

Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme Twilight Two – Feedback Report

This Programme is funded by The West Partnership and implemented by Keep Scotland Beautiful in partnership with Education Scotland.

Prepared October 2019

Background

Focused on the River Clyde and its tributaries, Upstream Battle aims to raise awareness, gather evidence and inspire action to prevent marine litter at source. Communities, individuals, schools and the private and public sector are all encouraged to work towards one common goal: to stop litter from getting into the Clyde.

Available for teachers across the West Partnership Collaborative, the aim of the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme (PLP) is to develop confidence in delivering on each pupil's entitlement to Learning for Sustainability (LfS) and build STEM skills through the context of source to sea litter. The PLP is delivered through a blended learning model combining four face to face twilight sessions and online learning. An interdisciplinary approach supports skills in enquiry-based learning.

Online applications were received from 61 applicants representing 57 different establishments (early years, primary and secondary) across all eight local authorities of the West Partnership Collaborative (table one).

Local Authorities	Number of applicants	Establishments represented	Early Years	Primary	Secondary	ASN
East Dunbartonshire	11	10	2	6	3	0
East Renfrewshire	6	6	1	3	1	1
Glasgow City	9	9	1	8	0	0
Inverclyde	4	3	0	3	0	1
North Lanarkshire	5	5	0	5	0	0
Renfrewshire	10	8	1	9	0	0
South Lanarkshire	11	11	1	9	0	1
West Dunbartonshire	5	5	1	2	2	0
Total	61	57	7	45	6	3

Table One: Breakdown of applications for the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme



Programme Outcomes

- Build confidence and develop STEM skills in the context of source to sea litter.
- Support HGIOS best practice by taking a whole school approach to Learning for Sustainability.
- Collaborate across schools, communities and partners in the STEM family to learn and share best practice.
- Create applied local learning opportunities in a range of STEM activities, raising attainment and achievement
- Receive direct support to gain or renew an Eco-Schools Scotland Green Flag Award.

Twilight Two

Four twilights were held between Monday 7 - Thursday 11 October 2019. Hosting schools included Chatelherault Primary (South Lanarkshire), Our Holy Redeemer Primary (West Dunbartonshire), Craigmarloch School (Inverclyde) and Greenhill Primary (North Lanarkshire).

Twilights explored local learning opportunities within the context of source to sea litter. Participants looked at ways to encourage personal connections to care for the Clyde catchment using images, songs, interviews and local field trips. Outdoor learning opportunities were explored such as Edinburgh University's 'outdoor journey approach', mapping and citizen science. Options to investigate the Clyde catchment through enquiry-based research were also highlighted, culminating in a group discussion and collaborative resource on enquiry opportunities. This led to the next online activity which focuses on planning and implementing a unit of enquiry, building STEM skills while learning about and taking action to prevent source to sea litter.

Participants

A total of 42 participants from early years, primary and secondary establishments took part across the four twilights, representing all eight local authorities in the West Partnership Collaborative. Several participants provided apologies due to commitments ahead of the October break, including parent evenings. Resources for twilight two were made available online via Microsoft Teams. Plans are in place to broadcast a live video link during twilight 3 to support remote learning.

Activities

Activities supported participants plans to engage in source to sea litter enquiry topics within their own context and included:

- Mapping activities (building the Clyde catchment, visual mapping e.g. the journey of a plastic bag)
- Conversations to build personal connections to the Clyde through imagery, storytelling and music
- Discussions/sharing of resources on outdoor learning opportunities and citizen science opportunities (litter picks/Upstream Battle survey)
- Marine web activity to explore the impact of litter on ecosystems
- Group deliberation to collaborate on a shared document to support source to sea litter enquiries
- Q&A session on online learning activities and upcoming twilights



Online learning

The PLP uses the online platform of Microsoft Teams to support participants to engage in conversations, share resources and complete a series of online learning activities (table two):

Activity	Timeframe	Duration
Online learning activity 1/2: GTCS self/whole school evaluation	September - October 2019	2.5 hours
Online learning activity 3: Planning/implementing your unit of enquiry	October 2019 – February 2020	2.5 hours
Online learning activity 4: Reflect on your unit of enquiry	February 2020	3 hours
Online learning activity 5/6: GTCS self/whole school evaluation	March 2020	2 hours

Table two: Online activities taking place throughout the Upstream Battle Professional Learning Programme

Conversations have started via the online Microsoft Team platform with a relevant film link/news story posted each Friday. A few individuals are still experiencing trouble accessing Microsoft Teams which has hindered their participation. Work is underway to resolve this as soon as possible with issues reported to Local Authority digital support officers. Notes have also been emailed to those affected separately.

For the third online activity, participants were provided with a template to guide planning of their school's enquiry into source to sea litter. The collaborative work undertaken during the twilight was also shared to support this process.

Highlights, Opportunities and Next Steps

It was beneficial for groups to discuss opportunities to explore and take action within the start, middle and/or end of the source to sea litter pipeline. Possible topics, activities and enquiry questions for educators to consider formed the basis of a collaborative professional learning resource. Unfortunately, two of the hosting schools had to close slightly earlier than anticipated which cut down the available time on these valuable discussions. As such, it is intended to pick up on these conversations again during twilight 3. Participants naturally formed sub-groups to explore learning opportunities within their establishments (e.g. secondary STEM days). Best practice was also shared by participants bringing in resources they have found worked well to date. Several participants indicated they had already made use of twilight 1 resources within their classrooms.

Twilight three will take place between 18 – 21 November 2019 and focus on exploring the global perspectives of source to sea litter including a focus on the circular economy, climate change and the sustainable development goals. Keep Scotland Beautiful will also be participating in the upcoming Upstream Battle pupil conference in West Dunbartonshire on 5 November 2019. Formal evaluation is planned after twilight 3 and again at the end of the programme.