**Background**

- High quality educational provision is paramount to the stability and future prosperity of Northern Ireland.
- Many areas of Northern Ireland (e.g. West Belfast) have high concentrations of economic deprivation and require support.
- Education support Services have been diminished over time.

**The question**

*How do we as practitioner researchers assist with the improvement of education not only in our schools but also, collectively in our communities? (Brown 2011)*

**One Solution to improvement 2009 – Present**

**Facilitated CPD Evaluation**

- Northern Ireland is at a different stage of school evaluation in comparison to some jurisdictions. Data informed Decision Making, peer assessment, etc. is common practice in schools.
- Other aspects of CPD evaluation need to be provided such as area, cluster based, participatory evaluation, value added, etc.

**Impact**

- 14 evaluation CPD clusters throughout Northern Ireland.
- More than 620 staff have participated in Evaluation training to date with evidential impact.
- The model of CPD evaluation developed in Northern Ireland is also gaining traction at an international level.

**One Solution to improvement 2009 – Present**

**Facilitated Research Partner Schools**

**Impact**

- Schools now engaging in action research for improvement in various areas such as:
  - Parent, student Voice
  - Child of Birth Assessment
  - Polycentric Evaluation
  - Evaluating AFL
  - Communities of Practice
  - Data informed Decision making
  - Area Learning Communities (ALC)

**Impact**

We are already seeing the benefits of this Action Research Model in our School (Teacher – North Belfast)

We think that these concepts have a wider application towards improving standards across our system. We have started something here (Principal – West Belfast)

**One Solution to improvement Moving Forward**

**Connecting Hearts and Minds**

- Open Access on line CPD support provided to all schools in Northern Ireland.
- Cascaded model of facilitated support provided to research partners.