

Press Release - Embargoed until 3pm on 7th October 2024

Teacher Development Trust to withdraw from providing future NPQs to focus on promoting impartial and effective CPD

Today the Teacher Development Trust (TDT) is announcing it will not be delivering NPQs in the future.

Instead it will focus on building on its other initiatives, such as its Expert Schools Programmes which helps schools diagnose how to improve their staff training. The TDT stressed it would ensure that every participant currently enrolled on one of its NPQs, including those just recruited, would continue to get the best possible support as they complete their courses.

The TDT was founded 12 years ago to promote effective professional development in schools. For the past four years this work has included the delivery of NPQs, and in that time more than 5,000 teachers, school leaders and early years professionals have completed the qualification with the Trust. Earlier this year the Trust was the first of the nine current providers of the qualification to be recognised as “outstanding” by Ofsted.

However, after much reflection, the TDT no longer believes that delivering this government-funded programme should be its priority if it is to achieve its charitable aim of promoting the best professional development for those working in education.

The TDT has also withdrawn its bid to deliver the Early Career Framework (ECF), a procurement the Department for Education is still considering and which is another part of the so-called “golden thread” of government-designed and funded CPD for teachers and school leaders.

Gareth Conyard, CEO of the TDT, said:

“First, we have felt, increasingly, that by delivering government contracts we have been constrained in our ability to respond to the latest evidence in a nuanced way, and to be a critical friend to the government and others in the crucial area of CPD. It has limited our ability to support schools and teachers as effectively and impartially as possible.

“Second, it has become more difficult to operate in a volatile and increasingly dysfunctional market, with unequal relationships between different providers and the government.”

“We believe the nature of the market for government-funded professional development needs a significant reassessment and we want to be part of that discussion, bringing the value of our experience and knowledge, whilst being truly independent.”

He added that the trust hoped that by removing TDT as one of the competitors for limited funding, as many other lead providers as possible can continue to operate so that schools still have some degree of choice about who offers their NPQs and ECF.

Mr Conyard stressed that the decision was not a criticism of NPQs or ECF themselves, which he said were positives for the education system, and a foundation for future improved government-funded training. “The commitment of the current government to an entitlement to CPD holds the promise of transformational change,” he said, noting the TDT’s recent review of how the government could introduce a broader CPD entitlement

David Weston, Founder and Emeritus Director of the TDT, said:

“We set up the TDT to be a constructive and positive advocate for impactful professional development for all those working in education. This proactive decision brings focus to the original principles, which were to lead thinking and research on professional development to help teachers and school leaders make the best choices. The TDT has always been about the mission, not any particular mechanism.”

The TDT Chair, Dame Sue John, said:

“We always want to remember that it is the teachers in classrooms and the leaders in schools who make the real difference to the life chances of children. Effective professional development is a key way of supporting and retaining teachers and school leaders, and the TDT continues to be determined to find the best way to celebrate the profession, to build expertise, and to help ensure the best outcomes for children.”

Notes for Editors



- (1) The report by Ofsted can be found at <https://files.ofsted.gov.uk/v1/file/50242073>
- (2) Examples of the trust's work include the Culture of Improvement paper (2021), and a proposal on the introduction of a CPD Entitlement (2024). More information and other examples can be found at <https://tdtrust.org/research-3/>.

You can find out more about the Teacher Development Trust at www.tdtrust.org

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