

Department for Education (DfE) - Appropriate Body (AB) reforms

Important information update for Suffolk schools

In November, the DfE published a [response to the consultation on Appropriate Body reform](#) and induction assessment. The following information, taken from a DfE briefing pack, has been adapted for Suffolk schools by the partners listed above. It summarises:

- **what you need to know** about what is changing with AB services
- **what actions you will need to take** for induction of Early Career Teachers (ECTs) in 22/24 and beyond

What you need to know:

1. **Teaching School Hubs (TSH) will become the main provider of AB services from September 2024 (except for specialist ABs for some independent/overseas schools).**
2. Local Authorities (LAs) will withdraw from their AB role in two stages.
 - from September 2023 they will not take on any new ECTs
 - from September 2023 Suffolk LA will cease operating as an AB
3. The National Teacher Accreditation (NTA) AB service will also cease from September 2024 and will not take new registrations for academic year 23/24
4. **From September 2023, all new ECTs need to be registered with a TSH AB.**
5. **Schools will also need to ensure that any ECTs who are registered with Suffolk LA AB and who do not complete their induction by September 2023 are transferred to a TSH AB to complete in 23/24.** The partners, as above, will support schools with such transfers.
6. Suffolk LA AB, Inspiration, Unity and Alpha TSHs are working together to minimise impact of mid-induction transfers of ECTs between now and September 2023, whilst continuing to collaborate to ensure consistency of induction support across the region. In preparation for September 2023, the three TSHs will;
 - coordinate and encourage schools to use their local TSH for AB .
 - scale up their capacity in response to the phased withdrawal from the AB sector of LAs

Actions you will need to take:

1. **From September 2023, use a TSH AB for all new ECT registrations**
A reminder of the areas that each of the areas that the three TSHs operating in Suffolk cover:
 - Inspiration TSH: Waveney
 - Unity TSH: West, Mid Suffolk and Suffolk Coastal
 - Alpha TSH: Ipswich and Babergh
2. If using Suffolk LA AB for an ECT not due to complete their induction by September 2023, make arrangements to transfer the ECT to a TSH AB before the end of the academic year to ensure continuity of AB service
3. If currently accessing AB services from Suffolk LA AB or via National Teacher Accreditation (NTA), talk to them at the earliest opportunity to confirm plans i.e. which TSH AB you will use.
4. Where relevant, give permission to your current AB to share relevant information with your next AB. For schools currently using Suffolk LA AB, this is already covered through the terms and conditions which you agreed to at the point of registration.

Key Appropriate Body contacts within Suffolk

Appropriate body name	Contact name	Contact details and websites
Inspiration Teaching School Hub	Carmel Greene	inspirationschoolhub@inspirationtrust.org inspirationschoolhub.org
Unity Teaching School Hub	Celia Moore	cmoore@unitysp.co.uk unityschoolhub.net
Alpha Teaching School Hub	Sam Torr Serena Locksmith	storr@cchsg.org.com slocksmith@alphatsh.org alphatsh.org
Suffolk Local Authority	Celia Moore	Celia.Moore@suffolk.gov.uk

Additional information

Two additional documents can be found on TSH websites:

- an overview and rationale for the reforms
- a document answering frequently asked questions