

West Partnership

**Leading Improvement through
collaborative enquiry
Professional Development Programme
2020-2021**

PILOT

Information Pack



The West Partnership

Leading Improvement through Collaborative Enquiry

Introduction

The West Partnership Leading Improvement through Collaboration Enquiry professional learning programme provides an opportunity for leaders to evaluate their leadership skills in relation to leading collaborative enquiry within and across schools. Through the evaluation process participants will identify areas for further professional development to support them in setting up and leading collaborative learning networks*. Participants will have access to a suite of professional learning opportunities from which they can select to allow them to further investigate the skills that support effective collaborative enquiry.

The content of the Leading Improvement through Collaboration Enquiry 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 on enhancing learning and teaching it is a very effective way to improve outcomes for young people. Leading improvement through collaboration also builds leadership capacity. (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 has been developed in partnership with the West Partnership local authorities, the Glasgow University Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change and Education Scotland.

The Leading Improvement through collaboration aims to provide opportunities to:

- evaluate professional leadership skills that promote effective collaboration
- evaluate the capacity of a local context to lead improvement through collaboration
- examine the principles of effective collaboration
- share learning and learn from others from a range of different contexts
- enhance skills that support and promote effective collaboration
- join a network to support setting up and leading collaborative learning networks

* Collaborative learning networks are where professionals collaborate to improve learning and teaching. The size or composition of the network is very flexible and relative to the needs and capacity of the local context. Collaborative Learning Networks can be as small as two people working together or as large as a network involving a whole school. The networks can be within a school, between schools or working with partners from other sectors. It is the principles of how the professionals collaborate that defines a West Partnership Collaborative Learning Network. This professional learning opportunity will explore these principles.



Programme Structure

The programme is designed to offer participants the opportunity to evaluate their own leadership skills and local context in leading improvement through collaboration. Through the evaluation process participants will then be able to select professional learning activities that will help them develop their leadership skills and/or their school's capacity to collaborate effectively. Participants will be expected to set up and lead a collaborative learning network appropriate to their local context.

To help us know when and how we should collaborate the West Partnership has developed a definition of effective collaboration. The programme will support participants in setting up and leading collaborative learning networks through learning about how to lead and promote collaboration based on the principles of this definition.

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.

Equity, Excellence and Empowerment



The programme consists of a series of modules delivered over one academic year. All participants attend the first two introductory days where they evaluate their own leadership skills in leading a collaborative network and the capacity of their school/department to lead improvement through collaboration and the last event where they feedback on the progress made. The participants then draw up a professional development plan to help them select from the other modules, depending on their needs. The programme also encourages the participants to request additional professional learning opportunities that may support them in completing their action plans. All participants then attend the final event to share learning

All participants will also be invited to join a support network where additional support sessions will be offered to share practice and discuss challenges.




What are the benefits?

Through the programme participants will:

- have a deeper understanding of the key features of effective collaborative
- have a deeper understanding of the capacity for collaboration within their local context
- have practical systematic models to promote collaborative enquiry
- feel more confident in their skills in leading improvement through collaborative enquiry
- be given the opportunity to be part of a professional learning network that will support them in developing systems for collaborative enquiry in their school

Who is it for?

This programme is designed for senior leaders who would have the responsibility for leading a collaborative enquiry through a collaborative learning network. Participants are nominated via their local authority. Each cohort will have a maximum of 30 people



Duration and key dates

The programme will be launched in April with all participant attending the launch to develop their action plan. Participants then select other modules throughout the year, based on their professional learning plan, and are also offered the opportunity to attend support network sessions. All participants then attend a final session the following May to feedback on progress.

Session	Focus	Date	Time
*Introductory Session 1	Planning for effective collaboration	April 2020	9.30-3.00
*Introductory Session 1	Planning for effective collaboration	May 2020	9.30-3.00 PM Room booked for individual/group planning
Module 1	Developing enquiry skills	May 2020	9.30-12.00
Module 2	Facilitating collaboration	August 2020	9.30-12.00
Module 3	Leading staff in using data to identify gaps and measure impact	September 2020	9.30-12.00
Module 4	Leading staff in developing skills in direct observation	October 2020	9.30-12.00
Module 5	Sharing, reporting and upscaling collaborative learning	November 2020	9.30-12.00
Support Network Meeting	Sharing challenges and successes	January 2021	2.00-3.30
Support Network Meeting	Sharing challenges and successes	March 2021	2.00-3.30
Support Network Meeting	Sharing challenges and successes	April 2021	2.00-3.30
*Sharing Event	Sharing challenges and successes	May 2021	9.00-12.00

***all participants attend these session. Other sessions are selected as appropriated by participants**



How is the programme delivered?

The programme is balanced between sharing learning and facilitated discussions and tasks.

Funding and costs

The Leading Improvement through Collaboration programme is free of charge. Where travel costs are incurred they should be met by local authorities.

Applying for the programme and further information

Candidates for the programme will be nominated by their local authority

For further information about this programme contact Helen Brown at

gw09brownhelen@glow.sch.uk

