

West Partnership

**Collaborative Enquiry Themed Networks
2020-2021**

Information Pack



GLASGOW
CITY REGION
Education



Introduction

West Partnership Collaborative Enquiry Networks is a support programme that provides guidance for practitioners in using collaborative action research to investigate ways to improve outcomes for young people. If you are grappling with a challenging issue then reaching out to collaborate with others can be beneficial. This provides an exciting opportunity to share learning and learn from others. This support programme offers the additional scaffolding of providing facilitators to guide you through the collaborative action research process through webinars and drop in surgeries

The Collaborative Enquiry Networks Support Programme has been influenced by the extensive national and international experience and research evidence that demonstrates that collaboration is crucial for systemic improvement and educational equity. When collaboration is **evidence-based** and **focused** it is a very effective way to improve outcomes for young people (Fullan 2013, Chapman, C., Muijs, D., Reynolds, D., Sammons, P. and Teddlie C. 2015; Chapman, C and Hadfield, M 2010; Donaldson 2012; Ainscow et al., 2012; Harrison, C. Hofstein, A. Eylon, B.S. & Simon, S. 2008).

The programme is supported by the West Partnership local authorities, the Glasgow University Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and Education Scotland.

Collaborative Enquiry Networks Support Programme aims to provide opportunities to investigate ways of improving outcomes for young people by:

- Sharing learning and learning from others across local authorities
- Developing enquiry skills
- Developing collaboration skills
- Developing skills in using data effectively to analyse need and measure impact
- Developing observational skills

Who is it for?

This programme is designed for all schools and early learning centres and practitioners who are interested in improving practice through collaborative action research and looking outwards to learn from other educational establishments and authorities.

Themes 2020-21

The West Partnership takes a themed approach to collaborative enquiry. The themes are drawn from current topics of interest and then a Specialist Network are set up to develop stimulus resources and a professional learning programme to support schools and early learning centres in making a small change to their practice related to their chosen theme. Once this is prepared schools and early learning centres are invited to join a Launch Webinar for each individual theme. Launch dates are publicised through the West Partnership Twitter @wp_education. Follow us to keep updated.

In 2020-21 the following themed enquiries are being developed:

- Engaging Families in Transition Processes
- Learning Through Play
- Racial Equality
- Outdoor Learning
- Learner Well being

Participating in the enquiry

Expectations

By registering for the enquiry it is expected that you will collaborate with others to make a small change to your culture, policy and/or practice in relation to your chosen theme. This will involve:

1. Reading and reflecting on stimulus papers and research shared but the West Partnership
2. Attending a launch webinar
3. Setting up and/or participating in a collaborative team with the goal of making a small change to the your practice relating to your chosen theme
4. As a collaborative team, using the challenge questions to identify a small change to your practice
5. Planning the change, including considering how you will measure the impact of the intervention
6. Implementing the change
7. Attending an Online Sharing Event to informally share your experiences and learning with others

Support

The West Partnership will support you through this process by:

- Providing you with a stimulus paper and a self-evaluation framework of challenge questions related to your chosen theme
- Providing a series of optional professional learning webinars, related to your chosen theme, that share practice across the West Partnership and provide the opportunity for sharing of learning through professional dialogue with colleagues from other local authorities and contexts
- Providing optional monthly drop in sessions, supported by Glasgow University Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change, to discuss ideas, processes and methods to measure impact
- Membership of a Microsoft Team Community where you can access shared resources and post ideas, resources or questions
- Providing a link officer within your own authority that can offer strategic support



What does the professional learning support look like?

West Partnership Collaborative Learning Networks promote and guide practitioners in using collaborative action research approach to investigate ways that will improve outcomes for young people. This network offers the additional scaffolding of providing facilitators at webinars and drop in sessions to guide you through the collaborative action research process.

West Partnership: Definition of Collaboration

Collaboration involves working together, to understand and improve pedagogy for agreed purposes, which leads to better outcomes, informed by evidence and critical self-reflection.

Key features are:

- Focusing on improving outcomes for young people, especially those impacted by poverty, inequity and Covid-19
- Setting up a collaborative team
- Agreeing a clear shared goal
- Being informed by evidence and research
- Ring-fencing time for critical reflection
- Measuring impact and sharing learning

The professional learning support comes in two formats: **webinars** and **drop-in sessions**. Both the webinars and drop-in sessions will be offered online through Microsoft Teams


Webinars

Other than the Launch and Online Sharing Event optional webinars are offered which are designed to inspire through sharing practice and ideas. They also provide the opportunity for professional dialogue around your chosen theme. Each webinar will begin with a short presentation sharing practice and then move into cross authority breakout rooms where participants can reflect on the presentations and their own plans for change. Challenge questions will be shared before each webinar for discussion in the break out rooms. You will be provided with a programme of webinars for your chosen theme.

Drop-in Discussions

Drop-in discussions are optional and are open on the on monthly basis. You will be provided with a dates for your chosen theme. They focus on the following support and challenge questions?

- What change do you hope to achieve? What do you predict the change will improve?
- Who will benefit from your intervention? How do you know?
- How will you know which young people/families require/need/want support/further challenge etc.?
- How will we know what young people/families need/want?
- How will you know you have been successful? What will success look like?
- What methods will you use to evaluate success?
- Are you making a difference? How do you know?
- What are your challenges?
- Who can help you? What support do you need?



The monthly drop-ins are supported by The West Partnership and Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and also provide the opportunity to refine and review ideas, ask questions and seek support and advice on creating a plan and measuring impact:

Duration and Timescales

The timescales of the West Partnership collaborative action enquiry projects are decided by each individual collaborative team. The collaborative team proceeds at their own agreed pace. Whilst a date will be agreed for a Sharing Online Event the collaborative team doesn't have to have completed their project but can informally share learning.

How to get involved

Keep updated via the West Partnership Twitter @wp_education. Contact the West Partnership to register for an enquiry. On registration you will be invited to join the Microsoft Team for your enquiry where you can access links to the webinars, drop-in sessions and resources.

Contacts

If you would like any further information please contact Helen Brown, Lead Officer for the West Partnership Collaborative Learning Networks: gw09brownhelen@glow.sch.uk



Twitter: @wp_education

Website: www.westpartnership.co.uk