

REPORT BY BRIAN SHAW, Strategic Lead, Education and Skills

ESSEX – JIANGSU SPORTING AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE summer 2014.

This is a sporting and cultural exchange which has a long history dating back to 2008 forming part of a wider understanding and commitment.

Personal Learning from the exchange.

This exchange set me a number of challenges which in themselves impacted on my own learning and on my own development.

These challenges fell broadly into three areas, the first two of which align with the managers behaviours within Supporting Success and the last into my personal goals.

By visibly displaying your commitment to cross organisational success and in accepting full responsibility for the contributions of you and your team to this success.

Within this aim I had to work very closely with educational and training team who conduct the Jiangsu project. This meant conversing with colleagues within ECC and Jiangsu Education Department. Relationships developed will allow greater potential future success. I myself now have experience of working directly with foreign partners for the benefit of ECC.

By respectfully taking into account the views of others in effectively representing the position of ECC in the establishment of commercial partnerships that deliver best outcomes for the wider Essex community.

On arriving in Jiangsu I was presented as the Minister for Sport in Essex. Despite my explanation that did not change for the duration of the visit.

Accordingly my learning curve was steep. My proposed speeches had to be typed up and submitted prior to events with Head of Education for Jiangsu, Schools and television channels. I had not been called upon to operate at this level previously.

We have been asked to continue the exchange piece of work which will benefit future groups of Essex students and teachers..

Develop and maintain effective working structures, partnerships and relationships at county, regional and national levels to increase regular participation within community sport and physical activity.

The previous two responses combine to highlight this personal goal.