

LT/SLE/LLE/NLE - profile

Name	Jane O’Gara
Designation (Including Date of designation)	SLE 2016
Current School (LA or Sponsor)	Yorkshire Collaborative Academy Trust
Current Position	Chief Financial Officer
Context of School	YCAT is a growing primary multi academy trust currently consisting of 4 schools in North Yorkshire.
Particular area(s) of Expertise/Strength (please show any supporting data/information) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Academy Conversion project management 2. School Finance 3. Design and implementation of financial business processes for multi academy trusts. <p>I am a chartered accountant and have supported primary and special schools for 9 years with financial management as a member of NYCC’s Financial Management Support service. This has included preparing and managing budgets, training school staff on finance, offering financial advice and negotiating with the local authority on funding levels, particularly for SEND funding. I have also been a chair of governors at a primary school and am currently a secondary school governor.</p> <p>Prior to this, I worked for 15 years at PricewaterhouseCoopers. I completed my chartered accountancy training as an external auditor. On qualification, I transferred to management consultancy. I have supported clients in a wide range of industry sectors. My specialisms are in project and programme management and in the design of financial business processes. As an example, I project managed the design of a Shared Service Centre for a multinational pharmaceutical company. This involved centralising finance transaction processes in one location for 15 countries, whilst allowing the countries to retain autonomy for decision making.</p> <p>Knowledge gained from my work on Shared Service Centres has been invaluable in helping me to design best practice financial processes for YCAT and in supporting other schools on the requirements of multi academy trust finances.</p>
How have you previously supported another school?	I am providing ongoing advice and support to a number of schools in the process of establishing a multi academy trust.
What was the Impact of your support?	The support work is ongoing at these schools. However, to date, there has been an increase in confidence and knowledge about academies for finance and leadership staff.