

## **The Alliance of Leading Learning: NPQ Guidance for Sponsors**

### **The role of the sponsor**

Many thanks for agreeing to sponsor your colleague as they complete their NPQ programme - the role of a sponsor is extremely important in terms of providing support, encouragement and guidance so that the learning experience is maximised for the participant. It is also a requirement of all NPQ programmes to obtain a sponsor comment prior to final submission of the assignment, focused around key aspects of the participant's leadership.

It is important that the sponsor is involved from the outset so that the comments made are an accurate reflection of how the participant has developed as a leader during the course of the programme. Although the sponsor comments are linked to specific assessment criteria (see below), the sponsor is also free to comment on other aspects of the participant's leadership and impact of the team / school improvement project. The sponsor comments can be particularly helpful to both validate and elaborate on what the participant has written, and will be considered by the assessor. Participants are informed on the Launch session that they need to provide plenty of time for the sponsor to complete their section, prior to submission

### **Sponsor comments do not count towards the word-count of the assignment.**

The role of the sponsor is to:

- **Discuss the team / school project with the participant in order to determine a focus for the project that is in line with school improvement priorities and the relevant NPQ assessment criteria (the participant can provide this).**
- **Meet regularly with the participant during the course of the programme to discuss the progress of the team / school project and the impact of the NPQ programme on their leadership (there is no set minimum for this in terms of regularity of meetings but we recommend at least once per half term).**
- **Support the participant during the planning, implementation and evaluation of the project and provide advice and guidance, particularly when they are experiencing challenges**
- **Support the participant with writing up the assignment if necessary and where possible proof read for errors and to suggest improvements**
- **Electronically sign the completed assignment (along with the Headteacher and participant)**
- **Make a comment on the participant's leadership and the impact of the team in accordance with the guidance below:**

## NPQML

The sponsor is required to make a comment regarding assessment criteria 4.1.1:

*4.1.1 Established relationships with others within and outside of own team, deploying appropriate structures and/or processes to mitigate against any barriers*

The sponsor should describe how the participant established a range of professional relationships, both inside and outside their team using approaches and processes to engage others and overcome potential barriers

## NPQSL

The sponsor is required to make a comment regarding two assessment criteria:

*3.2.1 Evaluates research into, and examples of, leadership and motivation and/or influence and applies findings to motivate or influence others across the school.*

*4.2.1 Establishes and sustains partnerships that build capability and/or improve performance in priority areas for the school*

The sponsor should describe how the participant used the information they found, and the examples they have seen, of good leadership, motivation and influence to motivate and influence others across the school.

The sponsor should also describe how the participant created partnerships which are improving school capability and performance.

There are spaces for this to be completed on the submission form along with signature boxes. Exemplar materials can be provided by the participant.

If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to contact us at [adminall@leadinglearning.co.uk](mailto:adminall@leadinglearning.co.uk)

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