

West Partnership

Forums

EXCELLENCE, EQUITY AND EMPOWERMENT

Shifting the Ownership of Change

Date October 2020

Guidance for Practitioners,
Establishments, Local Authorities and
Partner Agencies



GLASGOW
CITY REGION
Education

RATIONALE

The vision of the West Partnership is to embed the values of 'Equity, Excellence and Empowerment' in everything we do.

The long-term goal is to have every educator in the West Partnership engaged with colleagues and partners to bring about improvement in their classes and playrooms through professional collaboration.

Empowerment is the way in which we believe we can shift the ownership of change and enable our staff to take collective action to achieve this.

We want to deliver truly sustainable improvement by encouraging all stakeholders to engage in collective agency and develop a shared belief in their ability to accomplish together what they cannot on their own. In doing so we can begin to drive our vision forward, overcome barriers to, or lack of engagement in learning, and raise achievement and attainment for all.

Consequently the Curriculum, Learning, Teaching and Assessment Worksteam began to establish and facilitate self-sustaining Secondary Curriculum Networks of professionals who work collaboratively in ways that will reduce workload, improve practice, and have a positive impact on learning, teaching and assessment. The networks proved to be popular and resulted in other sectors such as ASN, Early Years and Primary requesting that they too would benefit from having the opportunity to collaborate in a similar way. In response to this request the West Partnership has adapted the Secondary Curricular Networks to provide West Partnership Forums for other sectors.

Similar to the Curriculum Networks the aims of the West Partnership Forums are to:

- support and facilitate partnership working with key stakeholders which will lead to improved outcomes for children and young people
- empower and nurture practitioners to participate in effective collaboration which will enhance professional development, reduce workload, and improve learning and teaching
- develop sustainable networks that promote collaboration and collective agency, enabling effective practice and resources to be shared and spread across departments, schools, early learning centres and authorities
- design professional learning opportunities which are guided by and in response to practitioner needs
- build leadership capacity to take forward and disseminate professional learning using a 'bottom up' approach
- bring about improvement in learning, teaching, assessment, and attainment.

Purpose

The purpose of the West Partnership Forums are to provide conditions for effective collaboration across all eight local authorities for practitioners with common interests. In response to the developmental needs highlighted by the Forums, The West Partnership will support practitioners to engage in high quality professional dialogue and structured networking opportunities.

The West Partnership and Education Scotland will work in partnership to support the needs of each network accordingly. The networks will complement the work of local authority and national networks.

THE STRUCTURE

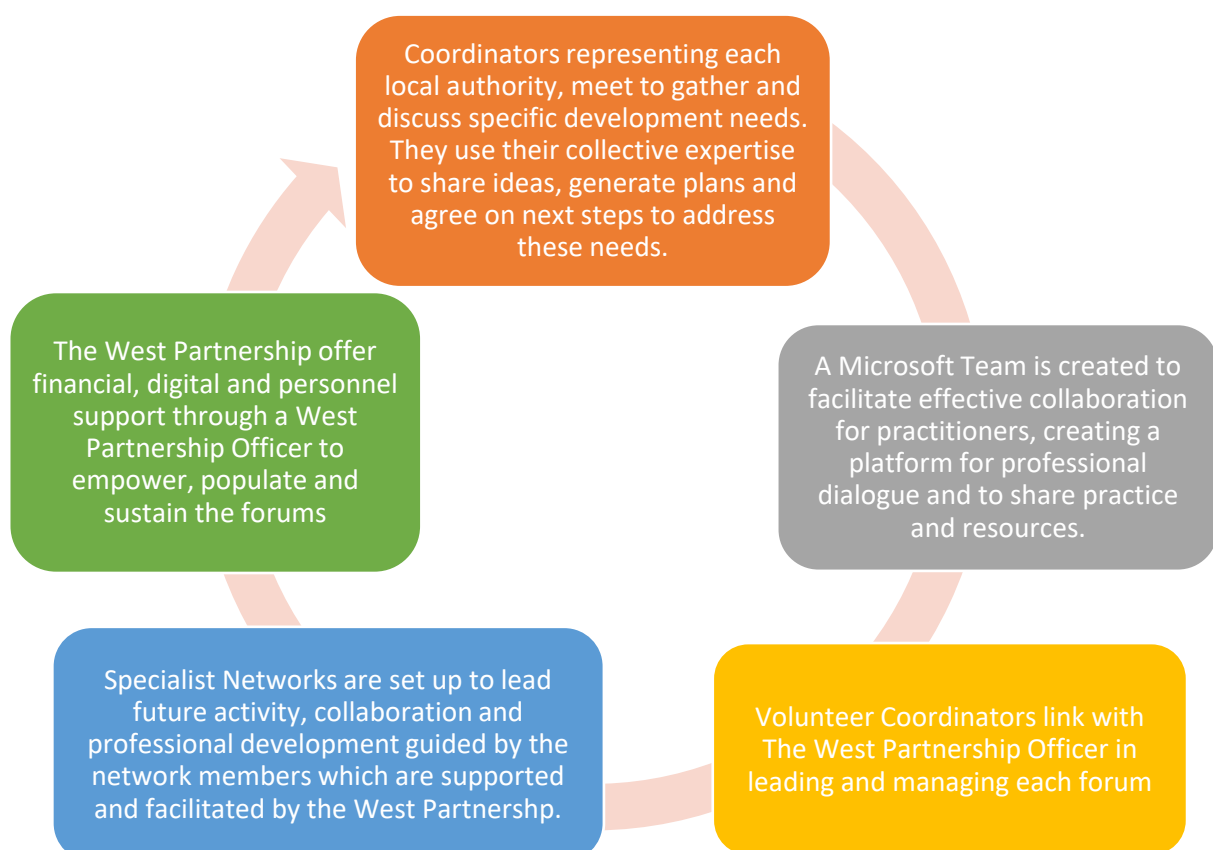
The West Partnership Forums will be overseen by the West Partnership Collaborative Learning Networks Workstream and will, initially, be administered by the West Partnership core team. Volunteer coordinators will also be sought. These interested individuals will link with West Partnership Lead Officers to coordinate the Forums and contribute to the management of the network, thus developing leadership opportunities and capacity in practitioners.

Each West Partnership Forum will meet formally up to three times per year. Local Authority Officers and Education Scotland staff will support where relevant. The focus will be agreed by the volunteer coordinators. More meetings and/or development activity may take place at the discretion and agreement of the practitioners involved.

During these meetings time will be set aside for sharing practice, exchanging ideas and networking. Where requested, Education Scotland or experts from within local authorities may offer opportunities for professional dialogue and presentations on key national priorities and needs identified by volunteer coordinators.

The future activity of each Forum will be guided by practitioners. Specialist Networks of volunteers will be set up to focus on researching and providing further activities such as setting up enquiry networks, arranging conferences, CLPL opportunities, on-line collaboration, school to school visits or shared youth voice activities. This list is not exhaustive but seeks to give a flavour of potential network activity over time.

HOW DOES THE STRUCTURE AND SYSTEM WORK?



APPENDICES -

Appendix A – Roles and Remits

The West Partnership Team will support by:

- Offering and facilitating the organisation of professional learning in response to identified needs
- Allocating West Partnership funding to facilitate forums
- Sourcing partners with appropriate expertise to create professional learning to address needs identified by practitioners in the networks
- Identifying volunteer coordinators to link and collaborate with The West Partnership Team in leading and managing each Forum
- Offering digital and personal support to populate and sustain the forums
- Empowering members and volunteer coordinators to develop collective agency and the long-term sustainability of collaboration across the inter authority networks

Volunteer Coordinators and network members will be able to:

1. Work collaboratively to identify priorities in learning, teaching and assessment for the forums
2. Share and develop strategies to tackle these issues by engaging in critical conversation and drawing on expertise as needed from outside the network
3. Increase knowledge, skills and capacity by participating in areas of identified professional developmental.