales, the impact of the learning rounds model in Scotland and effective performance management in the private sector.

As always, at the summer school, it will be the sharing amongst colleagues and the learning from each other that will be the most important part of the programme, with ample time for swapping ideas, initiatives and resources.

The numbers are necessarily limited to allow effective discussion and participation so it is important to reserve places quickly. The fee remains unchanged at £295 for ADES members and £345 for non-members.

For more information or to reserve your place, please email David Tilbrook at events@virtualstaffcollege.co.uk.