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Professional Development Opportunities (PDO) Search facility

- 2008 – 2009 PDO programmes now available on line at www.swamwac.org/pdo or www.swamwac.org/cdp providing a quick way to identify and access PDO provision in your own and other swamwac authorities.
- The 2009 – 2010 programme will be available early in the new financial year

CPD Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion 2009 – 2010

The 2009 – 2010 Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion training menu will **only** be available via the swamwac website at www.swamwac.org.uk

From April 2009 information on **all** Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion training courses will be available **only** on the swamwac website. **There will be no training CD** so it is important that teachers know where to find the courses when they are deciding on their training priorities for next year. A link to the swamwac website will be made available through the professional development site on Amdro alongside further information relating to Carmarthenshire's CPD strategy for 2009 – 2010

Post cards containing the web site address will be sent to every Carmarthenshire and Ceredigion school and provided direct to course participants during the Spring term 2009

Continuation funding

We are very pleased to have received, at the end of December 2008, the formal offer of £100,000 continuation funding from the Welsh Assembly Government Making the Connections Improvement Fund. The grant has to be spent by the end of August 2009. It will assist us in completing a number of the actions set out in the Strategic Plan and achieving the outcomes set out in our bid for funding. Anyone interested in reading the bid can access it on the swamwac web site.

Consortium Working Schedule of Events

This section offers initial information on events which may be of interest. If you are hosting any events which you would like to make available to colleagues across the swamwac Authorities, please let us know and we will publicise them in future Bulletins and/or on the web site. To maximise benefits for all it would be helpful if anyone who is considering organising a consortium working event would contact admin@swamwac.org to check that there are no clashes of key dates.

Consortium working events 2009

Title	Date /Time	Venue	Audience	Contact
All NQT Teachers are teachers of SEN!	Wed 18 th March 2009	Clydach Education Centre	Newly qualified teachers	Cheryl Jones Teacher Adviser Inclusion Swansea 01792 562660
All teachers are teachers of SEN! An Introduction to SEN	Wed 25 th March 2009	Clydach Education Centre	Mainstream teachers	Cheryl Jones Teacher Adviser Inclusion Swansea 01792 562660
Conference: Child Well Being: Early Years to Adolescence	Friday 24 th April 2009	University of Wales Institute, Cardiff	All practitioners in Education and Health, public, private and voluntary sectors.	dhendy@uwic.ac.uk Tel: 02920416577

Consortium working - Progress in implementing the Strategic Plan for 2008 – 2009

Children and Young People's Partnerships

The CYP Partnership Co-ordinators Group is focusing on workforce development issues as a key area for consortia working. They have agreed and adopted common format documentation and general methodology for data collection, and are committed to pooling data on a regional basis, to map demand both locally and regionally. Links have been made with the Regional Learning Partnership for South West Wales (RLPSWW) to share information relating to future demand for training for the Children and Young People's workforce.

Chartered Teacher

Having successfully tendered to deliver a second module 'Leading the Learning', 12 participants from across Wales attended two 24 hour bilingual sessions during last term. They are now busily working on an action research project linked to school improvement, the outcomes of which will be shared with their peers later this year.

Web site development

A range of amendments are being considered and actioned, arising from suggestions received at the School Staff Development Coordinators Conference and from a number of Consortium Groups.

These include:

- Revamp of front page
- Improving navigation
- Links to Authorities e portals
- Secure areas for discussion
- Improved publicity
- Adding content and links to useful sites
- Adding good practice information

We would be very pleased to receive your suggestions for development, or comments on the web site. Please email admin@swmwac.org

Transition

The Transition case study materials are now live on swamwac web site at www.swamwac.org/transition or www.swamwac.org/cymraeg/Transition

Inclusion

The development of the All Wales IQM Framework document is on track. The next phase is to prepare for training assessors and briefing pilot schools, both assessors and pilot schools will be identified shortly.

Evaluation of consortium working

We are very pleased to confirm that Professor David Egan has been appointed to work with the Consortium to:

- Provide ongoing guidance to enhance the achievements of the Consortium in terms of improved services, efficiency gains, innovative practice, partnership development and quality improvement;
- Monitor progress against the Strategic Plan, critical success factors and milestones
- Evaluate the degree to which the objectives and deliverables outlined in the bid for Continuation Funding are met over the lifetime of the funding;
- Evaluate the progress made in developing Consortium structures and governance arrangements in adherence to the key principles underpinning the approach to partnership development and consortium working across the Local Authorities;
- Make judgements about the value-added that consortium working brings to the authorities in terms of the development of improved patterns of service delivery to citizens and clients.

Professor Egan is well known and respected in the field of Education and is currently inaugural Director of the Centre for Applied Research, University of Wales Institute.

Assessment Programme for HLTA

The next round of HLTA assessment is commencing this month for completion in June 2009. There are 51 confirmed candidates covering all six Local Authorities

Performance Management

There has been a delay in the deployment of External Advisers for cycle 7, however the deployment has now been completed.

ARR

A Task and Finish Group, with membership from all 6 swamwac Authorities is currently making good progress on:

- developing comprehensive written advice and guidance for schools on all aspects of ARR and moderation at KS1 and at KS2/3 in the core subjects
- the identification of good practice case studies materials and exemplars
- the identification of training needs re ARR and moderation at KS1 and KS2/3 in the core subjects

Work is expected to be completed by the end of the summer term, ready for distribution to schools for the Autumn term 2009.

14 – 19

The Learning Coach Co-ordinator has been undertaking training sessions since November 2008 and sessions will continue until at least the end of March 2009. Participants are from all Counties are undertaking all 5 modules. Learning Coach Co-ordinator Linda Carlisle can be contacted by email on learningcoaches@swamwac.org

Conference Reports

School Staff Development Coordinators Conference 28th November 2008

As part of the joint working around improving professional development opportunities for school based staff a conference took place on 28th November 2008 at the National Botanic Garden of Wales. The conference enabled Secondary School Staff Development Coordinators to:

- Network with colleagues from other secondary schools across the six Authorities
- View the web based searchable database of professional development courses across the 6 authorities
- Input into the development of the 2009 -2010 professional development programmes

Approximately half of the secondary schools in the swamwac region were represented and this included schools from each of the six Authorities. Delegates generally enjoyed and valued the conference, with particular support for the facilitated group sessions which included a Welsh medium group. Delegates made valuable and enthusiastic contributions in the discussion groups with a range of ideas emerging on approaches to joint working and professional development including:

- E networks, and use of e media (such as blogs, wikis, Moodle, Ning etc)
- Face to face meetings
- Conferences
- Training events

Other issues identified included:

- Facilitators via the medium of Welsh for specific subject network groups needed
- Need for training opportunities for the wider school workforce identified by all groups
- Improve awareness of national developments
- A focus on teaching and learning, and skills framework (with appropriate context)
- Sharing of specialist resources e.g. Welsh medium resources
- Joint development and sharing of documentation and ideas
- Links and information on major providers of information/support could be a useful addition to swamwac web site e.g., GCaD/NGFL, CBAC/WJEC, CACC/GTCW, CDAG etc.
- Register of approved providers of training, including national providers, and of experienced school based practitioners would be useful
- Sharing of good practice should be extended
- Leadership and management development opportunities needed, although current work on Chartered Teacher, and Middle Managers modules would assist in addressing this
- Assessment for learning
- Reducing bureaucracy
- Emotional health and wellbeing/ self harm
- Legal and HR issues
- Health and safety
- Dealing with parents
- DDA Training.
- Availability of resources

The useful outcomes of the conference will be further analysed and will inform ongoing professional development programme work, and web site development.

Foundation Phase

On November 20th, approximately 170 people from schools across the region, representing all LEAs, attended what proved to be a highly successful conference entitled 'From Caterpillars to Butterflies', at the Stradey Hotel, Llanelli. The internationally renowned Galina Dolya, well published author of 'Technology of Child Development' visited Wales for the first time to run this packed and exciting day, focusing on the enrichment curriculum for early years practitioners for early years. Participants participated in a number of practical learning activities and left with a plethora of ideas and resources. Conference evaluation was exceptionally positive. A follow up day for any school attending is to be held in Carmarthen at the end of January.

Contacts

Consortium Office and Facilitators

You can contact the swamwac office or any of the facilitators on [01267 676840](tel:01267676840) or email admin@swamwac.org

Keep in Touch

Please forward this bulletin to anyone who may be interested and post it on the staff notice boards in your school or work area.

We would welcome comments from you on how consortium working has helped you, or suggestions as to how it could help you in the future. If you have any events which you would like to make available to colleagues across the swamwac Authorities then please email admin@swamwac.org

Sharing practice/developing case studies

We are aiming to make the swamwac web site a useful resource for schools, and if you are developing and/or would like to share case studies and good practice information on the web site, or provide articles or links to other useful information please email admin@swamwac.org for information on how to progress this.