



**Principals' / Headteachers' Conference 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January 2010**  
**Evaluation Forms**

**Total of 24 responses**

**Jacqui Kilburn**

Rating:

0		
1		
2	2	8.3%
3	8	33.3%
4	13	54.2%
No answer	1	4.2%

Comments:

- *Fantastic – what a start*
- *Disturbing. Good straightforward presentation of more upsetting facts of life*
- *Some information about the abusers psychological profile would have been useful – how do we identify future abusers in schools?*
- *Very interesting and materials to take away were great*
- *Excellent speaker – well presented, good materials and presentation. Interesting and informative*
- *Excellent – engaging speaker on a very important theme*
- *Very pertinent*
- *Useful materials*
- *Liked the supplied resources and links – relevant topic*
- *Good, but have done lots of training in Safeguarding so nothing new*
- *Kept thinking how does this affect my pupils – didn't really answer this question*

**David Miller**

Rating:

0		
1	3	12.5%
2	12	50%
3	6	25%
4	3	12.5%
No answer		

Comments:

- *Safeguarding / Child Protection training is virtually mandatory for heads – this speaker didn't tell us anything new – poor, erratic presentation, opportunity missed by NSPCC*
- *Rather pedestrian content and dull delivery*
- *Presenter needed to get away from reading his overheads*
- *Tired and uninspiring presentation*
- *Fair and useful to a degree*
- *There was a lot more I would have liked to hear in relation to SLD / PMLD rather than resources*
- *Interesting, but difficult to follow and didn't appreciate having the screen read*
- *Again, sad facts of life, presentation could have been more lively*
- *No real new information, delivery dry and monotone*

## Simon Snell and David Wright

### Rating:

0		
1		
2	2	8.3%
3	3	12.5%
4	19	79.2%
No answer		

### Comments:

- *Harrowing, but excellent*
- *A very interesting presentation, thought provoking*
- *This session could have been longer. Tough subject but excellently presented*
- *Eye opener and enjoying – a good double act. David needed to stand still*
- *Excellent presentation on the latest challenges for us in safeguarding*
- *Very good speakers. Very scary in terms of the data facts!*
- *Challenging content and very well presented*
- *Superb presentation – very concerning issues*
- *Excellent – well and appropriate presentation of a difficult issues*
- *Worrying – raised lots of thoughts in my head regarding my pupils / staff / parents*
- *Excellent double act, really good*
- *Very informative and thought provoking seminar by two excellent, professional speakers – more please!*
- *I have provided this for all staff - excellent*

## Mary O'Reilly

### Rating:

0		
1	3	12.5%
2	12	50%
3	7	29.2%
4		
No answer	2	8.3%

### Comments:

- *Nothing you couldn't get from the booklet*
- *Good speaker, well prepared presentation and informative but...some actual case studies would have been nice to see*
- *Had a hard act to follow and dry content. Good questioning brought out best information*
- *Interesting, but not for the residential special schools yet*
- *Needed to be a shorter slot*
- *She was rather out of touch with the reality in pathfinder authorities*
- *Rather thin content and ran 30 minutes short*
- *Did what it says on the tin, but a little dry*

## Mark Davies

### Rating:

0	1	4.2%
1	1	4.2%

2	8	33.3%
3	8	33.3%
4	2	8.3%
No answer	4	16.7%

Comments:

- *Enigmatic – good storyteller. Took too long to get to the point! Didn't see differences between CEO role and Executive and Head*
- *The message was obstructed by the presentation*
- *Difficult to follow him as he kept jumping around in his thinking – screens difficult to read*
- *Ok, but haphazard. He did, however, understand the message he was trying to put forward*
- *Inclusion mentioned once...this should have been 'inclusion in action' and about the benefits of co-location, not the role of the Chief Executive! PE guy talking team sheets!*
- *He talked more about himself than his role*
- *Slightly chaotic – wandering from the brief, but some good bits within it*
- *Interesting style and a possible reality for my context*
- *Obviously a driven person who believes in what he is doing, personally. I think there are schools in danger of being too big*

**Becky Brine**

Rating:

0		
1		
2	2	8.3%
3	10	41.7%
4	10	41.7%
No answer	2	8.3%

Comments:

- *More dancing please*
- *Excellent – she needs a swing band*
- *Very pleasant, saved us trying to sing and hence probably not being banned!*
- *Excellent entertainment as usual! Perhaps an additional £15 from everyone in exchange for a CD - £5 to hospice. Becky sells her CDs and a charity benefits*
- *Excellent once again*

**Chris Ferguson**

Rating:

0		
1	2	8.3%
2	8	33.3%
3	9	37.5%
4	2	8.3%
No answer	3	12.5%

Comments:

- *Interesting, but not for me*
- *Good presentation, but pity the costs information was avoided*
- *Marketing pushed well*
- *Clearly presented*
- *Good presentation of facts and appreciation of the challenge*
- *Extent of the service useful to hear*
- *Concise and not too heavy on the sell*

## Charles Hackett

### Rating:

0		
1		
2		
3	3	12.5%
4	21	87.5%
No answer		

### Comments:

- *Very helpful*
- *A useful update – thank you*
- *Excellent – the human face of Ofsted! A really useful overview of the framework in action and a good contact for the future*
- *Very informative*
- *It is always positive to listen to Charles and benefit from real life experiences*
- *Realistic presentation of Ofsted's view of what we should be doing to jump through the various hoops*
- *Clear, useful and timely information, well delivered*
- *Very useful and helpful to future work in school*
- *Excellent, very informative*
- *I hate giving Ofsted "outstanding", but Charles was relevant and good*
- *To the point; informative was thought provoking without being too scary. Helpful, supportive – I would welcome Charles to my school (as Inspector or critical friend) as my school would be a better place as a result of his visit*
- *Always an excellent speaker*
- *Excellent presentation – clearly delivered. Very important*
- *Was inspired by Charles in September, so knew about it. But analysis of 50 Ofsted's very good*

## Michaela Breeze

### Rating:

0		
1		
2		
3	4	16.7%
4	19	79.2%
No answer	1	4.2%

### Comments:

- *Good speaker – great message*
- *Thought provoking – need to think about the limiting aspects of setting targets*
- *Very inspirational and very moving*
- *Inspirational stuff*
- *Very good indeed. She speaks well and is clearly an inspiration to her pupils*
- *Inspiring*
- *Inspiring, just as it should have been. Truly a young lady who has lived her dream*
- *Impressive stuff*
- *Truly aspiring!!*
- *Once again a genuinely inspirational speaker who, without doubt, raised the threshold of expectation for all. Michaela is an example of why realistic is not enough!*

- *Very motivational*
- *Truly inspirational. This slot is very important to lift us to keep the dream going in our schools*
- *Inspiring*
- *Inspirational*
- *Inspirational*

### **Dave Smith and Chris Mitten**

#### Rating:

0	1	4.2%
1	4	16.7%
2	8	33.3%
3	7	29.2%
4		
No answer	4	16.7%

#### Comments:

- *Great subject but very poorly delivered! If this is an example of how the course will be delivered it will not be able to achieve what it needs to. The task was poorly designed and delivered*
- *The task was slightly confusing, but an exciting project*
- *An interesting joint programme*
- *Task too complicated and not clearly explained*
- *The aspiration is great but the workshop was too short to be effective*
- *The requirement for this development is evident and had it not been Friday afternoon, we may have been able to contribute more to the session*
- *Encouraging to see proposed training*
- *Some interesting thoughts on an important topic, but the task was over-complicated and difficult to contribute to*
- *Tough spot to fill after lunch on day 2*
- *An important issue that was not particularly well presented*
- *Had the potential to be a good session and very necessary for the future of leadership in special schools. Unfortunately, it lacked time to do justice to the required task. Timing of this session was wrong if SWALSS is to make an impact on leaders of the future*
- *Interesting, but more on what you can do for us than what we can do for you. BUT – good to see NCSL thinking about special leadership*
- *Lack of clarity in task. Brilliant ideal for a course*
- *A missed opportunity. Not sure what the task was about so disappointed that I wasn't able to contribute very well*

### **Gerard Kelly**

#### Rating:

0		
1	1	4.2%
2	3	12.5%
3	10	41.7%
4	4	16.7%
No answer	6	25%

#### Comments:

- *Really lifted the end of the day. Long way to come for a short time though*
- *Very interesting!*
- *A positive and upbeat end to the conference*
- *Surprisingly supportive...but not special! Good humoured though*
- *Not really a speaker, but quite entertaining*
- *Very entertaining*
- *A light humoured end*
- *Entertaining and interesting. Could have done with more of it!*

- *Nice to have a few more realistic views on our education system. From a source more known for reporting criticisms of teachers*

### **Hotel Facilities / Food etc**

#### Rating:

0		
1	1	4.2%
2	1	4.2%
3	11	45.8%
4	11	45.8%
No answer		

#### Comments:

- *A more modern, up-to-date hotel would be good!*
- *Great food, especially special diets. Room cold though and a little shabby*
- *Room was poor this year – smallish and no outside light. Preferred being able to choose from the menu*
- *Excellent but Crap WI-Fi Internet. This is so important if we need to access emails*

### **Conference Administration**

#### Rating:

0		
1		
2		
3	5	20.8%
4	18	75%
No answer	1	4.2%

#### Comments:

- *Superb, high quality event; professionally organised and funded on a shoestring. Well done!*
- *Excellent, Joan would have been proud of her successor! Well done Issy!*
- *Excellent – thank you!*
- *Excellent – expedient and efficient*

### **Exhibitors**

#### Rating:

0		
1		
2	4	16.7%
3	12	50%
4	6	25%
No answer	2	8.3%

#### Comments:

- *I would like them to each give a 5 minute presentation on what they have to offer*
- *Fulton “Lucky Duck” and other book companies were conspicuous by their absence. When stocking up the staff / community library it is good to see what is available*
- *No books*
- *Would have liked more time to actually view better*
- *Good range – always increase this and vary*

### **Any other comments**

- *The three day event does give scope to restore work / life balance by being selective on what to attend. It also gives scope to keep in contact with the paperwork or to get some strategic work done without interruption*
- *Thursday / Friday is ideal in my opinion*
- *Liked the new format – much more punchy*
- *Great to meet new people as a new 'Head' in the area. Very welcoming and a great atmosphere*
- *2 day / 1 night format is much better. January is ok – prefer end of the week.*
- *I prefer the new format for the conference (and Thursday / Friday)*
- *Liked the two days*
- *Friendly, supportive group of colleagues*
- *I liked the venue – convenient location, but don't know what else is available in the area*
- *I am happy with the three days due to travel distances*
- *The two day end of week format has worked well; two good days still achieving what was put into the three day format*
- *A well organised and valuable conference*
- *An excellent conference – lots of food for thought*
- *Might it be worth considering longer input from some speakers*
- *Much better format – targeted and focused. However, might be better to have a longer morning session on the last day – lunch 1.30pm – then go. Many have long journeys so we should not require heads to leave at 3.00pm*
- *Personally I felt very comfortable with the 2 day format. It was a tighter programme, attendance seemed better at each session and the information gained from the speakers (plus the networking) made it a very worthwhile event*
- *End of week again please – don't mind 2 or 3 days*
- *Prefer 2 days / 1 night as can't afford longer time unless includes 1 day at the weekend*
- *Change to 2 days was good*
- *I'm happy with the 2 day format and works well Thursday and Friday*

## **Overall Rating**

### Rating:

0		
1		
2		
3	6	25%
4	10	41.7%
No answer	8	33.3%

### Comments:

- *Keep up the good work*
- *Friendly, supportive group of colleagues*
- *Varied and interesting*
- *Thank you for all the hard work in putting the conference together*
- *Might it be worth considering longer input from some presenters*
- *A well organised and valuable conference*
- *Another excellent conference – thank you*

## **Suggestions for future conferences**

- *Post-16 funding via YPLA / Las instead of LSC*
- *If Conservatives are elected to government, the strategy re SEN and inclusion*
- *Assessment for Learning – focus on special schools*
- *Overall an excellent conference – the best I've attended in more years than I can remember*
- *Curriculum design – the creative curriculum – alternative approaches. Meeting the challenge of increased complexity*
- *ECM – especially evaluation of Community Cohesion – what does it mean for special schools*

- *Up-to-date initiatives – more like Charles*
- *Post-16 funding*
- *Transitions*

### **Impact on future role**

- *Most importantly, I have developed links with colleagues in neighbouring authorities which I plan to build on*
- *Opportunity to visit Bridge campus prior to moving into a similar set up in Plymouth*
- *Recruitment ideas / approach a key task for me at present*
- *Profile of safeguarding already very high in my school – but affirmed my thinking*
- *Back to try to review SEF with the perspective given by a current Ofsted inspector*
- *Gave me the chance to network and share experiences with headteacher colleagues. As a new head, encountering the challenges and isolation(!) of the role, it was great to talk and reassuring to hear advice. Confidence boosting – excellent quality speakers*
- *It keeps me up-to-date in my role as head and SIP*
- *Will be undertaking the 360 degree safe tool*
- *Charles Hackett's presentation gave some useful pointers*
- *Cyber safe and the findings / information from Charles will be areas I have found extremely useful*
- *I will return refreshed and reassured – thank you*
- *Evidence and help to clarify and focus my goals for my school*
- *Feed directly into SEF writing. Review (again) safeguarding*
- *As a new head, the networking and general information will impact on my learning*
- *SEF writing will have been supported. Awareness raised to enable me to support staff*
- *Reflect on safeguarding issues. Although working in Wales, the information of inspections is useful for providing a framework for consideration*
- *Felt it all went well. If you want to attract more Welsh colleagues why not suggest to them to book their own rooms and speakers for the day prior to the SWALSS first day and then stay on*
- *Certainly has lifted my approach to safeguarding our children*
- *Much useful content to reflect upon and take back to colleagues in school*