

# South West



Educational Improvement  
Collaborative

**Newsletter – December 2018**



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## Colleagues

This newsletter offers a helpful update on the work being carried out under the banner of the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative. The purpose of the collaborative is to help deliver the national agenda of excellence and equity. While we are all doing that already at school, cluster and local authority level, there are advantages of scale in sharing effective practice across the four local authorities of Dumfries and Galloway, East, North and South Ayrshire. We may not be the largest of the six collaboratives, but there are strong historical links across Ayrshire and with Dumfries and Galloway. The positive energy from participants at events that have taken place since January 2018 has been impressive. Thank you to everyone who has contributed already by taking part in an event or contributing through a survey. The response rate for the assessment and moderation survey was very good. The Phase 2 Plan is in this bulletin and collectively we will work to ensure that the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative helps you to do your job and helps improve outcomes for all our children and young people.

Best wishes

Douglas Hutchison

Regional Improvement Collaborative Lead

South West Educational Improvement Collaborative



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# South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Phase 2 Plan

(Click plan to open link.)



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# Assessment & Moderation Workstream

Thank you to all staff across all sectors who responded to the SWEIC survey last session. The survey was designed to help us plan how best to support staff in developing their practice in assessment and moderation across the Collaborative. Please find attached [link](#) to the feedback from this survey and proposed next steps.

All 4 authorities have agreed on criteria for 4 stages of progress within a level. This development will allow for a much greater focus on describing learner progress in terms of breadth, challenge and application. Click [here](#) for the table and visual for the 4 stages of progress.



Elizabeth McGuire, Senior Education Officer from the NIF team, articulated the national messages and shared good practice with HTs and those responsible for leading and planning for moderation in schools across the SWEIC. [Attached](#) is her presentation.



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# Assessment & Moderation Workstream

## QAMSO and Subject Specialist Assessment and Moderation Event 1<sup>st</sup> November 2018

3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> level QAMSOs worked alongside subject specialists from across the SWEIC, sharing existing good practice and approaches to moderation.

Elizabeth McGuire, Education Scotland, provided an overview of the national QAMSO programme, the Moderation Cycle, the Moderation Hub and looked at holistic assessments. QAMSOs from each authority presented workshops on '[Making Robust Judgements](#)', '[Evaluating Assessment Evidence of Literacy and Numeracy from Other Areas of the Curriculum](#)', 'Embedding Literacy and Numeracy Across Learning' and '[Moderation of Achievement of a Level in Literacy and Numeracy](#)'. Please click titles for links to power points. All who attended felt that the day had been worthwhile- "Best moderation event I have been to." Click [here](#) to see feedback from event.



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# Early Years Workstream

- This collaborative workstream, along with its partners, is working to enhance the quality of learning, teaching and care for all children aged 3-5 years and eligible 2 year olds, by collaborating across the system to build strong practice that will focus on closing the gap between the least and most deprived children.
- We will work together to share learning on communication, speech and language interventions.
- We will develop a leadership programme for managers and EY leaders, making use of partners where appropriate.
- We will share learning from the 2YOU Practicum on improving uptake of eligible 2 year old places.

## Future Plans

- An Early Years conference is being planned for March 2019 for all involved with early literacy, speech and language and communication, to share good practice in 'Understanding evidence based interventions in relation to early communication'.
- A series of visits is in the planning stages, aiming to explore a shared understanding of quality leadership in learning and teaching in the early years. Teams including representatives from Education Scotland, LA staff and centre managers/HTs will visit Early Years settings across the region with a focus on leadership of change and learning, teaching and assessment.



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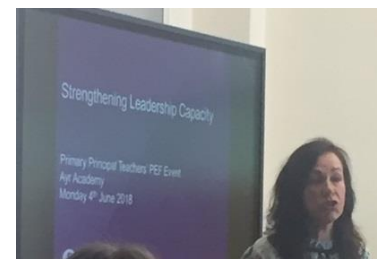
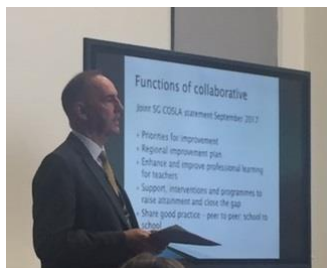
# Closing the poverty related attainment gap workstream

On the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2018 a one day event for primary principal teachers focused on sharing good practice on closing the gap. The event was attended by around 80 PTs, 20 from each authority. The event aimed to begin to build relationships across the SWEIC, share good practice in interventions and use of PEF. Participants were asked to identify next steps with the following summarising key points:

- Termly opportunities to work with staff from across the collaborative to build on networking
- Film workshops and make available on GLOW so all could see workshops they were unable to attend
- Shared online resource where colleagues could share their PEF projects, what worked, what didn't, data and impact.
- Hold annual PT events showcasing examples of excellent practice.
- Each authority has different strengths, so collaborative CLPL would be beneficial
- GLOW discussion groups
- Collaborate with twinned schools of similar type and the possibility of visits to other schools
- More opportunities to meet up as a collaborative and share practice. PTs are often missed out when events like this are planned.



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# Closing the poverty related attainment gap workstream

The priority for this workstream is 'Raising attainment while narrowing the poverty related attainment gap in literacy, numeracy and health and wellbeing, including mitigating the impact of rural poverty'. On 22<sup>nd</sup> November an event was held for head teachers of rural schools. The aim of the event was to identify issues related to rural poverty and work across the collaborative to identify supports and interventions to address these issues. Lesley Watson, Education Officer in D&G, set the scene for the day in a keynote speech, with many rural head teachers identifying with the successes and challenges that Lesley has faced as a rural head teacher. Head teachers from across the region presented workshops on themes such as planning a differentiated curriculum, developing a whole school approach to sustainability, experiences of a shared headship, successful funding bids, empowering children, parents and communities and outdoor learning.

Feedback from the day was very positive with many expressing an interest in future events. A glow group has been established to enable rural heads to share their practice including powerpoints and detailed feedback from the event.

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/Rural%20Heads%20Together%202018-19/SitePages/Home.aspx>



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# Leadership Workstream

**Secondary head teachers from across the collaborative gathered at Dumfries House, Cumnock in March 2018 to focus on enhanced leadership capacity and collaboration.**

The participants shared their current school improvement priorities with each other and considered where they might work collaboratively on shared priorities. They also highlighted where they felt they had good practice to share and a range of good practice examples were shared. The following were the most commonly occurring improvement themes where participants felt SWEIC should focus:

- Curriculum, including learner pathways and responsibilities of all (literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing)
- Health and wellbeing and often specifically mental health
- Assessment and moderation through the broad general education and tracking and monitoring progress
- Improve attainment, but especially for the most deprived and looked after young people
- Leadership at all levels, including young people
- Improve attendance
- Improve learning and teaching
- Parental engagement and family learning.

In November, Stewarton Academy hosted an event, sharing their good practice in Visible Learning. Feedback from the event was very positive and future sharing good practice events are being planned.

Primary Head Teachers from each authority have been identified to join this workstream in order to enhance leadership capacity and collaboration to take forward key aspects of improvement and curriculum in the primary sector.



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# SWEIC Secondment Opportunities

The South West Educational Improvement Collaborative is seeking expressions of interest from relevant staff across Dumfries and Galloway, East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and South Ayrshire for secondment opportunities to support the work of the collaborative workstreams in order to improve outcomes for our learners.

Post 1: Assessment and Moderation Workstream Officer

Post 2: Closing the Gap Workstream Officer

Post 3: Leadership Workstream Officer

Post 4: Education Data Analyst

Post 5: Engagement Officer

Please click on this [link](#) for more details.



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## SWEIC Workstream Members

Early Years Workstream	Closing the Gap Workstream	BGE: Assessment and Moderation	Leadership Workstream
Caroline Amos (NAC) Lead Aileen Valenti (SAC) Calum Maxwell (NAC) Rosemary Smith (D&G) Janie Allen (EAC)	Graham McGinn(EAC) Lead Wendy Rose (NAC) Leona Waugh (D&G) Scott Mulholland (SAC)	Sheelagh Rusbie (D&G) Lead Fiona Hopkins (NAC) Gavin Pitt (SAC) Robert McCallum (EAC) Gail Elder (EAC)	Julie Hope (EAC) Lead Alan Dick (NAC) Joanne Dillon (D&G) Tracy Stewart (SAC) Katy Hegarty (EAC)

For further information regarding the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative please contact Fiona McDougall, Quality Improvement Manager.

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