

Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative



Conference Report
Attendance Symposium
27th March 2023

Strathclyde University Technology and
Innovation Centre

Introduction

In line with the wishes of FV&WL RIC Heads of Establishment the event was planned to be a hybrid event with people being able to attend in person and virtually. In total 186 people registered to attend in person and 285 people registered to attend virtually. There were representatives from schools, Education Scotland and the Scottish Government. In addition there were representatives from nearly every Local Authority in Scotland in attendance.

Venue

The Technology and Innovation Centre was chosen as the venue for this event as it offered the best combination of breakout rooms to facilitate workshops, a large event space for speakers and technology to support a hybrid event. In addition whilst this was not a venue within the Forth Valley & West Lothian area; nearby transport links with all areas made it an accessible venue for everyone.

Evaluation

Below are some of the key points and comments from the evaluation exercise that was carried out at the end of the symposium.

What did you find most valuable from the workshops?

Hearing from a research base and at a practical level from schools about what they are doing. Particularly interested in what Braes are doing in the first session.

EBSA was really good, lots of useful resources shared and was well organised in terms of the hybrid model with breakout groups for those of us who were online. Early Years workshop shared some useful strategies which they had used for a child but was less easy to access from an online perspective, I'm sure staff in the room would have got more from this session.

Hopefully looking at the associated files linked to both workshops. Always helpful to hear current thinking and next steps for the council.

Creative, flexible and inclusive practice example.

Sharing good practice

Regions that have staff who are providing school with the data and Power BI. The data is not available to staff in D&G.

I thought the Psychological impact on Attendance was really useful and gave a great insight into lack of attendance.

Practical ideas that have worked in secondary schools.

Hearing real examples of what schools are doing to improve attendance.

Tools shared

Practical ideas

The practical ideas to take away and implement in school.

Resources to take back to my setting

Listening to other similar experiences. Info about systems and procedures put in place in different settings to remove barriers.

Information about what is taking place in other authorities

Being able to find out further information on how we can access and use the data to have an impact in school.

Finding out about assessment tools

Experiences and resources

The family-well-being partnerships.

The sharing of programmes that have had positive impacts on young people.

Hearing the story

Hearing colleagues' experiences/initiatives...

Avoidance cycle and strategies to achieve positive impact Interventions to explore how cyp is feeling and strategies to use

How to analyse attendance and look to implement PowerBI or SeemisBI

The speaker's life experience and how he puts this to work at his work.

The quantity of collaborative work that happens within the Region and the Regional resources to sustain initiatives such as RAAD. Interesting to see that this is being prioritised within those Regions.

Danny the speaker was fantastic. It was great to hear what he faced and felt while struggling to attend school first hand.

The practical tools used within schools

Great sharing of ideas

Colin Bruce's description of implementing the family well being partnership and the discussion around how we would change the secondary school day

Focus on small numbers as a starting point and scale up gradually. Reaching beyond the schools gates with a focus on collaboration, with families are at the heart. Both qualitative and quantitative data are both equally important.

Being able to use data through assessment to inform targeted approaches to improving attendance. The importance of changing school culture to be welcoming and supportive to both learners and parents/carers

Evidence of interventions that could make an impact on improving attendance The news that there is work on seemis codes to improve understanding is going to happen

Hearing about using the SRASR in combination with other assessments

Model of Improvement sessions was great. Lots of interesting approaches to take forward.

Some affirmation that what we are doing in school is correct. The news of Power Bi was interesting and I'm looking forward to seeing it roll out in Falkirk.

Professional dialogue

Practical examples of how schools are working with children, young people and families to support engagement with the school community and attendance.

3 - further ideas on how to process and engage with data

Impact on learners and families. Couldn't access other workshop at the time due to work but found Danny Gemmell input really valuable

New ideas shared for wider leadership qualifications and inspired to offer more of these to our non attenders. The trainers were knowledgeable, workshops were engaging and the speakers were brilliant, however listening to Danny Gemmell was empowering and he connected with the room. Very well organised event from start to end.

Clear plans of action to implement when tackling attendance , useful resources and opportunities for meaningful discussion.

The strategic approach to attendance within the Family Wellbeing Partnership was very informative and thought provoking

A range of practical tools and methods to identify the causes of pupil absence. Real-life practice examples of how to tackle attendance within an early years setting where attendance is not compulsory. Opportunity to connect and share practice and interventions with practitioners across other LAs and sectors.

Seeing ideas put into practice

What could we do to improve the experience? (n/a responses not included)

Continue to offer in person and remote sessions.

If offering a hybrid experience again, ensure that all presenters had a similar offering for those online.

Not sure.

More discussion based workshops.

Build in time between workshops to move or log in

Some tech issues could have been resolved quicker.

The session kept being muted half way through.

There were some issues with sharing the slides in real time. Working in a smaller school, it would be good to hear from a school in a similar situation as ours - we don't get the level of PEF funding that would allow us to employ dedicated staff as was shared in the workshops.

Wish I had chosen to come in to the in person event as you miss out on all the dialogue virtually.

More of the same!

Nothing

Nothing. I really enjoyed the event and appreciated the opportunity to join remotely

Some of the technical difficulties but that is to be expected with an online conference.

Missed a lot of the first lecture due to no sound

Having learning opportunities like this more often

Share Materials. In both of our sessions schools talk about materials they use, create a hub for the event that materials can be uploaded to. No reason for us to re-invent the wheel in 32 local authorities! In my 1st session the slides did not change on our screen and the presenters stood too far away from the computer so it was a tricky session to engage with. The 2nd session the sound was also tricky hear at times. Whatever was done for the key note speakers to ensure they were heard needs to be done also for the workshop speakers.

Have more speakers like the last one as he made it relevant.

Access to more than 2 Workshops - full day event

Once we logged on it worked fine.

It was difficult getting into the meetings.

Notes added to PPT to be included would be beneficial.

Audio wasn't great at times.

It was excellent over all

Market place with EY showcasing

Can't think of one- maybe time for reflection with colleagues between workshops

Break out rooms for online colleagues to share good practice.

Continue to provide opportunities for learning and collaboration through events like this one

Whole day conference with chances to network after each work shop

Nothing it was good

Longer for workshops as these felt a bit rushed.

No improvements

Great morning, thank you for all your hard work.

Is there any further support that we can provide to facilitate your next steps? (n/a and No responses have been removed)

Info from powerpoints etc and online links are ok for me at the moment. Have some contacts to be able to access further info as I move forward with exploring this further.

Would be great to have a finalised list of codes for seemis with case studies for staff to refer to to ensure consistency across the country.

Continue to share information

Links to all the useful tool.

Keeping the Team going with uploaded resource would help us with our next steps to improving attendance.

It would be good to have support from Falkirk with the BI set up in the school.

I am newly appointed as PT Equity. It would be great to create a network of PT Equity post holders across local authorities.

Follow-up event

More logistical details from Denny/Falkirk High about staffing and resourcing of RAAD.

It would be useful to connect with Home Link colleagues within other RIC areas, especially in relation to Parental Engagement and Empowerment. lesley.hillan-fowler@east-ayrshire.gov.uk

None at the moment.

Sharing of seemis customised report template and associated spreadsheet to allow gcc practitioners the opportunity to use.

Seemis coding moving forward.

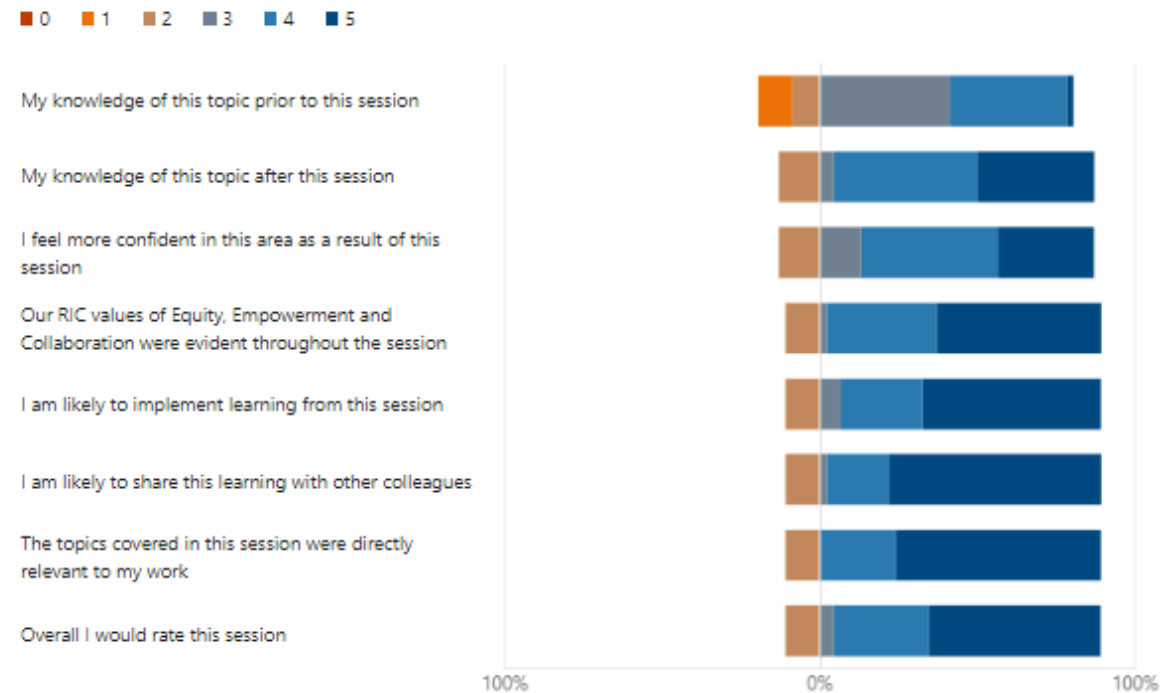
Keep doing what you are doing, it's excellent and is starting to have an impact

Will continue to use RIC resources

Question 5 below provided excellent feedback on the effectiveness of the event.

5. On a scale of 0-5 with 5 being highest please evaluate the following statements based on the keynote speech

[More Details](#)



Challenges

Creating a hybrid event posed a number of challenges. Using Microsoft Teams for this event proved to be a challenge for a number of reasons. The settings in our Local Authorities 'Corporate Teams; made access to the chat facilities difficult. A padlet was created which was used by many as an alternative, but whilst it was reasonably effective, it was a compromise solution in terms of trying to allow participants to fully engage in the workshops in the way in which we had hoped.

In a couple of the workshop rooms sound proved to be an issue, particularly when presenters moved away from the podium.

In the main auditorium the sound dropped for a short period during the first presentation.

Overall however, the technology appeared to work fairly well for most participants.

PRESENTATION LINKS



Forth Valley and West Lothian Regional Improvement Collaborative

The Attendance Symposium

Please click on the links below to download the presentation slides from The Attendance Symposium.

Key Note Speech- [Keynote Attendance Symposium- Markus Klein and Edward Sosu, Strathclyde University](#)

Workshop 1- [Developing whole-school well-being to improve attendance – Braes High School, Falkirk](#)

Workshop 2 [Raising Attainment, Attendance and Destinations-Claire Bradley and Clare McLaughlin, Falkirk](#)

Workshop 3 [Accessing and analysing attendance data – RIC Data Coaches and Seemis](#)

Workshop 4 [Workshop 4 Identifying the causes of school absence with 'The School Refusal Assessment Scale' \(SRAS-R\) - FVWL Educational Psychology Team](#)

Workshop 5 [Using data-informed and multi-agency approaches to improve attendance in the Early Years- Cornton Nursery, Stirling](#)

Workshop 6 [What is Emotionally-Based School Avoidance \(EBSA\) and how can we support it? – FVWL Educational Psychology Team](#)

Workshop 7 [‘The Family Well-being Partnership’: System level approaches to attendance and well-being – Colin Bruce, Clackmannanshire Council](#)

Workshop 8 [Improving primary attendance through universal interventions and working with parents – Karlie Gray, West Lothian Equity Team](#)

Closing Speech-[Danny Gemmell -Be-Inn Unity- Presentation Slides](#)

Danny Gemmell- Student Tango

Be-Inn Unity – Flyer



Danny Gemmell has extended an invite to view his work further-Please contact him via this address -<https://www.beinnunity.co.uk/contact>

'We would also offer an opportunity for other schools to come and see/feel the work that Lisa is doing in Larbert High School, sometimes seeing it in action can make decisions easier when weighing up the "pro's" to external agencies supporting young people.'

Further Links

FVWL RIC Interactive Attendance Guide –

<https://www.thinglink.com/scene/1623658654429347842>

FVWL RIC The Inspiration Hub-<https://theinspirationhub.co.uk/>