



Shared Sunderland Leadership – Case study

Chompa, a resident of Sunderland with Bangladeshi roots, embarked on a journey through a leadership program to challenge stereotypes and promote inclusivity in school governance. With a background in counseling and psychology, she was determined to tackle systemic racism and the lack of diverse representation in educational leadership.

The Shared Sunderland Leadership initiative aimed to make it easier for people from underrepresented backgrounds, like Chompa, to become school governors. Chompa, a respected community leader, joined the program to enhance her skills and make a positive impact in local schools. Though initially unsure about the qualifications needed for governorship, her commitment to community service drove her passion for diversity and inclusion.

Through workshops and drop-in sessions provided by Shared Sunderland, and delivered by Together for Children Chompa learned about the role of school governors and the application process. She found that dedication and a desire to serve were more important than specialised expertise.

Shared Sunderland sessions gave Chompa the knowledge and confidence to pursue her goal of becoming a school governor. Her persistence led to her appointment as a community governor at Diamond Hall Infant School, where over half the students come from diverse backgrounds.

Chompa also worked with the Racial Justice in Education Campaign led by Tyne and Wear Citizens, recognising the need for diverse leadership to break down systemic barriers in education.

Transitioning from a listener to a leader took great courage and placed Chompa in a significant position of responsibility. Her involvement with the Shared Sunderland Leadership project strengthened her commitment to creating a fairer society.