

## Newsletter

May 2019

Welcome to the latest update from the South East Improvement Collaborative. Our work continues to expand with the aim of both adding value and creating the conditions for collaboration across the five local Authorities in the South East area of Scotland: City of Edinburgh, East Lothian, Fife, Midlothian and the Scottish Borders. Since January this year much has been done to develop the workstreams identified in the Phase 2 Plan for the SEIC and to create networks of professionals to take forward the priorities clearly set out for improvement which will complement the work of the local authorities. Gradually over this period links have been established in each area to help facilitate clear and transparent communication to aid development. A number of events aimed at connecting practitioners and leaders have successfully been run in the initial stage of ensuring that the work of the collaborative reaches those working in schools and early years settings. In response to workstreams and networks are emerging to support the priorities and to achieve the two main aims of :

1. Improving our attainment and achievement, including closing the attainment gap;
2. Improving quality in our schools and early years' settings.

### Where to find us

Our blog provides an overview of what is happening on an ongoing basis ( <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/seicollab/the-plan/> ) and also has a link to our Phase 2 Plan ( <https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/glowblogs/seicollab/files/2018/11/SEIC-Plan-2018-submitted.pdf> ) It also has an update of our Twitter feed bringing you news as it happens. Word is spreading about the opportunities which collaboration is presenting for those involved in education in the South East. With almost 10,000 teachers, 438 schools and about 140,000 learners in the SEIC it is important to ensure this reaches all areas of the collaborative.



### Collaboration

"Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress,  
and working together is success." – Henry Ford

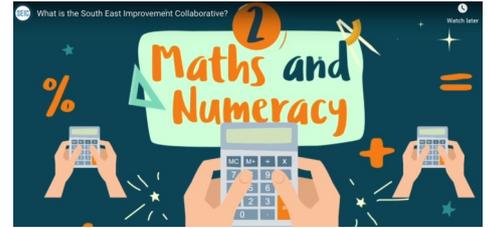
### Recent events

10/11 May	Developing Collaborative Leadership
21 May	Evaluative writing
23 May	SEIC Columba 1400 network meeting
24/25 May	Developing Collaborative Leadership

### Upcoming events

29 May	BGE Transitions
10 June	'Journey to Improving Wellbeing, Equality and Inclusion
13 June	ASN initial network meeting
21st June	CLD network meeting
June (tbc)	Digital network meeting
23 Sept	SEIC Columba 1400 cohort 2
11 Nov	SEIC Columba 1499 cohort 3

Between December and April events have helped to connect teachers across the SEIC . The Primary Headteacher's event in December reached 60 clusters. In March our joint Education Scotland/SEIC conference held at Murrayfield for practitioners aimed at 'Closing the Gap in attainment and achievement' saw 290 schools represented with our Secondary Headteachers meeting reaching 50 out of the 63 Secondary schools. Feedback on each of these events has been extremely positive. Our short film on the 'Magic of Learning' and our animation on 'What is the South East Improvement Collaborative' have been widely viewed and our Twitter feed now has almost 1200 followers. There is still work to be done to ensure that the work of the collaborative reaches individual classrooms. Much of the early work is described in this newsletter.



The Maths and Numeracy workstream has been busy with a number of events exploring improvement in this area across the SEIC. Below is a summary of some of their work

<p><b>Priority 1</b>          Improve pedagogical approaches to mathematics and numeracy through increased access to high quality staff development.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All five local authorities have similar approaches to the development of pedagogy and have agreed to share frameworks.</li> <li>An agreement to open planned CLPL opportunities to other authorities has meant greater opportunities for all staff. This is helping to address gaps in individual local authority provision and allowing for more networking across local authorities.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 2</b>          Improve confidence and expertise in assessment and moderation of numeracy and mathematics to develop a shared understanding of standards across all 5 LAs and ensure learners make appropriate progression in relation to the national benchmarks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The recent assessment and moderation event, with a focus on the moderation cycle which took place on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2019 was highlighted. This was aimed at teachers working with early, first and second level children and young people, with the opportunity for engagement from the secondary sector.</li> <li>Teachers valued opportunities to work on the moderation cycle with colleagues out with their local authority and enjoyed the practical nature of the event and the moderation tools that facilitated the dialogue</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 3</b>          To improve attainment in numeracy for school leavers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>So far, leads have met with the SQA and a group has been established to take this forward.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Priority 4</b>          To share and develop targeted strategies to support schools to address the poverty related attainment gap.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Schools from all five local authorities, with this as a priority on the School Improvement Plan have put themselves forward to participate.</li> <li>An event took place on 14<sup>th</sup> March with a follow up on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Amanda Cronin (Attainment Adviser with Education Scotland) supported the event with schools then working together on common themes. The Maths/Numeracy workshop which was held for practitioners across the SEIC had very positive responses “exceeded my expectations, felt this could really make an impact on attainment”, “left feeling inspired to formulate a plan”, “talking about what we are currently doing to close the gap and really getting down to the fine points of what we need to do next”.</li> </ul>



DHTs/PTs reflecting on the moderation cycle

**Maths/Numeracy moderation and assessment event**

In March a Maths/Numeracy workshop was held for practitioners across the SEIC with very positive responses “exceeded my expectations, felt this could really make an impact on attainment”,

“left feeling inspired to formulate a plan”,

“talking about what we are currently doing to close the gap and really getting down to the fine points of what we need to do next”.

## SEIC/Education Scotland event resources

‘Creating magic through collaboration’

Tuesday 5th March 2019, Murrayfield Stadium, Edinburgh

The recent event held at Murrayfield involved 290 practitioners from schools across the SEIC with a mixture of Keynotes, Seminars, workshops and storyboard stalls in the ‘Market Place’.

Feedback on the event has been extremely positive with many links being made between schools to gain practical advice from each other. Inputs were given by Carrie Lindsay (SEIC Lead), Maria Walker (Education Scotland), John Swinney (Depute First Minister) and Jaz Ampaw-Farr.

**Workshop downloadable resources:**

### Pedagogy and partnerships:

Warout Primary School in Glenrothes is a Scottish Attainment Challenge School. They are raising attainment in writing using [robust vocabulary](#) and have been working in collaboration with Speech and Language Therapists. Canal View Primary School, Edinburgh, are raising attainment through [improving early level pedagogy](#) and by working in partnership with Speech and Language therapists.

### Early level pedagogy:

Burnbrae, Hawthronden, Woodburn and Mount Esk Nursery in Midlothian shared their journey of collaboration, further developing [Pedagogical knowledge and Froebelian principles and practices](#).

P1 teachers and nursery staff in [Tollcross Primary School](#) campus, Edinburgh, are working in collaboration to develop capacity and leadership in play based learning approaches. This work has involved P1 and nursery staff carrying out enquiry based approaches in both the nursery and P1 classes, and sharing and reflecting on evidence and impact.

### Collaborative professional enquiry:

three Secondary Schools shared their journey and the impact of Collaborative Professional Enquiry –

[Kelso High School](#)

[North Berwick High School](#)

[Knox Academy](#)

### Closing the gap within numeracy:

Waid Academy in Fife are addressing the poverty related attainment gap in numeracy and shared their journey and the impact so far in developing numeracy skills and a cooperative teaching model. [Earlston High School](#) and the associated [cluster primary schools](#) are using a collaborative approach to close the poverty related gap in Numeracy.

### Improving learning & engagement:

[Lasswade Primary School](#) share their work as part of Shirley Clarke’s Research Team, developing Formative Assessment in classes and sharing throughout the school and on a local authority level. Teachers worked in collaboration with colleagues from across Midlothian to experience of developing a learning culture and using talk partners in the early years.

[Pinkie St Peter’s Primary School](#) also presented on improving learning and engagement.

### Using data for improvement:

[John Fergus School](#) is a special school for people with complex additional support needs in the Glenrothes area in Fife. They have been using a quality improvement approach to increase pupil communication.

[Edenside Primary School](#) in the Scottish Borders are using data to track the closing the Health and well-being gap.

### Whole school approaches to transforming pedagogy:

Brunstane Primary School, Edinburgh, has undergone a process of significant improvement through a whole school approach to transforming pedagogy and increasing participation. Teachers from the school described how their Learning and Teaching Toolkit and Pupil Parliament have led to improved outcomes overall for learners.

[Carleton Primary School](#) in Fife is using QI tools and techniques across the school in a range of contexts. Here, they share their journey on improving writing.



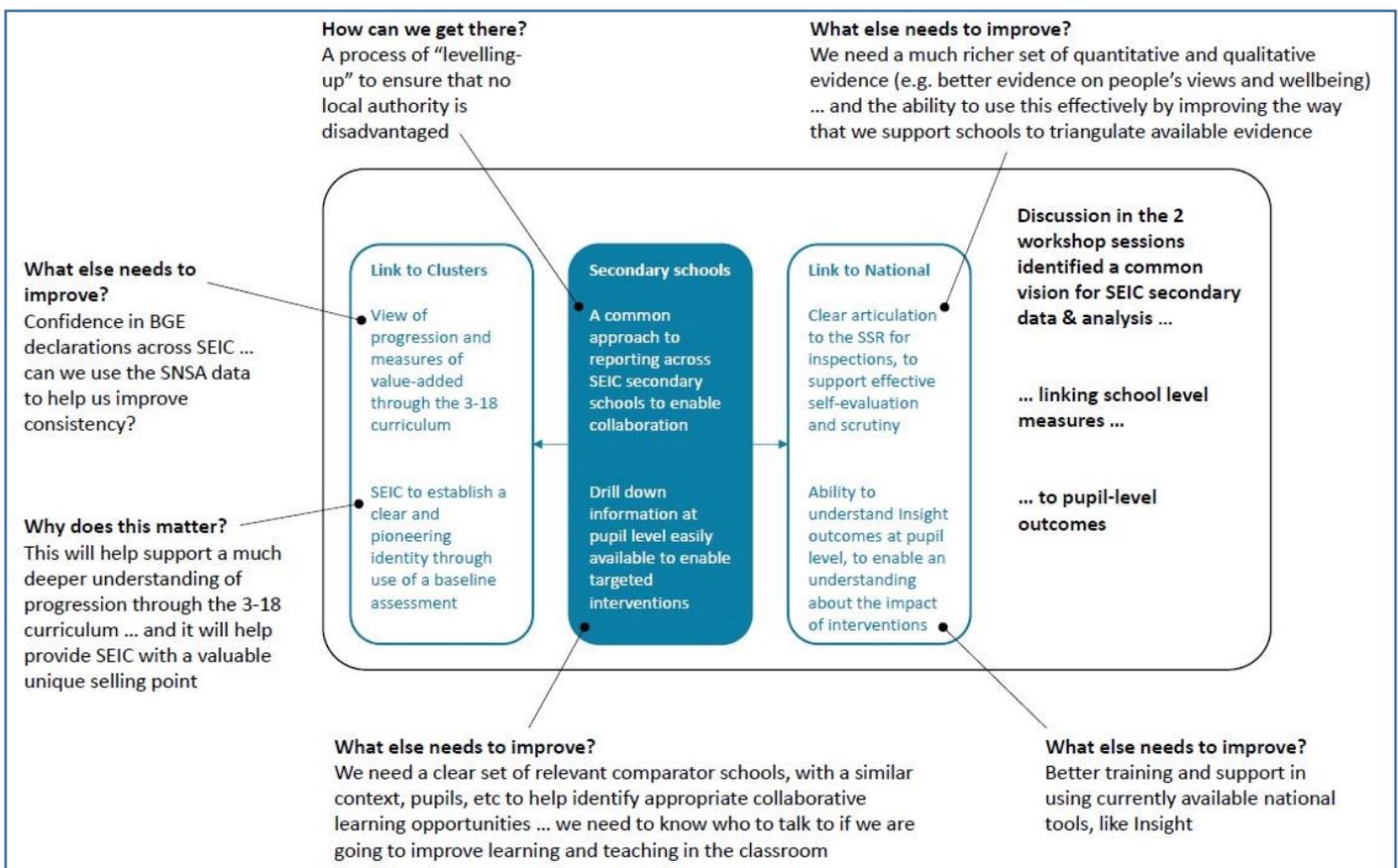
**Data Analysis Workstream**

The aims/work plan for this workstream come under 3 main headings;

1. Improving the evidence base for SEIC to make strategic decisions
2. Improving the use of available information and evidence to support school improvement
  - Training opportunities, events and materials particularly around Insight and BGE Toolkit
  - Collective approach to using data, supporting moderation of teacher judgement
3. Improving the information available to support school improvement
  - Improving information to aid understanding performance of subjects and courses
  - Better evidence about key challenges facing the South East, such as rural poverty and barriers to participation in learning.



The outcomes of recent workshops with secondary headteachers were as follows



**Feedback suggested that**

- collaborative training could be helpful.
- Multiple measures for wellbeing need to be clarified as a package, which would allow more effective tracking of wellbeing.
- A similar dataset resembling that used by Education Scotland (SSR), perhaps in a minimum form would allow schools to see the bigger picture. It would also be easier for statistically similar schools to compare like for like.
- A measure to identify “added value” from 3-18 would be really valuable. This would be particularly helpful at points of transition.
- There is potential that support could be made available by the SEIC in interpreting and using SNSA data. Perhaps there could be some work around the correlation/relationship with ACE’s?
- Data could be used to find “real” comparator departments/faculties and schools across the SEIC where partnerships could be created?



Senior leaders including Heads of Service, Quality Improvement Managers and Officers, Education Managers and Senior

Development Officers met to discuss the Phase 2 plan and to look to the future. Potential frameworks to support schools were discussed. The outcome of these robust discussions was to identify what types of support schools required which would be context based and improvement research led. The suggestions which the discussions produced, with the needs of the school at the centre, will be taken forward through the existing workstreams and networks. Opportunities will be provided, for schools interested in developing research based plans for improvement, to develop prototypes of what this will look like.



## Secondary Head teachers Conference

Secondary Headteachers met to find out about the current workstreams and the ways in which the SEIC could support them in their work. Each of the workstreams led a workshop providing information and taking suggestions from Headteachers as to what they felt should be the priorities for the future. Connections were made across local authorities having used the BGE toolkit to bring like schools together. Since then self generated reciprocal visits have taken place based on like priorities and areas of development which schools found to be of interest.



## Leading Quality Improvement 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> May 2019

As part of the Quality Improvement Workstream Depute Headteachers from across the SEIC were brought together to further support leadership of Quality Improvement. They participated in workshops, were treated to some high quality inputs from SEIC colleagues and collaborated on actions for improvement. They are looking forward to working together on their plans and reporting back to the cohort next session.



## Developing Collaborative Leadership

On the 10<sup>th</sup> & 11<sup>th</sup> May and the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> SEIC hosted a residential event in collaboration with Drummond International entitled “Develop Collaborative Leadership”. The participants were engaged with the programme of self-directed collaboration leading to improvement planning. Feedback from all participants was very positive and the cohorts are due to come together in November to further increase the collaborative capacity.



### SEIC Columba 1400 Graduate network

SEIC were pleased to create an offering to all Columban graduates from across the 5 local authorities to come together. The aim was to look at ways in which the leadership experience developed through the leadership academies could be harnessed and built on to provide opportunities for collaboration for improvement. Led by Sir Norman Drummond and Callum MacSween, the day explored values in a collaborative culture: Which values underpin successful collaborative practice; where is this currently happening; where might successful collaborative practice usefully develop. By sharing learning and best practice the group have begun to build a self-sustaining network which will strengthen collaboration across the SEIC.



## Evaluative Writing

On the 21<sup>st</sup> May the Quality Improvement Workstream hosted an Evaluative Writing Event. This was organised as a direct request from the previous Primary, Special and Early Headteacher conference. We were delighted to be able to act and respond to the feedback Alistair Brown our SEIC Senior Regional Advisor from Education Scotland along with Lesley Brown, Chief Operating Officer from East Lothian produced a high quality, engaging and interactive workshop. There was a representative from almost all clusters across the SEIC.



Three local authorities have conducted an audit of gaps in Professional Learning/Leadership and have identified a need to support Depute Headteachers. Alongside this SEIC Professional Learning Opportunities have been mapped out linking existing providers such as the Scottish College for Educational Leadership (SCEL), the General Teaching Council for Scotland (GTCS), the University of Edinburgh and the 5 local authorities. The Leadership and Professional Learning workstream is working to develop this further looking at opportunities for classroom practitioners as well as identifying opportunities at Masters level for those aspiring to senior leadership in schools.



### Sharing practice

Fife Education Team invited colleagues from across the SEIC to join them at the launch of the new Professional Learning and Leadership Framework at Pitteuchar West Primary School. The 'café conversations' format allowed those attending to hear emerging practice and to get a chance to ask questions of those presenting

### Collaborative pioneers !

A very worthwhile creative day brought together practitioners from Early Years, Primary, Secondary and Adult Learning to explore what working in the SEIC means. This collaborative workshop challenged the participants creatively to identify the component parts of the SEIC, what it means to be a practitioner, the benefits of collaboration, what a difference each individual makes and how we can work together across different contexts. The resulting film will be brought together by 'Alive with ideas' and will be ready soon for screening.



### Some examples of working together emerging

- Dunbar PS (East Lothian) and Carnegie PS (Fife) working together on their improvement strategy.
- Dalkeith HS (Midlothian), Glenrothes HS (Fife), Galashiels Academy (Scottish Borders) and Ross HS (East Lothian) working together following BGE toolkit link made at Secondary HTs conference.
- HTs supporting school validated self-evaluation across authorities.
- Buckhaven PS (Fife) and Broomhouse PS (City of Edinburgh) working on leadership of pedagogy.
- Visits and enquiries linking with the presenting schools at the SEIC/Education Scotland Equity Conference.
- Secondary schools sharing support structures and raising attainment initiatives.
- Professional learning opportunities opened up to staff across Authorities.
- Local Authorities sharing development and training materials.
- Cross authority CLD network developing.
- Digital network leads discussing Digital Learning strategy.
- Mathematics/Numeracy cross authority events
- Professional reading group developing following 'Leading Collaborative Learning' event.

