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## **Case Study: Sheffield Museums & Heritage Schools CPD teacher training**

### ***An effective multi-partner approach to providing effective history CPD training for Primary School teachers working in Sheffield***

#### **Background**

Heritage Schools has worked with Create Sheffield (the city's Local Cultural Education Partnership which aims to connect Sheffield's education, cultural, arts and youth sectors to provide greater and equal opportunities for young people) and Sheffield Museums Trust to put together a multi-partner approach to providing heritage CPD training for Primary school teachers working in Sheffield.

This is the first time this three-way partnership has put on joint training for teachers.

In total 25 different schools from across the city have attended the training events.

#### **CPD training – collaboration and partnership**

CPD training consisted of four different days, each session building on the previous one, showing teachers how they can effectively use local heritage in the curriculum.



The first session was an online twilight training session to introduce the Sheffield Heritage Schools Programme, explore what is meant by 'heritage' and how it fits within the primary school history and wider curriculum.

The other three sessions have all been full day in-person training, starting with a day at Manor Lodge where the Heritage Schools' Local Heritage Education Manager (LHEM) from Historic England provided information on how Sheffield has changed, from its earliest beginnings to the present day, how this links to the national story and can fit within the history and wider school curriculum. The session also showed teachers how they can use maps, aerial photographs and other digital resources in the classroom. In the afternoon, teachers learnt about how Sheffield's heritage organisations can support schools, before visiting Manor Lodge (a medieval deer park and Tudor Turret House which once held Mary, Queen of Scots prisoner) and having a guided tour of Castlegate (an archaeological site where Sheffield as a city began).

*Teachers visiting Manor Lodge and  
Castlegate archaeological site*

The third CPD session, hosted at Weston Park Museum involved teachers doing various potential classroom activities looking at local and national buildings, famous people, objects and landmarks from Sheffield, asking enquiry questions such as which of these are most important, why do people get put on pedestals, which buildings should be saved and why. Teachers were also given guidance on designing a bespoke curriculum based on their own very local heritage. In the afternoon, teachers had a guided tour of Weston Museum to learn about their school visit and workshop offer, before going on a Big Buildings Tour of the city centre, highlighting potential places to visit (including Graves Art Gallery and Millennium Gallery – both operated by Sheffield Museums Trust) and other heritage sites which could be used on a walking tour.



*CPD training is hands on – showcasing activities that could be used in the classroom*

The final session will be held at the National Emergency Services Museum, with training covering how teachers can use their own school area, along with local maps, aerial photographs, local memorials, census records, trade directories and the National Heritage List to undertake a very local and engaging heritage study. Teachers will learn how to create their very own local heritage trail. They will also have a tour of the museum to hear about the school offering available, including the loan boxes and outreach workshops they can provide.

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## Benefits of joint CPD training

There is very little history or heritage CPD available in Sheffield, or indeed nationally for the Primary sector despite having lots of History Leads who are not history specialists themselves, who are looking for help and guidance to develop an engaging curriculum. For many teachers, this is the first history CPD they have gone on in a very long time.

Historic England funding has meant the training days have been able to be offered for free to the schools attending.

As many do not live locally or have not grown up in the area, teachers themselves often require cultural and heritage knowledge of the local area before they can use examples with their pupils. The CPD training has provided them with a wealth of new knowledge, researched and presented to them by the LHEM through various activities.

*"As a teacher I want to teach something that I know about" – teacher*

Training has modelled to teachers how they can use a wide range of activities and resources to help teach local history in an exciting and engaging way. The LHEM has demonstrated, via hands-on activities, how these could be used in the classroom, with advice to teachers on how to adapt these to suit their own schools and pupils.

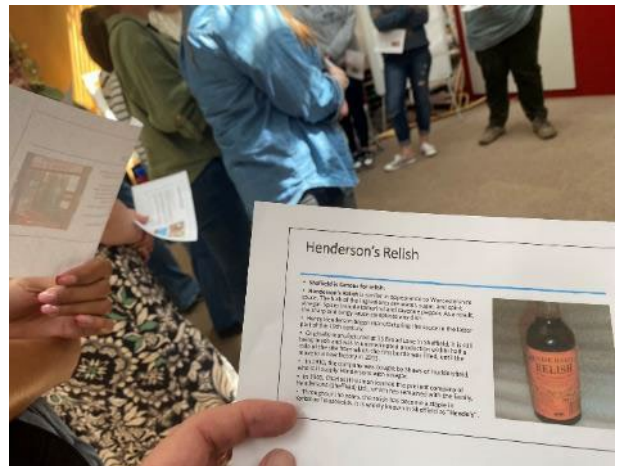
*"Opinion lines is something we do regularly, it's a good way to get them to discuss and have an opinion, but I'd not thought about using it for local history" – teacher*

*"There's so many easy wins to do, so many little ideas you can drop in" – teacher*

The training has been hands-on, with teachers doing the same activities as they could get their pupils to do, to understand how it might work in a group and classroom setting. Teachers have the opportunity to swap ideas with each other on how they might adapt or use the ideas shown to them, with their pupils.

*"It's useful to learn by doing as it gives you things to think about and how you might use it" – teacher*

*"Ideas for how to use resources. How to make resources engaging. How to use local heritage more effectively" - teacher*



*Teachers undertook sorting exercises and opinions lines using examples of local (and sometimes national & international) heritage which imparted knowledge and demonstrated how discussions about historical importance or significance could be undertaken with pupils*

The practical and transferable training approach has given teachers the skills, confidence and licence to plan and use their local heritage when teaching.

*"It is the sort of activity we could do with our pupils" – teacher*



*Teachers learning about the heritage of Sheffield inside & outside the classroom*

On the Sheffield city heritage walking tour, teachers were shown and told interesting stories about buildings and objects they often walk past and do not think much about.

*"I have walked past here so often and never noticed these [Sheffield stars of famous local people outside the town hall]" - teacher*

The knowledge imparted and ideas shown have gone beyond covering subjects such as history, English, geography or art to using their local area to raise debates, or cover bigger topics such as civic pride, citizenship and migration.

*"The relevance is clear, why it is important to introduce local heritage and easy to see why children will be engaged and connected with it" - teacher*

In each session, Historic England have provided teachers with a free Sheffield-specific resource pack to take away with maps, aerial photos, digital resources and all the teaching and activity ideas that have been demonstrated, explained via written instructions and with the showcards reproduced. Teachers can then share this with their colleagues in schools, giving a wealth of resources to use or adapt so the CPD training can be easily replicated in the classroom.

*"It's given us lots of resources to look through, which we can use in the classroom" - teacher*

*"It means you are not starting with a blank sheet of paper ... the ideas are practical, transferable and useable unlike many other training courses" - teacher*

Some of the schools have already used some of the resources and activities discussed, such as the *Where's Wally* approach to using maps with pupils (looking for key symbols or recurring features), and what evidence can be used when going on a local heritage walk. Others have been inspired to think about setting up a whole school project-based Sheffield week.

Teachers have also shared ideas and additional resources they had used with each other (e.g. the Sheffield Blitz app which shows where bombs fell across the city).



Different museums have been used to host the training sessions, enabling them and their education teams to showcase what they can offer schools.

Teachers often do not know in detail what locations and venues can offer schools, or how their collections or the workshops they deliver can enhance what is being taught in the classroom. As part of the workshop days, teachers have had tours of various galleries in different museums, and the education staff have been able to tell them about the workshops they run for schools.

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It has also provided an opportunity for museum education teams to find out from teachers what sort of things they want from a school visit offer.

## **Summary**

The CPD training sessions have provided an opportunity for Heritage Schools and various Sheffield Museums involved to showcase and signpost teachers to resources available, which can be used to enhance any local heritage study they undertake.

The ideas presented are tangible, practical (rather than theoretical), adaptable and useable; something very much appreciated by the teachers attending.

*"Some of the best training I've been on" – teacher*

*"So many practical and useful resources and activities which I will be able to do with my children" - teacher*

Without the knowledge, confidence, resources and enthusiasm provided by the CPD training sessions, it is very unlikely teachers would be as well equipped to develop their own local heritage project, and use their local heritage as engaging learning stimulus. Other school-based Heritage Schools case studies from this and previous year's evaluations demonstrate the powerful impact local heritage projects have on pupil's quality of work. The first step to this is CPD training, enthusing and equipping teachers to deliver such projects.

*"Amazing resources ... with practical ideas to take back to the classroom ... training has been really enjoyable and useful" – teacher*

*"Training was fab - love the enthusiasm and wealth of knowledge shared, simply great!" - teacher*

Teachers, Heritage Schools' LHEM, Create Sheffield and staff from Sheffield Museums Trust all feel the CPD training sessions have been a really good use of time, bringing so many Primary teachers together to receive some really comprehensive training, which will have a significant impact on their pupils who will ultimately be the beneficiaries of these high-quality collaborative training days.