

The West Partnership aims to embed the values of **equity, excellence** and **empowerment** in everything we do. Focusing on building a culture of working collaboratively across the eight partners, we strive to continually improve learning experiences and increase attainment for every learner across the region. We believe it is by empowering staff and **shifting the ownership of change** that we can drive our vision forward. Working together we can overcome barriers to lack of engagement in learning and raise achievement and attainment for all. Underpinning all of our work is a commitment to supporting recovery across the system. Read more about our Action Plan on our website:

www.westpartnership.co.uk



Autumn 2020

Covid-19

West Partnership The Road to Renewal: Our response to Covid-19

In response to the context of Covid-19 across our education system, the West Partnership has developed a Recovery plan to allow us to streamline our work in such a way that we are targeting areas of current priority within our framework of promoting Equity, Excellence and Empowerment.

Our commitment to shifting the ownership of change through effective collaboration remains at the very heart of our work and we remain focused on creating opportunities for worthwhile and impactful collaboration amidst the renewal of our education system in light of the pandemic.

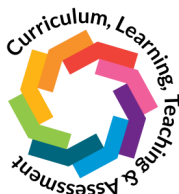
Our ongoing priority remains the improvement of outcomes for children and young people and as such, our recovery plan aspires to create the conditions for our system to effectively support and facilitate this.

As such, our existing eight workstreams are being re-organised into three, and each will continue with established work whilst undertaking particular activities designed to support the recovery process.

The three workstreams which will operate under our Recovery plan are as follows:

Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement
Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment
Collaborative Learning Networks

Details of the remit of each of these workstreams can be found in subsequent sections of this e-newsletter.





Over recent months, the rebranded workstream has undertaken a number of developments to support system recovery as well as the empowerment of school leaders. Our work focuses on the creation of a wide range of programmes to support effective leadership and ongoing improvements within the current context. Some of our ongoing projects include:

Leadership Mentoring Scheme

Our well established programme of coaching and mentoring for headteachers continues and will be delivered virtually into session 2020/21. Local Authorities have been very supportive of this resource and have engaged the services and expertise of many retired school leaders to provide support and challenge to those in post presently.

Leadership Learning Sets

Working in collaboration with partners, our Leadership Learning Set programme has been designed to engage school leaders in action learning set activity which supports their leadership capacity and development. We are delighted to be able to offer this opportunity to staff from across the West Partnership, with the pilot learning set cohorts having commencing in October 2020 and plans for further expansion of this project are already underway.

Virtual Leadership Networks

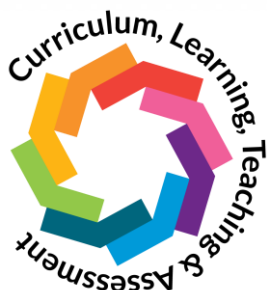
We are delighted to have launched our Virtual Leadership Networks (VLNs) for Headteachers and Depute Heads in September 2020. These Microsoft Teams spaces will allow sharing, collaboration and network discussion events to take place regularly. Working in partnership with the Professional Learning and Leadership team at Education Scotland, we plan to offer support to school leaders through facilitated discussion on a range of topics relevant to the Covid-19 recovery context. So far our VLNs for Depute Heads and Headteachers have over 300 members from across the West Partnership, with membership growing daily. Keep an eye on our Twitter for information about our next events in November 2020.

Learning for Leadership

We continue to deliver a broad range of opportunities for establishment leaders to develop their skills and abilities. We are also currently looking at expansion of our collaborative work with the Education Scotland West Locality and Professional Learning and Leadership teams, with professional learning activities which focus on Virtual Facilitation Skills currently in development. These will be accessible for staff from across the West Partnership via the ESPLL website. The very positive feedback received on our programme of school improvement professional learning last session has also allowed us to develop a similar programme to be launched in January 2021 and we are currently adapting these programmes for virtual delivery and to address themes which are particularly relevant at this time.

For more information on the work of the Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement workstream please contact Lead Officer Jen Crocket at JCrocket@boclair.e-dunbarton.sch.uk





The Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Workstream continues to focus on supporting practitioners to develop excellent learning experiences for children and young people. In 2020-21 we have exciting new opportunities for leaders to work collaboratively to explore and implement effective and innovative approaches to curriculum design. We have also taken on the ambitious aim of creating a bank of online learning videos and resources across the 3-18 curriculum through our West OS programme.



WEST PARTNERSHIP ONLINE SCHOOL

West OS is a collaborative, teacher led response to feedback from children and young people. Our vision is to promote equity by ensuring access to excellent learning experiences regardless of circumstances, including challenges which prevent full time attendance for whatever reason. West OS aims to achieve its goal by producing and collating short, quality assured video lessons. These videos will be hosted and made available in a user friendly and secure platform powered by ClickView. Through partnership working with other RICs and Education Scotland, West OS has been adopted as a national model with other RICs joining with our staff to increase capacity of the whole project.

If you wish to take part in producing material for West OS, please contact Paul Downie gw14downiepaul@glow.sch.uk or John Stuart, John.Stuart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

Follow us on Twitter @West_OS to keep up to date with developments.

Assessment and Moderation

Local authority representatives continue to meet regularly with the aim of improving the quality of learning, teaching and assessment across the West. Our Development Officer, Sarah Green, leads a working party which is working towards developing a suite of resources that will enhance practitioner understanding of the learning, teaching and assessment cycle.

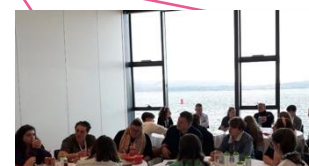
Additionally, we are excited to announce our **West Partnership Assessment and Moderation Portal**. This is an online resource offering practitioners and leaders the opportunity to develop a shared understanding of the standards with colleagues from across the collaborative. Through the Portal, practitioners and leaders can access professional learning, example moderation activities and upload plans to be moderated at inter-authority level. We are in the process of setting up Peer Review Teams who will have responsibility for the inter-authority moderation.

If you are interested in being part of a Peer Review Team or piloting the Assessment and Moderation Portal please get in touch with Sarah Green at gw11stewartsarah3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch. The Portal is currently being piloted and will launch widely from January 2021.

Curriculum Design

For senior leaders in the secondary sector, there will be an exciting opportunity to work with Prof Mark Priestley (University of Stirling). Senior Leaders who participate in the course will develop an enhanced understanding of curriculum concepts and practices amongst a group of senior/middle leaders who will explore curriculum development through professional enquiry. For primary school and early learning centre leaders, we are looking to offer support in processes for developing, reviewing and evaluating your curriculum rationale to understand, reflect and respond to your establishment's unique context. Look out for professional learning opportunities coming up in the near future.

Contact John Stuart, John.Stuart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk If you are interested in participating in the curriculum design professional learning outlined above.





As a networking approach becomes more embedded in the methodology of the West Partnership we have ensured our restructured workstreams reflect this. The refreshed Collaborative Learning Networks Workstream now incorporates much of the activity previously undertaken by the Health and Wellbeing and the Families and Communities Workstreams. It promotes and facilitates collaborative working to share and develop practice across a wide variety of networks outlined below.

Curriculum Networks

Eight curriculum area networks were launched between October 2019 and January 2020. Due to the Covid-19 emergency, it was agreed that further collaboration would be facilitated virtually and Microsoft Teams were created for all subject areas that had not already been launched through face to face meetings.

Our networks give access to shared resources from across the West Partnership as well as from partners such as Education Scotland. They are also a space to access if you are looking for support and advice from subject specialist colleagues from establishments outwith your own local authority.

From April to June 2020 membership of the curricular networks increased by 262%. Volunteer leads have come forward for the majority of subject areas. A series of twilight webinars took place in June 2020 on flexible models of learning. In total 737 practitioners attended 9 meetings. Any practitioner wishing to join a curriculum network or sector forum should contact John.Stuart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk or use the following Microsoft Team code to access the relevant area:

Early Years and Primary Network a4k1z0p	Religious and Moral Education gsjvvd	Numeracy and Mathematics bt5k1rs	Gaelic 6jm5u3q
ASL/ Special School Practitioner Group o8sr7z1	Expressive Arts vtm40ea	Physical Education iqz6ali	Home Economics y29nbd4
Support for Learning 349cgyi	Social Subjects 9ckfafk	Modern Languages yfb5ppv	Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology 81lzlzw
Literacy and English xc1rd99	EAL ulohcfe	Computing Science 4t3bahf	Business Education x6h6tw
Science ks1alfw	Technology 4b7s8ww	PSE/ Health and Wellbeing njcp6ll	DYW 4ubfarr





The West Partnership is developing a digital school matching tool called *Collabor8*. Collabor8 will provide schools with the opportunity to seek partners for collaborative projects. Schools, early learning establishments or individual practitioners will be able to propose a project or search for interesting projects for collaboration. Watch this space for more developments.

Specialist Networks

The West Partnership is facilitating a range of specialist networks.

The **Families and Communities Network** has been collecting and collating resources and examples of practice around family learning and parental engagement. The research paper "The use of digital technology for parental engagement: lessons learnt from Covid 19" shares key findings from four case studies tinyurl.com/y2w5u5dh. The Families and Communities Network is also launching an enquiry under the theme of engaging families in the transition process on November 17th. If your school or early learning establishment is interested in developing your transition programme to further involve families then please contact Helen Brown gw09brownhelen@glow.sch.uk.

Enquiry Networks

The West Partnership Collaborative Enquiry Networks have gone online! Are you grappling with an issue that you would like to further investigate? The West Partnership, in partnership with the Robert Owen Centre at Glasgow University and Education Scotland, supports small, collaborative groups through a collaborative enquiry process. Our themes for 2020-21 for enquiry are:

- Learner wellbeing in primary and early years
- Outdoor Learning
- Sharing practice – Black Lives Matter
- Transitions
- Learning through Play

If you are interested in these themes, or have another theme that you would like to further investigate through collaborative action enquiry, then please contact gw09brownhelen@glow.sch.uk

The Health and Wellbeing Officers' group

has continued to take forward the work of the Health and Wellbeing Workstream set out in 2019-2020. This includes the sharing of effective practice across many aspects of health and wellbeing and supporting local authority staff to collaborate in the development of a common framework for PSHE resources.

The **Community, Learning and Development Managers' Network** has been sharing practice around CLD service delivery recovery planning and providing opportunities for CLD staff and partners to collaborate on common projects



West Partnership Staffing update

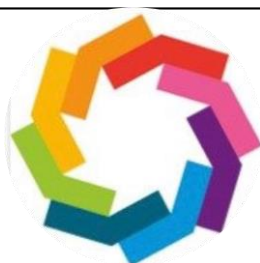
Our West Partnership Regional Lead Officer, Mhairi Shaw has now retired from her post as Director of Education in East Renfrewshire. As such, Tony McDaid, Director of Education in South Lanarkshire has taken over the position of Regional Lead for the West Partnership. We thank Mhairi for her support and direction and warmly welcome Tony to this new role.

Similarly, our Senior Partnership Officer, Elizabeth Morrison, has recently taken up post as Deputy Director of Learning at the Scottish Government. In her absence our West Partnership Core Team will be led by Alistair Brown as Senior Partnership Officer.

Our Core Team continues to comprise of three Lead Officers who each oversee one area of strategic remit: Jen Crocket (Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement), Helen Brown (Collaborative Learning Networks) and John Stuart (Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment), one part-time Lead Officer, Lauren Johnston (Evaluating and Reporting) and a Development Officer, Sarah Green (Assessment and Moderation).

The recent appointment of James Bowness as Data & Information Officer has been a welcome addition to the team and his work continues to complement our progress. Paul Downie also joins the team on a part time basis as co-ordinator for our online school, West OS.

Aimee Glen continues in her role as West Partnership Business Support Officer with Rachael Boyle joining us in a part-time Communications Support role.



West Partnership Website Launch

We are delighted to be launching a new West Partnership website during Autumn 2020, which we hope you will find both informative and easy to interact with. Our web developer has spent significant time in designing a platform which should highlight key aspects of our work whilst giving access to the latest documentation and guidance.

Each of our three workstreams has a dedicated area, outlining in greater details aspects of remit and giving an overview of the various projects being undertaken. Within these areas you will find contact details for the relevant West Partnership lead officers and we invite you to make contact with them should you be seeking further information on particular aspects of our work. The new website can be found at the following address:

www.westpartnership.co.uk.

We would be grateful if you could promote this new platform within your establishment and local authority and encourage staff to interact with our content and upcoming professional learning opportunities. Our new, simplified calendar of events will hopefully inspire you to take part, albeit virtually, within the context of Covid-19 recovery.

West Partnership Research during Covid-19

As a response to the Covid-19 crisis, the West Partnership's data and information officer has led work on summarising existing knowledge relating flexible models of learning. This work has been presented in a variety of outputs, with research summary reports taking a central role. Our first published report, which looked at remote and digital learning, was released in late May and was well received online. Indeed, the work was featured in the June edition of Scotland Learns Practitioner Network. We later released two further research summaries which explored the topic of blended learning. It became clear to us that our papers were responding to the needs of education practitioners in Scotland who wanted information relating flexible models of learning. To increase the visibility of our work, each of the three papers were transformed into Sway documents. Three sways were produced and had been viewed over 3000 times by mid-July. We also released a digital brochure displaying the key findings from our scoping review of research on remote learning.

Effective Blended Learning Sway:

<https://sway.office.com/Z3iXaztX8xkvrNP7?ref=Link&loc=mysways>

Introduction to Blended Learning Sway:

<https://sway.office.com/sTvRql6fmQ7xxSpV?ref=Link&loc=mysways>

Remote and Digital Learning Sway:

<https://sway.office.com/6JGDmi0rkRCzFVBN?ref=Link&loc=mysways>

Alongside our three main workstreams, our Evaluating and Reporting group takes an overarching approach to measuring the impact of our work through both qualitative and quantitative means. It serves the key function of reporting on our progress towards achieving the aims we set out in our Recovery Plan.

Contact Details

Leadership, Empowerment and Improvement Workstream- Contact Jen Crocket at JCrocket@bocclair.e-dunbarton.sch.uk

West OS- Contact Paul Downie, gw14downiepaul@glow.sch.uk or John Stuart, John.Stuart@eastrenfrewshire.gov.uk.

Assessment and moderation- Contact Sarah Green at gw11stewartsarah3@glow.ea.glasgow.sch

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