

Forth Valley & West Lothian Education Scotland Team Update



WELCOME!

Welcome to the third FVWL Education Scotland Team Update. In this one we will share with you the work we have been doing alongside our partners across the FVWL Regional Improvement Collaborative (RIC) highlighting one or two particular actions we have been engaged in and drawing upon our national roles and engagements.

We hope this will help you to find out more about the ES work and the partnership work we're involved in with our colleagues across the FVWL RIC and within local authorities. We would encourage you to contact our staff to find out more about the work and we can also signpost you to other work that is happening in the RIC area.

Our FVWL Education Scotland Team involves staff with a range of expertise, combining their national remits with support for the FVWL RIC.

Recently, Education Scotland team members met with Secondary Head Teachers from across the RIC to explore joint working further and to share with Head Teachers the work of the FVWL Education Scotland team and the range of expertise within the team.

Also, on 24th February the whole Education Scotland team met with lead officers across the RIC to carry out a joint planning session for future work.

At this session Colin Grant of ADES shared some reflections on the RIC planning process, we heard from Scottish Government colleagues, explored the vision of the FVWL RIC with Elaine Cook and considered data, particularly around numeracy with RIC and ES colleagues. ES team members commented that the day provided:

'Helpful discussion around ensuring that the RIC's messages remain a two-way process between the RIC and practitioners';

'A good chance to explore the shared commitment of the RIC to planning for the next three years which keeps learners at the heart of that vision and planning'.

We look forward to a further opportunity to plan with the RIC for joint working in the year ahead.

Being numerate helps us to function responsibly in everyday life and contribute effectively to society. It increases our opportunities within the world of work and establishes foundations which can be built upon through lifelong learning

[Supporting numeracy at home](#) provides simple ideas to build numeracy skills into everyday activities with your child

THIS MONTH'S HIGHLIGHT: NUMERACY & MATHEMATICS

- Have you engaged with the numeracy academy?
- What does numeracy look like in your context?
- Have you [Making Maths Count Final Report](#)?

Numeracy Education Officer, Maria Docherty has been working to support the development of numeracy skills across learning and teaching. Maria stresses the key role of numeracy across learning; *'Numeracy development, whether national, regional or local has to be underpinned by the recommendations set out in the Making Maths Count Report. The task is to help transform Scotland into a maths positive nation - heightening confidence levels, improving knowledge and understanding of learning and teaching in numeracy and improving attainment and achievement'.*

Working closely with RIC numeracy lead officers, she has been involved in the co-creation of PL materials to support the understanding of concepts; particularly at first level with RIC numeracy leads. In practice, this involves providing guidance on effective methodologies and approaches to enhance conceptual understanding. Maria has been involved in RIC Numeracy Academy activities, the aim of which is to offer research-based professional learning opportunities to practitioners to build confidence levels, skills, knowledge and understanding of Numeracy & Mathematics. This has a direct impact on learners who benefit from meaningful progressive learning experiences, and improved outcomes. Practical examples of the activities Maria has engaged in around Numeracy, are involvement in the recent STEM bid process in Clackmannanshire. Here, she has co-produced a support package for practitioners, providing advice on evaluating progress and impact. She has also been involved in focus groups in WL to support updating progression pathways. Maria has continued to provide national perspective on numeracy including CLPL resources for the Professional Learning and Leadership Framework and building the ambition refresh. But of course, as well as these key national and regional strategic approaches, Maria stresses the importance of developing numeracy skills for individual learners. She says; *'I want our young people to engage with mathematics and build their comprehension of the subject across the curriculum, as society requires young people who are sophisticated mathematical thinkers, pattern spotters and problem solvers, therefore I aim to empower our young people as mathematicians'*

If you would like further support contact :

[Lynne McBain](#)
[Peter Valentine](#)
[Maria Docherty](#)



OTHER NEWS

ATTAINMENT ADVISORS & NIF OFFICER

[Jackie Ballantyne](#), has been opening up professional dialogue around the purpose of Assessment & Moderation and planning for multiple schools/cluster moderation events.

[Kit Gilbert](#) Continues to support Falkirk's SAC schools around using data for improvement and has co-created VSE PEF report.

[Jacqui Ward](#) has been supporting Stirling secondary schools starting their professional learning hub journey into flexible learning pathways.

[Trish Leeson](#) has been working with Clackmannanshire's Assessment Coordinator to prepare and deliver the second round of moderation events involving primary/ early years educators.

[Tommy Lennox](#) has been leading and supporting Assessment & Moderation events in Clackmannanshire, Falkirk and West Lothian.

LITERACY, NUMERACY, HEALTH & WELLBEING

[Helen Fairlie](#) participated in 'Disciplinary Literacy' input at the FVWL Literacy Academy.

EARLY LEARNING, CHILDCARE & PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT/FAMILY LEARNING

[Beverley Ferguson](#) has been exploring family learning and delivering parental engagement CLPL across the RIC.

CURRICULUM, STEM, CLPL, CLD & DIGITAL LEARNING

[Jim Fanning](#) has been working on a briefing and support package for RITs linked to the development of regional online publications.

[Stephanie Peat](#) has been discussing the professional learning endorsement process with the FVWL Numeracy Academy.

[Fiona Shaw](#) worked on a joint event with SDS on widening inclusivity in learner pathways in Forth Valley and with Falkirk's science subject networks.

[Lynne Robertson](#) has been exploring a pilot programme in WL: 'Types and Styles of Writing in RME & Social Studies'.

[Joe Walker](#) has been exploring support for RME in ASN contexts across West Lothian.

[Susan Epsworth](#), CLD Education Officer, joined the team at the beginning of February and has been concentrating on making links with CLD leads across the region

[Mairi Thomson](#) has been working with local authority STEM leads to explore next steps

THE MONTH AHEAD

In March 2020 other work ES FVWL Team will be carrying out in collaboration with our partners across the RIC will include:

- Working alongside Assessment Coordinators to support local authority moderation and share plans for National Moderation
- Working with Scottish Government on regional consultation event with practitioners and learners around the forthcoming Adult Learning Strategy
- Co-facilitating regional 'Collaborating for Improvement' CLD event
- Working with headteachers and central staff in Clackmannanshire to revisit their VSE model
- Participating in a short life working group to draft a Clackmannanshire Assessment Framework
- Contributing to the development of Clackmannanshire's approach to maximising progress
- Meeting with secondary PTs English and Literacy from across the four authorities to discuss the setting up of a RIC PT network
- Work with STEM partners and support STEM grantees as they report on professional learning progress.
- Finalise the RIC briefing paper for online CLPL
- Development of an online learning offer for RME
- Continuing to support the delivery and learning of the FVWL Evolving Systems Cohort
- Organising a national professional learning conversation: 'It Starts with a Question' which FVWL colleagues are invited to attend, more information and sign up here:
<https://it-starts-with-a-question.eventbrite.co.uk>
- Delivering a probationer teacher session on gender stereotypes and unconscious bias in WL
- Providing a twilight session in Falkirk on challenging gender stereotypical language
- Supporting SAC Schools' Programme schools with their reporting and planning for 2020-21,
- Sharing practice with Stirling educational psychologist team
- Working alongside the RIC HWB workstream considering the PSE curriculum.

[New report shows the positive impact on communities through Community Learning and Development \(CLD\)](#)

SEEKING SUPPORT?

If you're looking for some support from the FVWL Education Scotland Team, here's what you do:

- Make contact with your own local authority officers first to discuss your requirements and indicate which of our team members is likely to be the best match for your request.
- At the same time you can contact one of the ES team to discuss your requirements who will be able to advise how to take this forward
- Ask your local authority contact to make a more formal request for support
- Start working together to build improvement

