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**Project Information Sheet**

**Regional Implementation Leads (RILs), in Bristol: Pilot evaluation - Part of the Developing Effective Leadership of Teaching Assistants (DELTA) project**

**Background of the project**

Sheffield Hallam University have been commissioned by the Education Endowment Foundation (EEF) to conduct an independent evaluation of a pilot of Regional Implementation Leads (RILs). RILs will provide active implementation support for school leaders, as part of a regional partnership with Bristol City Council on Empowering Evidence-Informed School Improvement (EESI). The aim of the RILs pilot is to harness local leadership capacity to unlock the potential for evidence-informed school improvement, and so improve classroom practices and outcomes for disadvantaged pupils. Early prototyping work will take place in Cornwall with schools in a Multi-Academy Trust.

**Aims of the project and methodology**

The evaluation of the RILs pilot aims to a) advance understanding of knowledge mobilisation in relation to EEF regional delivery, b) evaluate the active implementation support model as a means of improving evidence-informed processes and practices, and c) learn about the usefulness of the implementation guidance report as a framework for evidence-informed implementation.

A mixed methods design is utilised including the following methods of data collection:

* Theory of Change development meeting with EEF colleagues
* **Remote Observations** of training days for School Senior leaders and RILs, and possibly RIL work within some schools
* **Telephone Interviews** with (up to 10) key stakeholders (including RIL development team, & key school staff)
* A pre and post **census** **survey** of school leaders in Bristol schools involved in the DELTA project
* **Telephone interviews** with senior leaders in 10 Bristol schools involved in the RILs pilot
* **Telephone interviews** with school implementation leads in 9 Bristol schools involved in the RILs pilot
* project
* **Brief focused telephone interviews** with senior leaders or school implementation leads from up to 30 Bristol schools that were either initially involved in the DELTA project and that withdrew or that were invited and did not take up the opportunity.
* **Brief telephone interviews** with non-participating and withdrawing schools to understand their reasons for not being involved in the RILs project
* **Case studies** with (up to 12) Regional Implementation Leads and the schools they support including:
* Longitudinal **telephone interviews** with RILs
* **12 virtual/ in-person school visits,** including **interviews or focus groups** with senior leaders, teaching assistants and teachers, **collection of key documentation** relating to RIL work, survey of teachers and TAs in 10 of the case study visit schools.

**Ethics and GDPR**

The study has been approved by Sheffield Hallam University's ethical process and will be conducted in line with SHU's ethics procedures, which are consistent with British Educational Research Association and British Sociological Association guidelines.

**Voluntary participation, confidentiality and right to withdraw**

Participation in any and all interviews, surveys, observations or focus groups is voluntary.  All data from interviews, observations or focus groups will be analysed anonymously, and you may withdraw from any of these activities without giving a reason, including asking for your data to be withdrawn entirely up to 2 weeks after participation in any listed activities- the exception to this is survey data which has been anonymised.

**Data transfer, storage and uses**

Data will be stored for ten years in line with University policy before being destroyed. Transfer of data will be protected by using secure, encrypted services, such as 'Zend to'.

In all reporting, no individual participant in a school will be identified or identifiable and no school will be named. Where appropriate, key education stakeholders may be identified in reporting by their role title in relation to the project and this will be discussed before an interview. This may make them identifiable to readers that are familiar with the organisation, despite care taken to ensure full anonymisation of any sensitive data.

We will produce a report for The EEF in 2022. The report will be published. We may also present our findings at conferences and publish articles in professional and academic journals.

**Data protection: Legal basis for research**

Legal basis for research for studies Statement: The University undertakes research as part of its function for the community under its legal status. Data protection allows us to use personal data for research with appropriate safeguards in place under the legal basis of public tasks that are in the public interest.  A full statement of your rights can be found in the [Project Privacy notice.](https://docs.google.com/document/u/0/d/1o_aIgrC-iN8fIerYu2sf2T58rm4K7iUfcl49xI4EBFw/edit) See also the [University Privacy notice](https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research).   However, all University research is reviewed to ensure that participants are treated appropriately, and their rights respected. This study was approved by UREC with Converis number ER29027017. Further information at:<https://www.shu.ac.uk/research/ethics-integrity-and-practice>.

We will comply with the UK General Data Protection Regulation (UK GDPR) and in accordance with the university Data Protection Policy Statement:<https://www.shu.ac.uk/about-this-website/privacy-policy/privacy-notices/privacy-notice-for-research>

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| **You should contact the Data Protection Officer if:**  ·        you have a query about how your data is used by the University  ·        you would like to report a data security breach (e.g. if you think your personal data has been lost or disclosed inappropriately)  ·        you would like to complain about how the student researcher has used your personal data  DPO@shu.ac.uk | **You should contact the Head of Research Ethics (Dr Mayur Ranchordas) if:**  ·        you have concerns with how the research was undertaken or how you were treated [ethicssupport@shu.ac.uk](mailto:ethicssupport@shu.ac.uk) |
| **Postal address:  Sheffield Hallam University, Howard Street, Sheffield S1 1WBT**  **0114 225 5555** | |

**Contact details**

Please feel free to get in touch about this research at any time.

**Project directors:**

Bernadette Stiell [b.stiell@shu.ac.uk](mailto:b.stiell@shu.ac.uk) and Ben Willis [b.m.willis@shu.ac.uk](mailto:b.m.willis@shu.ac.uk)