

South West



Educational Improvement
Collaborative

Newsletter – June 2019



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collaboration



Colleagues

This newsletter offers an update on the work being carried out across the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative.

There have been a number of well received events over the last few months. The collaborative focus remains on creating the capacity for peer to peer, school to school and authority to authority collaboration to improve the learning and teaching for our young people.

Carol Copstick has been appointed as our Senior Regional Adviser from Education Scotland and I look forward to working with Carol and the regional team.

Central to the collaborative progress will be our capacity for improvement through professional collaboration. As Datnow & Park (2019) say “talking and reflection are important aspects of collaborative learning, but this must be coupled with actions that directly lead to improving student learning and equitable outcomes”.

Regards

Douglas



Datnow, A. & Park, V. (2019) *Professional Collaboration with Purpose. Teacher Learning Towards Equitable and Excellent Schools*, Routledge, London.

[Click here to hear Douglas Hutchison's Edutalk Interview](#)

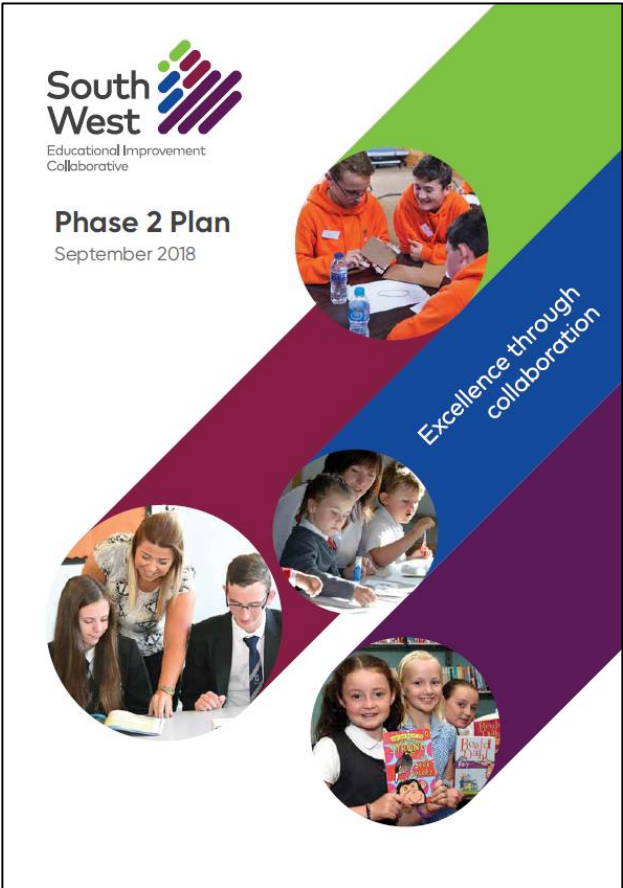


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South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Phase 2 Plan

(Click plan to open link.)

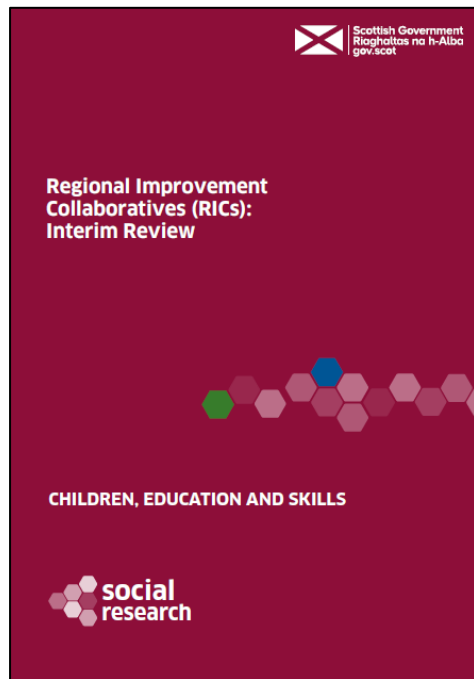


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Regional Improvement Collaboratives: Interim Review

The report of the independent review of the initial establishment and operation of the RICs, which was commissioned jointly by the Scottish Government and COSLA was published in February 2019. Please click on the report below to see the full report.



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Assessment and Moderation Workstream

Workstream lead:	Sheelagh Rusby, D&G
Members :	Fiona Hopkins, NAC
	Gail Elder, EAC
	Robert McCallum, EAC
Workstream officer:	Gavin Pitt, SAC

Progress Update

Gavin Pitt has visited all local authorities to audit current positions and a workstream action plan has been produced.

QAMSOs from across the four authorities met on the 20th June to discuss how to further support practitioners with assessment and moderation at regional level. A bespoke regional assessment and moderation programme will be developed for the South West.

A meeting has taken place with Education Scotland regarding their subject support offer for S1 to S3. This will involve identifying areas for development within subject areas across the collaborative and targeted support and challenge.



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Early Years Workstream



Workstream lead:

Caroline Amos, NAC

Members:

Calum Maxwell, NAC

Aileen Valenti, SAC

Rosemary Smith, D&G

Janie Allen, EAC

Progress Update

An Early Years training event was led by Shona Taylor, Regional Advisor and Area Lead Officer, on 18th February to take a closer look at what we understand by 'high quality early learning'. An Early Years Literacy and Communication event was held on the 18th March, for staff involved with early literacy, speech and language and communication, to share good practice in 'Understanding evidence based intervention in relation to early communication'. Participants included staff from education, health and psychological services. All who attended welcomed the opportunity to collaborate with other services across the region.

The priorities for Early Years will be incorporated within other RIC workstreams next session.



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Closing the poverty related attainment gap workstream

Workstream Lead:	Graham McGinn, EAC
Members:	Leona Waugh, D&G Scott Mulholland, SAC Johana House, NAC
Workstream Officer:	Fiona McAvoy, SAC

SWEIC and the Scottish Government held a regional event focussing on 'A whole system approach to closing the attainment gap' on 8th March. Over 200 participants including head teachers, local authority staff and partners heard keynote talks from Douglas Hutchison and Maria Walker, attended presentations from schools across the region and were consulted about the Phase 2 plan. The Depute First Minister attended in the afternoon and took part in a 'Question Time' panel.

A summary of points made during the consultation on the Phase 2 Plan can be found by clicking [here](#).

School seminars can be found on glow.

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/swimprovementcollaborative/SitePages/Home.aspx?wa=wsignin1.0>



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Closing the poverty related attainment gap workstream

Progress Update

Gwyneth Fairbairn, SWEIC's data analyst, created 22 'families' of schools using criteria from the Broad General Education Toolkit. Rural, small town and urban classification were used to create groups then refined by Free Meal Registration and Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation. Click here to see '[Families of Schools](#)'. Primary Head Teachers met on 8th May and worked with colleagues in their families of schools, looking at data, improvement priorities and use of Pupil Equity Fund (PEF). Head Teachers have made arrangements to visit each others schools, share good practice and support each other with common challenges. Feedback can be found [here](#).

Fiona McAvoy has been visiting schools across the region to explore good practice in the use of PEF. By engaging with Head Teachers, the workstream is getting a clearer idea of how to support schools across the RIC.

A Primary Principal Teacher PEF event was held on the 12th June at The Bridge, Dumfries. Principal Teachers had the opportunity to attend workshops and network with colleagues within their families. Click [here](#) to read evaluations of the event. Presentations will be added to Glow.

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/swimprovementcollaborative/SitePages/Home.aspx#?wa=wsigin1.0>



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Closing the poverty related attainment gap workstream

Marjorie Ross, SWEIC's engagement officer, has been meeting with some rural Head Teachers to build up a picture of the challenges facing rural communities and rural schools. Parental engagement is emerging as good practice. Common issues are lack of access to and information on services, lack of youth work/ activities in the evening and funding issues.

Marjorie will continue to visit schools and communities across the region and will begin to collate a directory of partners, funding providers and good practice/solutions to rural issues.

Three funding databases can be found below. They include information on Windfarm funding, Asda, Aldi, National Lottery, Postcode Lottery and Rural Funding amongst many others, throughout Scotland. Registration is required to access the search functions but this is fairly straight forward.

<https://srn.fundingscotland.com/Account/MemberLoginRegister?returnUrl=%2F>

(Scottish Rural Network)

<https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/southayrshire/Search?bcr=MTIzNA>

(South Ayrshire 4 Communities – this includes national and local funding opportunities so is not restricted to South Ayrshire)

<https://fundingscotland.com/Account/MemberLoginRegister?ReturnUrl=%2F>

(Funding Scotland)



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Leadership Workstream

Workstream Lead: Julie Hope
Secondary HT Members: Alan Dick, NAC
Joanne Dillon, D&G
Tracy Stewart, SAC
Scott Robertson, EAC
PL co-ordinators: Helen Cassidy, EAC
Alan MacDougall, NAC
Workstream Officer: Angela Brownlie, EAC

Primary HT Members: Fiona Black, EAC
Margaret Shedden, NAC
Pamela McCallum, NAC
Martin Armstrong, D&G
Lorna Dempster, D&G
Jackie Blair, SAC
David Watson, SAC

Progress Update

Meetings with Professional Learning Co-ordinators have been arranged to audit current leadership programmes in each authority and identify opportunities to provide leadership programmes across the region. Bespoke leadership programmes at all levels are being investigated.

Plans are underway to progress a Coaching Programme across the collaborative, sharing programmes already in place in some authorities and promoting this as a way of supporting and enhancing staff development.

The Secondary Leads are working on sharing good practice across the collaborative during twilight sessions, open to colleagues across the region. Recently Loudon Academy shared their Parents in Partnership Programme and Dumfries Academy held a professional learning day, inviting Head Teachers from across the RIC to attend. In March, Moffat Academy held a professional learning and reflection day with a focus on 'The Role of Knowledge in Underpinning the Aspirations of CfE'. Guests were invited to evaluate the impact that a knowledge-orientated teaching approach is having on pupils and consider/discuss how this can be improved.

Setting up Curricular Networks across the SWEIC is being considered in order to share good practice and areas for development.



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SWEIC Maths group

Lead: Robert McCallum, EAC

Mike Askew : First Among Equals Event - Friday 26th April, Park Hotel, Kilmarnock

Over 100 numeracy leaders from across East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire, South Ayrshire and Dumfries and Galloway participated in a day of inspirational maths delivered by Mike Askew, Distinguished Professor of Mathematics Education, University of Witwatersrand, Johannesburg. The full day event, sponsored by Oxford University Press, focussed on developing reasoning within the mathematics curriculum. Mike delivered a day of engaging and thought provoking mathematical reasoning focussing on the belief that all children can be mathematicians, given rich, challenging problems to reason about. The event is the first of a series of 'Inspirational Maths' inputs being delivered by the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative (SWEIC) Maths Group within East Ayrshire.



Developing Bar Modelling Approaches

The SWEIC Maths Group have planned their first series of 'Inspirational Maths' inputs and will deliver training early next session with numeracy leaders across the four authorities. The training will focus on developing Bar Modelling approaches to support children's understanding of mathematics within worded problems and support children in developing number sense. The numeracy leaders will provide twilight training inputs for teachers during session 2019-20. These twilight inputs will provide opportunities for staff to develop pedagogy while reflecting and sharing practice.

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Other RIC groups

Psychological Services held a conference in January. The event focussed on how the 4 services meet the needs of our most vulnerable learners. Participants were able to identify common strengths and challenges across the region and share their practice. Future work will focus on care experienced children.



Head Teachers of denominational schools across the region held a conference in March. A number of themes were covered including national professional learning, Developing in Faith and exploring equalities and inclusion in the context of a Catholic school.



Additional Support Needs leads have met and shared good practice and identified common challenges. A staff survey is being planned to identify areas for development. Head Teachers from special schools meet regularly to discuss good practice, development priorities and how to further collaborate across the region. An ASN Leadership event is being planned for next session.

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Community Learning and Development leads from the 4 authorities meet regularly as the South West network and are identifying opportunities for their services to collaborate across the region. A regional Community Learning and Development event was held on the 14th May for practitioners. The focus of the day was 'Change' with Brigid Russell, coach and consultant, and Katie Kelly, Depute Chief Executive, East Ayrshire Council leading discussions on Sharing and Learning from our stories of Change. Marion Allison, Head of the CLD Standards Council, Scotland, also presented at the event.



SWEIC's staffing group have agreed protocols for teaching secondments across the region and are currently working on protocols for non-teaching staff.



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Your views matter.....

All SWEIC officers, workstream members, associated groups and members of Education Scotland's Regional Improvement Team met in June to share progress to date, evaluate impact and plan next steps for the collaborative for next session.

We would appreciate your views on the next steps for the South West Collaborative. Please follow this link [SWEIC Consultation](#) to complete the survey to inform our next steps or use the QR code below. (Head Teachers who previously had the opportunity to comment on the 8th March, at the Regional event, may wish to add to their comments.)



To access the survey, you can follow the link or scan the QR code.

(With most phones, just point the camera at the QR code and it will take you to the link or you can download a QR reader app from the app store.)



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Priority Focus: Leadership

Ensure all our learners are ready for learning, life and work by ensuring teachers and head teachers across SWEIC are confident in supporting learners and delivering appropriate pathways for all.

What do we want to achieve?

- All head teachers feel empowered to take forward key aspects of improvement and curriculum in their centres, and grant the necessary agency to staff to take forward identified aspects across the collaborative
- All head teachers have developed and are sustaining meaningful collaborative relationships within, across and beyond their families of schools or thematic partner schools in a variety of contexts, and levels of leadership

Priority Focus: Collaborative Scale

Ensure children benefit from the highest quality of early learning and child care.

What do we want to achieve?

- SWEIC, with its partners, is working together to enhance the quality of learning, teaching and care for all children aged 3-5 years and eligible 2 year olds, working across the system to build strong practice that will focus on closing the gap between the least and most deprived children.

Priority Focus: Teacher professionalism and Closing the Attainment Gap

Improve attainment more quickly for children and young people who are most disadvantaged.

What do we want to achieve?

- Children and young people living in the highest levels of deprivation are making strong progress in relation to attainment in literacy, numeracy and health and well-being.
- Across the regional collaborative, staff analyse and use evidence very well to ensure a clear focus on those priorities which have the greatest impact on improving learning, raising attainment and narrowing the poverty related attainment gap.
- The regional collaborative can show clear evidence of improvements based on actions taken as a result of self-evaluation.
- Family learning programmes provide opportunities for parents and carers to build capacity in supporting their children

Priority Focus: Teacher professionalism

Improve attainment in literacy and numeracy through the broad general education for all learners.

What do we want to achieve?

- All teachers are confident about making professional assessment judgements and there is improved validity and reliability of assessment data in the BGE
- Well planned high quality learning, teaching and assessment improve the pace and challenge in learning in the BGE for all learner

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For further information regarding the South West Educational Collaborative please contact
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