

SASSPA Conference 2015 – Table Top Exercise

A total of 153 returns were submitted after the Table Top Exercise which was part of the presentation on LMBR deployment and training at the 2015 SASSPA conference. The returns contained 1,203 individual comments (505 Plus, 424 Minus and 274 Interest)

Set out below is a summary of the general trends, positive and negative.

1. The delay in further implementation until the solution was stable for the 229 schools met with approval, as indicated by the applause Greg Prior, Deputy Secretary (and Lynne Irvine, LMBR Deployment Director) received when the subject was mentioned.
2. There was general agreement that the move to face-to-face training was a good one and would be an improvement on what was offered to the 229 schools. However, there was some concern that it might not be possible to find appropriate training locations to serve all the schools in a network. The provision of a truly representative training system was also welcomed.
3. Many expressed a wish for more SAS staff to attend the LMBR delivered schools training; however logistics and cost mean that this unlikely to be possible.
4. There was general concern around the workload involved from three perspectives:
 - a. A perceived increase in the SAM's/SAO's work load post 'go live', based on the experience of the 229 schools.
 - b. The work that might mount up while SAS staff are attending the 15 days of LMBR delivered Schools Training, despite the provision of funds for casual relief.
 - c. The work required to train other SAS staff (and teachers) back at school who could not attend the face-to-face training sessions.
5. The provision of 20 days of casual cover was generally welcomed but with a few reservations:
 - a. 20 days would not fully offset two SAS staff attending 15 days of LMBR delivered Schools Training.
 - b. If a whole Principals Network was to be trained simultaneously, there might not be a big enough pool of casual staff to provide cover.
6. The delivery model, using Local Deployment Teams recruited from within the local Principals Network, to train and support schools during the journey was positively received. The establishment of a School Implementation Team, headed up by the principal would provide a good focus for effort within each school.
7. The more formal engagement of principals, and to a lesser extent teachers, was seen as a positive step away from the "LMBR is a SASS problem" perception that seemed to prevail in some schools during the 229 Pilot implementation.
8. There were a number of suggestions that the LDTs should be drawn exclusively from 229 schools SAS staff. LMBR cannot mandate this but it is encouraging that about 50% of the applicants for the first eight LDTs are from 229 schools. There are also not enough SAS staff within the 229 schools to be able to fully staff all the LDTs that will be recruited over the life of the LMBR program.
9. Comments on the LMBR Program's funding focussed on two areas:
 - a. Will funding be made available for the casual relief? **Answer:** Yes, 20 days of cover will be provided.
 - b. Will funding be made available for two screens, new printers etc? **Answer:** Funding will have to come from the schools IT budget.

10. A number expressed concern that their schools' computers might not be able to cope, while others welcomed the IT Audit, which hopefully will identify any shortcomings early in the process. The eT4L program which is now complete in all primary schools (and the secondary schools program is progressing) should mean that schools' IT equipment will handle the LMBR solution.

11. A suggestion was made that allowing the two SAS staff from a school to attend training on different days, rather than having them attend training on the same days, might go some way to alleviating the casual relief problem. LMBR is looking at this in more detail to see if it is feasible. There will be a balance to be struck between leaving the schools with reduced office support and the two SAS staff learning together. The outcome will be decided at a local level on a network by network basis.

12. It was felt that the tiered support model would give SAS staff the reassurance they need to complete the migration. This included the QRGs and Training Handbooks as well as the presence of the LDT for 10 weeks post 'go live' before handing over to Business as Usual (BAU) support.

Specific Questions

13. Specific questions that were asked are being used to formulate the LMBR Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) that will be available to schools in Term 4, 2015. Questions regarding the systems and the training curriculum have been used to further refine the LMBR training materials and communications to schools.
