

# Local innovation for the 21<sup>st</sup> century

Designing Next Practice solutions

Knowing  
your context,  
solving  
intractable  
problems

**The Innovation Unit** works with the most aspirational local leaders determined to solve intractable problems; with those who want to achieve a disciplined approach to radical innovation in their locality; with those willing to share their learning widely.

These energetic and confident public service leaders know that doing a good job for now is not enough... that their real challenge is to consider both the current and future needs of service users... that they must create new systems which will secure long term improvements. These leaders know that having foresight and vision is easy: mobilising colleagues and the community to work with you is not.

**“You have helped us face the changes we are embarking on by facilitating some difficult conversations and asking the questions that are difficult to answer. You understand our context and the issues we are working with.”**

Sue Hamby, Headteacher, Barnsley

Building  
innovative  
capacity,  
working in  
partnership

The Innovation Unit is a not-for-profit agency committed to working in partnership in localities to build innovative capacity and to drawing out and transferring local learning for use by others.

We provide:

### **The right people to work alongside you**

- Who can empathise with your local challenges and will be stakeholders in your success
- Who have relevant experience and have facilitated Next Practice solutions elsewhere
- Who understand and deliver consultancy as partnership

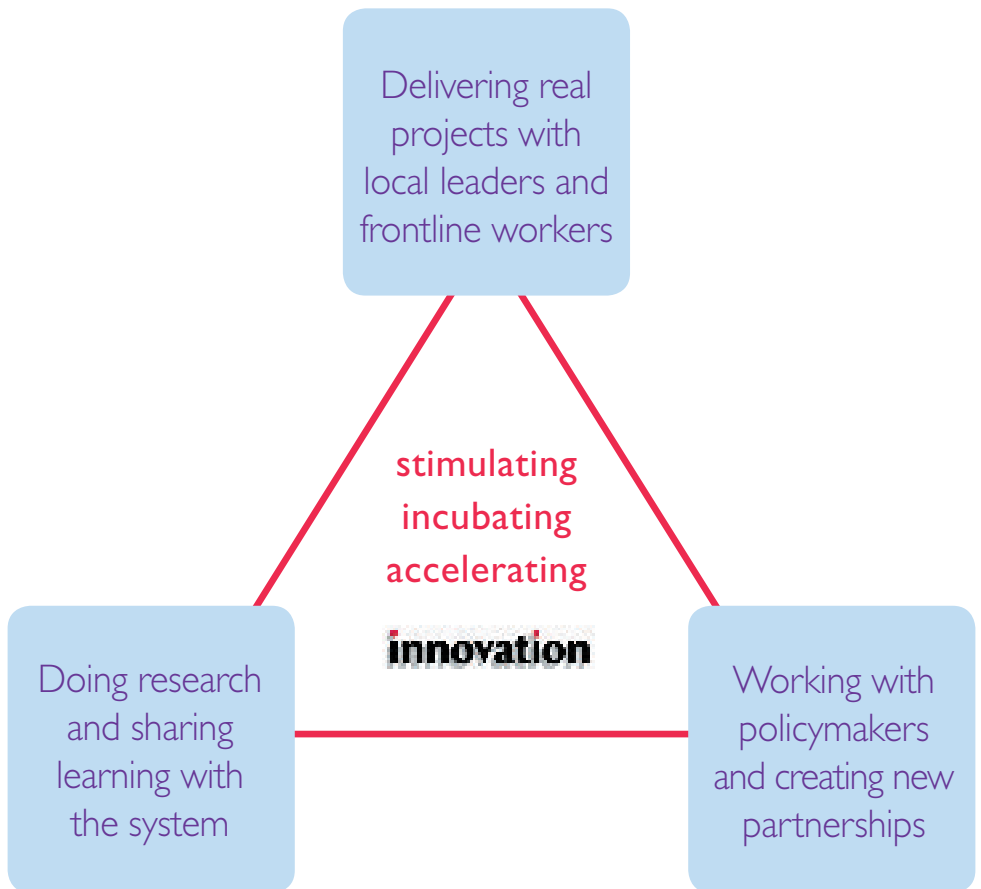
### **Tools and frameworks to support change**

- Used to create collective energy and momentum, and develop innovative capacity
- Taken from public and private sector; tailored to need
- Proven in children's services contexts

### **Networks and connections**

- Connecting you to key influencers, policymakers and other innovators
- Endorsing and legitimising your work
- Sharing your learning with the system

Using our close connections to government departments and our expertise in brokering partnerships with other public and private sector partners, we bring impetus to and endorse localities committed to transformation.



We know that old systems and approaches cannot deliver complex programmes of community regeneration, where fully engaging with users and working collaboratively across organisations and sectors are key factors.

We develop long term partnerships with local authorities, groups of schools and other agencies that want to develop new solutions to knotty, complex problems. Our approach is to help leaders to reconceptualise their practice, imagine how things can be different, and to design and deliver a programme of change management to achieve this transformation.

As administrators of the Power to Innovate, we can support localities in applications to suspend legislation that may be holding back innovative approaches.

**“Our consultant is very perceptive, very good at managing change and anticipating problems, and he is adding great value. I’m remarkably impressed, and I am a hard person to impress.”**

Dan Moynihan, Chief Executive/Principal, Harris Federation

In many of the locations where we are working, policy drivers like Every Child Matters and Building Schools for the Future are being used as stimuli for programmes of significant cultural and organisational change. Our people, tools and frameworks are enabling real changes and building local capacity

## Your aspirations

## Your challenges

### Barnsley

Putting local communities and their needs at the heart of service provision through new governance and leadership models



Developing a model of community leadership which builds on existing good relationships

Gaining active support from a wide group of stakeholders

Bringing together local models and LA-wide strategy

### Thamesdale

Redesigning locality provision, using external support, to create 14-19 student entitlement pathways



Moving from best to Next Practice

Creating new governance arrangements to deliver radical change

### Knowsley

Mobilising system leadership to transform lives by radically redesigning 21st Century education and service provision for young people across Knowsley



Putting in place local leadership capacity to deliver ongoing change

Working to difficult timescales

How to actively engage and develop new system leaders

## Our partnership work

Using tools to help define local vision

Brokering effective locality working

Creating local facilitation capacity

## Local change

More confidence and capacity to deliver change

Increased levels of local agreement and commitment to change

Local Wellbeing Partnerships and Director of Community Wellbeing now operationalised

## System change



Levering increased levels of local ambition

Helping to define strategy

Actively supporting implementation

Established of 14-19 Trust

Executive Head for 14-19 supported by teams of aspiring leaders

Setting up a not-for-profit company to support the work

**More effective public services and improved outcomes for children, young people and families**



Critical friendship

Expert advice

Brokering partnerships with national agencies

Redesigned models of governance and leadership which are adaptive and fit for purpose

Co-design of a year-long Pioneering System Leaders programme



# Your innovation projects

## Contact The Innovation Unit

If you are interested in finding out how The Innovation Unit could work with you to deliver transformed provision for children, young people and families in your locality, please contact us for an exploratory discussion of your issues, challenges and aspirations.

Or, if you are an organisation that would like to partner with The Innovation Unit in support of local innovation projects, please get in touch.

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