

South West



Educational Improvement
Collaborative

Newsletter – December 2019



Excellence through
collaboration



Colleagues

First of all, thank you to everyone who has taken part in or contributed to SWEIC activities over 2019. We have now completed two years of the collaborative being in existence. These are still relatively early days but a lot has been achieved. As we head into the third year it is becoming clearer that the collaborative is focusing on the issues that will hopefully make a difference to the quality of children's and young people's learning experiences in school. There is a strong focus on learning and teaching in each of the work streams and although events have focused largely on senior leaders the aim is to make a difference in the classroom. This newsletter sets out the many activities that have taken place and will take place over the coming term. Collaboration is by definition a voluntary activity, so I would urge you to take part and if there is nothing available to meet your needs, please get involved to shape the collaborative into something practical and useful for your own circumstances. Constructive feedback is always very welcome either directly to myself or to Fiona McDougall or via the work streams. Many thanks once again for your continuing support of the collaborative and enjoy the festive break.

Best wishes

Douglas



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South West Educational Improvement Collaborative Regional Improvement Plan 2019-20

(Click plan to open link.)



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Assessment & Moderation Workstream

The assessment and moderation workstream have planned a number of events for after the Christmas break. The aims of these events are:

- Practitioners will have the opportunity to share practice and engage in professional dialogue with colleagues from across the region.
- Through agreement of standards, practitioners will increase their levels of confidence in their professional judgements.
- Practitioners will have the opportunity to build networks across the region.

The first event will take place for First Level practitioners on the 16th January. Please click [here](#) to see the invitation. There will be a follow up event in May. These events will follow the same format as national moderation events and will be supported by QAMSOs from across the region. A secondary subject event will also be held in May. With the additional in-service day in April, a CLPL offer will be developed and circulated to Head Teachers after Christmas. Should you wish more information please email Gavin Pitt (gavin.pitt@south-ayrshire.gov.uk). As we increasingly engage with staff across the region, a number of other themes for collaboration are being identified and will be taken forward in the new year and beyond into session 2020/21.



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SWEIC Maths Group

The SWEIC Maths group held a Train the Trainer day in September for Numeracy Champions across the region. A training programme was designed and is currently being delivered during twilights in November and December across the South West. This professional learning focuses on developing Bar Modelling approaches to support children's understanding of mathematics within worded problems and support children in developing number sense. These twilight inputs will provide opportunities for staff to develop pedagogy while reflecting and sharing practice.

Please find a link to the recently published numeracy and mathematics thematic inspection report.

<https://education.gov.scot/media/uc1dcidic/multiplying-skills-adding-value-full-report.pdf>

Following the success of last year's Maths Expert Day with Mike Askew, another Expert Event has been organised for the 6th May 2020. Andrew Jeffrey will deliver 'The CPA Approach: How to get the very best from your maths resources'.

During a 30 year career Andrew has been a teacher, school leader, inspector, author and consultant. His passion is studying why some children find mathematics so hard to grasp. Andrew has worked with schools and speaks at conferences both nationally and internationally about helping children understand and enjoy mathematics. He is also a magician and loves using magic tricks with mathematical secrets to inspire children and teachers!

For further information and booking details please click [here](#).



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Leadership Workstream

Sharing Interesting Practice on Leadership

The Leadership Workstream has promoted collaboration across the SWEIC by inviting schools and centres to offer to showcase interesting practice with a focus on leadership. Collated responses have been shared across the SWEIC, click [here](#) to view the framework, and we are currently gathering names of interest from schools/staff. The rationale behind creating these opportunities is to sustain long term meaningful collaboration between our schools and centres. We are encouraging schools to showcase their leadership work in such a way to provide a deep insight to the leadership practice and theory which the initiative is built upon. This may include a presentation, but we are also encouraging opportunities to shadow staff (for a few hours or a few days), see the initiative in action in the classroom and speak with teams of staff and work together to build a support network which would allow the attendees to fully understand the initiative and take ideas back to their own establishments. Staff are welcome to sign up for any of our collaboration events at any time by contacting amyourourke@north-ayrshire.gov.uk. The list of offers will be constantly updated and shared through the SWEIC GLOW tile. Offers of leadership practice to be shared are also welcome at any time by emailing Amy O' Rourke at the email address above.



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Middle Leadership – Leadership of Pedagogy

The SWEIC Leadership Workstream have formed a design group consisting of staff from across the SWEIC and Education Scotland staff to design a new Middle Leadership Development Programme focused on the leadership of pedagogy. This will be a bespoke leadership programme, initially aimed at secondary school middle leaders with a focus on pedagogical leadership theory and practical application through practitioner enquiry. The programme will be fully facilitated to provide high quality professional learning for our staff. Throughout each step of the design journey, we will consult with middle leaders from across the SWEIC to ensure the design programme meets the needs of staff. More information on this programme will be available by March 2020 when it will be advertised across the SWEIC. Plans are already in place to develop similar programmes within the workstream including pastoral leadership and middle leadership of pedagogy within a primary setting.

ASN Leadership Event

A SWEIC ASN Leadership event took place in November at the Park Hotel, Kilmarnock. Keynote speaker, Mary Berrill from Education Scotland, spoke in depth about Quality Indicator 3.1 and shared a wealth of knowledge around inspection expectation, safeguarding and what a positive inspection would look like within ASN.

Janine McCulloch, Education Scotland, and Gail Nowek, Educational Psychological Services North Ayrshire, spoke about the updated Milestones for Complex Learners, sharing and inspiring attendees with the background work in devising the documents.

The afternoon was spent discussing consultation topics with colleagues from across the South West Collaborative. This provided rich opportunities to network and share good practice across a wide range of schools and settings.

The event was extremely well received and feedback was hugely positive. Almost all participants rated the event as excellent. Areas of interest were gathered in order to plan a future event. Common themes emerging included transitions, planning, assessing, reporting and moderation, sharing examples of tracking and monitoring formats linked to milestones and looking in depth at other Q.I.s.



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Melting the Ice Leadership Event

'Inspiration' 'Collaboration' 'Empowerment'

On the 11th October, Primary Head Teachers were invited to the Families of Schools 'Melting the ICE' day delivered in collaboration with Columba 1400. Professor Norman Drummond and his team supported head teachers as they reconnected and explored their values, focussing on how they can improve outcomes for our young people.

Douglas Hutchison, Regional Lead Officer, set the scene for the day. Head Teachers then 'broke the ice' by sharing and discussing artefacts or pictures that connected them to their current view on leadership. They then took part in a Values Walk, 'melting the ice' and learning from each other. In the afternoon Professor Norman Drummond inspired all who attended with a keynote talk 'We Were Made For Times Like These.'

The event was extremely well received. Click [here](#) to see feedback from the event.



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Closing the Gap Workstream

Family Networks of Primary Schools Event – 8th November 2019

Over one hundred Primary Head Teachers came together to work with colleagues in their SWEIC family of schools. Cara Cooper, Attainment Advisor, Education Scotland led participants through an ‘Excellence in Collaboration’ workshop looking at key features of collaboration. Douglas Hutchison, Regional Lead Officer, then delivered a thought-provoking keynote talk entitled ‘A Curriculum for Social Justice’ and welcomed questions from the audience. In the afternoon session Head Teachers were given the time and space to put collaborative professionalism into action, creating action plans for their family of schools to take forward in the year ahead. Plans include tackling priorities such as attendance, tracking attainment and play based learning.

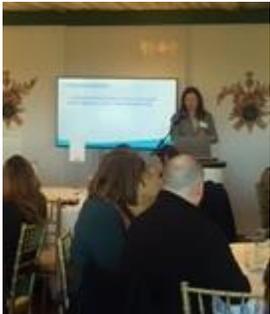
Feedback from this event can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Presentations from this event can be found in the SWEIC glow tile:

<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/swimprovementcollaborative/SitePages/Home.aspx>



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Family visits

Ian Sturgeon, Head Teacher of Kincaidston Primary School in South Ayrshire, welcomed colleagues from his SWEIC family (ST3) when they visited Kincaidston in October. Members of the schools' management teams discussed their School Improvement Priorities, their Standards and Quality Reports and other school documentation. Visitors were given a tour of the school and also enjoyed the opportunity to talk to Primary 7 pupils about the mental health work going on in the school.

The group plan to visit each others schools to share practice during this session.



Parental Engagement – Connect Professional Learning

20 participants including National Parent Forum Scotland representatives from across the South West took part in a thought provoking professional learning programme designed to support classroom teachers and senior staff to develop clear understanding and effective strategies to support engagement of families in their children’s education.

Participants were provided with tools to assess parental engagement and plan for improvement.

The programme was delivered over two half days in November and developed participants understanding of the benefits and challenges of engaging families in children’s education and provided opportunities for working with colleagues, co-constructing approaches to improving engagement with all families.

To see feedback from this event please click [here](#).

Further Connect Professional Learning has been organised. Please e-mail SWEIC@south-ayrshire.gov.uk if you wish to express an interest in registering.



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22 nd January 2020	Family Engagement for Improvement	10 – 4.30pm Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock
26 th February 2020 * New module added	Overcoming Challenges to Parental Engagement – Teacher Enquiry	9.30 – 1pm, venue TBA
17 th March 2020	Evaluation: Assessing the Impact of Family Engagement	10 – 1pm, Ayr Academy



Early Years Event – 11th November 2019

The aim of the SWEIC Early Years Event at The Park Hotel in Kilmarnock on November 11th, was to provide an opportunity for consultation and a forum for sharing identified good practice across the SWEIC. Almost 200 practitioners from across all four authorities attended the event.

The keynote speaker was Julia Matthew. Julia is a Quality Improvement Manager for Early Years in Aberdeenshire. In addition to this, she regularly inspects early years settings in England and has worked on a range of other education improvement projects. Julia's passion for early years came through in her address "Just Playing...Don't Get Me Started", which was followed by lively follow-up table discussions.

Nicola Sykes, Senior Education Officer, Community Learning and Development, Parental Engagement and Family Learning from Education Scotland then introduced the policy context for these areas. Nicola then shared a presentation from The National Parent Forum of Scotland before presenting a range of national supports to enhance improvement work across this area. All four authorities were then represented in a range of workshop presentations designed to share interesting practice. The workshops were well received by participants and feedback indicates an appetite for more.

The event closed with a consultation exercise focussing on future collaborative work on quality learning and teaching and parental engagement and family learning with the Early Years sector. Participants were then asked for their views on how the SWEIC can support common priorities and areas of development across the Collaborative within Early Years.



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Early Years Event – 11th November 2019

Several common themes emerged from the consultation in terms of SWEIC support and next steps in Early Years collaborative work. These focused on the following areas:

- Facilitation of cross-authority visits to share practice and to encourage greater sharing
- Leadership in the sector to empower at all levels
- A universal way of sharing information for all
- SWEIC led training within authority areas to deliver consistent messages
- Inclusion of partners
- Consultation
- Assessment and Moderation
- Potential for families similar to the model already in place within SWEIC
- Twilight opportunities to ensure participation at all levels
- A consistent approach to paperwork – Tracking, Care Plans, Planning etc
- A shared SWEIC vision and values across Early Years

SWEIC officers and Early Years Strategic Leads will consider the results of this consultation and determine a plan for this sector. We look forward to planning how best to address these themes and are extremely grateful for the honest engagement with the consultation exercise on the day.

Feedback from this event can be seen by clicking [here](#).

Presentations from this event can be seen on the SWEIC glow tile:

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



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Closing the attainment gap workstream

Parental Engagement and Family Learning

Involving Dads

“Involving fathers in the education of their children is a good thing and yet not systematically done. That fathers’ involvement is a good thing has been shown time and again in research and in practice. For instance, fathers’ involvement with their children is linked with their higher educational achievement and higher educational and occupational mobility relative to their parents. Father’s involvement with 7 and 11 year old children is linked with their better national examination performance at age 16, and their educational attainment at age 20. This is true across all social classes – whether the mother is highly involved too, or not. As well as this, children of involved fathers are more likely to enjoy school and have positive attitudes towards school. They are also less likely to fail a grade, have poor attendance, be suspended or expelled, or have behaviour problems at school”

Gary Clapton, Senior Lecturer in Social Work, the University of Edinburgh

On the following pages you can see how Kelloholm Primary and Sanquhar Primary in Dumfries & Galloway and Barassie Primary in South Ayrshire are providing exciting opportunities to involve dads.



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Parental Engagement and Family Learning - Involving Dads

Men and Their Children, (MATCH)

MATCH is an intergenerational programme open to dads, uncles, grandfathers and male carers, running a few times a year in year at Kelloholm Primary and Sanquhar Primary Schools in Upper Nithsdale. The evening sessions, which are run by Mary-Ann Riddell, Lifelong Learning Co-ordinator, with support from adult learning staff and volunteers, offer opportunities for dads to contribute their own skills and knowledge and to take a lead in planning and delivering sessions.

Many of the activities are planned around curriculum areas, and include activities such as healthy cooking sessions, digital animation, fun science and trebuchet games. Competitions are also very popular! The Dads' Group not only helps to improve the educational attainment of their children by their involvement but enhances their own personal, educational and social development whilst building new friendships. As Mary-Ann says, new mums can meet other mums and form friendships but there is not much for dads.

To launch the project, and encourage participation, Mary-Ann arranged information sessions at the school and offered a free, framed digital family portrait. The response was overwhelming!

Follow D & G Lifelong Learning on Twitter: [@DgcLearning](https://twitter.com/DgcLearning)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/LifelongLearningDGC/>

Further information on family learning activities can be found by clicking [here](#).
The following page shows MATCH 'in action'.



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Upper Nithsdale Men and their Children (MATCH)



"I got the chance to represent the MATCH group at the Scottish Parliament, it was a great experience!"



"I came to the Dad's group for my son, but it has led me to adult learning computing classes."



"Before I got involved with the father's group I wasn't really in the school much. I feel I'm never away from the school now." 😊



If you would like to share any of your work, please contact SWEIC's Engagement Officer

Marjorie Ross

Marjorie.ross@south-ayrshire.gov.uk

Tel: 01465 716155



"The group has helped me to see how my child learns in school."



"Going back to when I was at school myself parents' night was the only time your mother and father got to the school. The group has given me a chance to go into school more often."



Closing the attainment gap workstream

Parental Engagement: Involving Dads



Barassie Primary School: Using soft-lighting to enhance the bedtime-story experience

At the start of November around twenty families from the Early Years attended Barassie Primary's 'Stay and Play' session and enjoyed a range of activities. Mums, dads and children dressed in their pyjamas, enjoyed bedtime stories, hot chocolate and marshmallows toasted over the fire pit..... and the event was a roaring success! The main focus of the session was to promote the new 'soft-lighting' area, designed for rest and relaxation and a place to enjoy reading.

Follow Barassie Primary on twitter: @Barassie_PS



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Parental Engagement

Below is a list of links to websites which you may find useful:-

- **PARENTAL ENGAGEMENT TOOLKIT**
National Improvement Hub
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/learning-resources/engaging-parents-and-families-a-toolkit-for-practitioners>
- **FAMILY LEARNING NETWORK**
<http://familylearningnetwork.com/>
- **THE NATIONAL PARENT FORUM FOR SCOTLAND**
<https://www.npfs.org.uk/>
- **PARENT NETWORK SCOTLAND**
<https://www.parentnetworkscotland.org.uk/>
- **FATHERS NETWORK SCOTLAND**
<http://www.fathersnetwork.org.uk/>
- **HOW DO YOU MAKE A SCHOOL DAD-INCLUSIVE?**
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VneCtXdTWVU&feature=youtu.be>



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FUNDING DATABASES – Update

Joint Funding Applications:

Partners working together to apply for funding is becoming increasingly popular. With common goals, this is an opportunity for groups to share skills, expertise and resources.

If you have been successful in a joint funding bid or if you have secured funding through any of the links below, we would be delighted to hear of the impact, which we can share across the collaborative. Please contact:

Marjorie Ross, Engagement Officer marjorie.ross@south-ayrshire.gov.uk T: 01465 716155

Funding Databases:

- **Foundation Scotland**

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/about-us/>

Foundation Scotland is an independent charity established to strengthen local communities by providing a source of funding to community-led projects the length and breadth of Scotland.

Since 1996, the Foundation has been delivering innovative funding programmes, distributing over £70 million to charities and community groups. **Although grants are not available to schools, Parent Councils and PTA's who meet the criteria for funding can apply.**

For more detailed information about the services they provide download [An Introduction to Foundation Scotland.](#)

- **Scottish Rural Network:**

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

- **South Ayrshire 4 Communities:** Includes national and local funding opportunities and therefore not restricted to South Ayrshire

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

- **Funding Scotland:**

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

- **Youth Scotland Rural Action Fund:**

https://www.youthscotland.org.uk/programmes/youth-scotland-rural-action-fund/?mc_cid=019354cdc0&mc_eid=86bf1caf0c



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Evolving Systems Thinking Programme

25 senior leaders from across the South West participated in the first SWEIC cohort of the Evolving Systems Thinking Programme in October. Further modules will be delivered in January and April.

The EST programme has been designed in partnership with the Ontario Principals Council to support system level educators to enhance their leadership skills and experience through national and regional collaborative working, with a strong focus on delivering excellence and equity for all children and young people in Scotland.

The content of the Evolving Systems Thinking Programme is founded on research that points to a clear and powerful connection between effective school-level and system-level leadership practices (Leithwood K, 2013). Understanding what effective schools and school-level leadership looks like is the crucial foundation for delivering effective system-level support and thinking.



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RAiSE - STEM CLPL for Primary Science Development Officers

The National Trust for Scotland Countryside Ranger Service (based at Culzean Country Park) and South Ayrshire Council's Outdoor Education Centre, Dolphin House, collaborated to provide an exciting programme of immersive STEM CLPL for Primary Science Development Officers who are part of the tri-funded RAiSE Programme. Practitioners were able to explore quality outdoor STEM activities in a range of environments which could be replicated in their own Local Authorities, from a concrete playground, to managed woodland, as well as exploring the benefits of partnership working and the origins of those relationships.

The residential nature of the programme allowed those who are (or have been) involved in the RAiSE Programme within the collaborative, and elsewhere in Scotland, to share good practice, while developing new skills and pedagogies collaboratively. Particular highlights of the two days included exploring the geology of the caves at Culzean, catching two newts despite it being November (!), comparing different types of chocolate bar to rock types, determining wind direction using bubbles and using charcoal created from a beach fire to sketch field notes. Practitioners will now cascade their learning with their Local Authorities. Click [here](#) to see feedback from this programme.



S3 STEM Event

Monday 4th – Thursday 7th November 2019
University of the West of Scotland, Ayr Campus

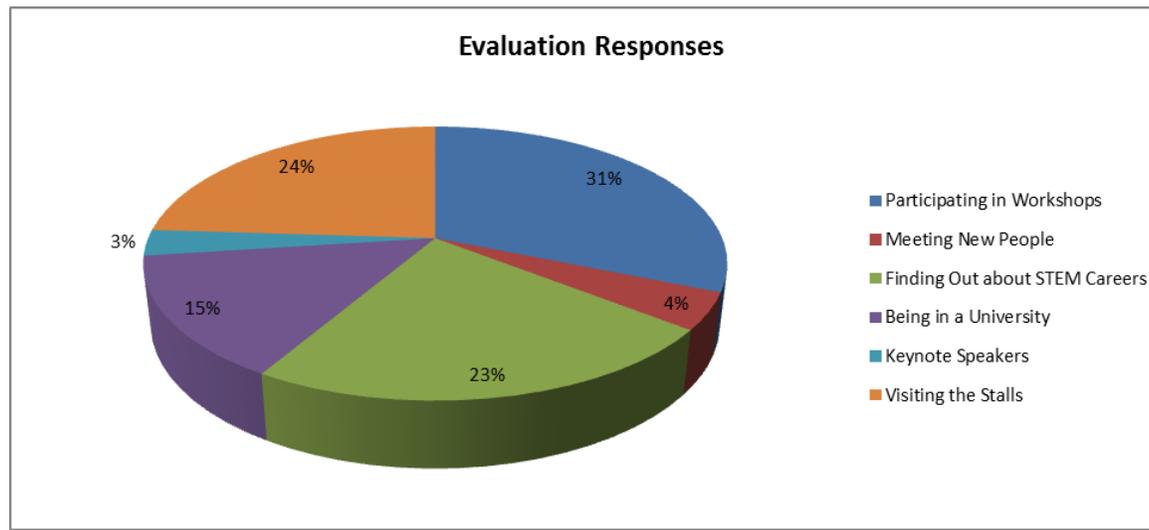
More than 300 S3 young people from across the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative engaged with a variety of STEM activities which were run by both industry and educational establishments during a four day STEM careers and skills event ran by South Ayrshire Council.

S3 learners were purposely invited to this event in order to support their subject choices in the following year. The University of the West of Scotland campus provided a venue where learners could explore options such as apprenticeships, further study and the world of work, while experiencing a taste of university life.

Each day consisted of a keynote speaker, four workshops and a market place as part of a rotation.

The official opening was undertaken by South Ayrshire Council representatives Councillor William Grant and Provost Helen Moonie.

Young people were asked to identify three of the most informative/enjoyable sessions each day. The overall evaluations for all days show that young people found their day extremely positive with 31% of young people identifying participating in STEM practical workshops as being the most important to them.



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16 th January	Moderation of Early/First Level P1, 2, 3, 4 teachers	Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock
27 th February	Secondary SLT PEF Event	Lochside House Hotel, New Cumnock
March	Catholic Head Teacher Conference	TBC
6 th March	Rural Head Teachers Event	Dumfries House, Cumnock
25 th March	Save the Date – Head Teachers SWEIC/Scottish Government Regional Event	TBC
3 rd April	Various opportunities for collaborative working.	
11 th May	Moderation of Achievement of a Level, P1, P4 & P7 teachers	TBC
22 nd May	Primary Head Teachers Families of Schools	Dumfries House, Cumnock
22 nd May	Moderation – secondary subject specialist follow up day.	TBC
12 th June	Primary Principal Teacher Event	Greenwood Conference Centre

Further details and invites to register for these events will be sent out in due course.



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Please find below a brief outline of SWEIC Professional Learning opportunities to date. This calendar will be supplemented by other collaborative learning events during the year.

Maths delivered by SWEIC Maths Group Bar Modelling Primary and Secondary Staff	6th Sept– Train the Trainer November/December twilights February twilights	Ayr Academy Venues across the region
School Data Analysis Delivered by ES Attainment Advisors Workshops for middle leaders.	Twilights/ Inservice beginning in January	Venues across the region
Reading Recovery SWEIC offer from NAC	TBC	
Connect (Cohort of 25) Engaging Families in Children’s Education Part 1 Engaging Families in Children’s Education Part 2 Family Engagement for Improvement Parental Engagement – Teacher Enquiry Approaches * New Evaluation: Assessing the Impact of Family Engagement + new module	7 th November (Half day) 20 th November (Half day) 22 nd January 26 th February 17 th March (Half day)	Ayr Academy, Ayr Ayr Academy, Ayr <u>Lochside House Hotel</u> , New Cumnock TBC Ayr Academy, Ayr
Coaching for Success – SWEIC HT Cohort This programme will deepen and develop the necessary confidence and capability to apply non-directive coaching in the workplace.	Proposed Dates 28 th February 27 th March 15 th May 19 th June	Venues TBC
Evolving Systems Thinking For school and system leaders with a remit for curriculum and pedagogical developments, quality processes and effective collaborative improvement across the system.	28 th , 29 th , 30 th October 22 nd , 23 rd , 24 th January 27 th , 28 th , 29 th April	Prestwick Prestwick Prestwick



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Meet the South West Education Scotland Regional Improvement Team



Gillian Anderson
Education Officer



Nanette Brotherhood
Education Officer



Cara Cooper
Attainment Advisor



Carol Copstick
Senior Regional Advisor



Jamie Farquhar
Attainment Advisor



Dehra MacDonald
Development Officer



Callum MacFarlane
Attainment Advisor



Klaus Mayer
Senior Education Officer



George Milliken
Development Officer



Siân Neil
Senior Education Officer



Heather Robertson
Attainment Advisor



Frances Rodman
National Improvement
Framework Officer



Lorraine Ross
Education Officer



Nicola Sykes
Senior Education Officer

To view the SW RIT
bulletin please click
[here.](#)



<https://glowscotland.sharepoint.com/sites/SouthAyrshire/swimprovementcollaborative/SitePages/Home.aspx>



@SWEIC2019

For further information regarding the South West Educational Improvement Collaborative please contact:

Fiona McDougall, Quality Improvement Manager
Gavin Pitt, Assessment and Moderation Officer
Fiona McAvoy, Closing the Gap Officer
Liz Candlish, Early Years Officer
Marjorie Ross, Engagement Officer
Gwyneth Fairbairn, Data Analyst

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