



South West and Mid Wales Consortium Consortium De-orllewin a Chanolbarth Cymru

Bulletin 3

May 2008

Consortium working - Progress in implementing the Interim Strategic Plan

School Effectiveness Framework

The School Effectiveness Framework was launched in March by WAG at a series of four regional conferences, based on the ADEW Consortia Cymru. The launch for the South West and Mid Wales region took place at the Showground, Builth Wells on 6th March. All head teachers were invited to attend and representatives from all phases, as well as Local Authority school improvement professional, participated.

The conference was introduced and chaired by Richard Parry, Director of Education, Swansea. Speakers for the morning sessions included Professor David Egan, University of Wales Institute, Cardiff; Steve Marshall, Director, DCELLS; and Jane Hutt AM, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. Gareth Jones, Director of Education, Ceredigion provided a well received presentation on the role of local authorities in school effectiveness. Unfortunately some technical and other difficulties in the translation process meant that some people missed part of the presentation and therefore both the presentation and notes have been made available on the swamwac web site www.swamwac.org. An excellent presentation from young people from Glan Afan Comprehensive, Port Talbot ensured a focus on outcomes for children and young people and Mike Griffiths and Andy Henderson, headteachers seconded to work with WAG on the SEF, provided useful background.

A series of breakout sessions took place in the afternoon focused in more detail on key issues and at the final plenary session the morning's speakers were joined by Elizabeth Taylor, DCELLS.

The School Effectiveness Framework sets out proposals for two types of pilot implementation. Two regions will pilot the Associate Head approach as outlined in the SEF document. The remaining two regions, including swamwac, will develop separate pilot implementation proposals for consideration by WAG.

In order to develop the pilot proposal a new Task and Finish Group has been set up and the initial meeting took place on 19th March 2008. The group comprises head teachers and local authority school improvement professionals. Contact details will shortly be available on the swamwac web site and members of the group would welcome your views. Alternatively you may contribute views by emailing admin@swamwac.org. Please clearly mark your email for the attention of the SEF Group.

Transition Group

The Transition Group is working on case study development and members are currently visiting schools across the consortium with a view to collating information for a proposed brochure and web information. They hope to complete this by early May. The group has received a copy of the draft protocol for putting jointly developed work, case studies and other good practice information on the swamwac web site and will act as a 'pilot' for this protocol.

Other groups who are developing and/or would like to post case studies and good practice information on the swamwac web site, or provide links to other useful information should email admin@swamwac.org and should consider the protocol on www.swamwac.org

Children and Young People's Plans

Children and Young People's Partnerships currently seeking responses to consultation on their Children and Young People's Plans are:

Swansea

www.cypswansea.co.uk

Responses required by: 31/05/08

Neath Port Talbot

www.npt.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople

Responses required by: 30/06/08

Pembrokeshire

http://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/content.asp?nav=154,988&parent_directory_id=101&id=14677&language=

Responses required by: 09/06/08

Ceredigion's Needs Assessment is available at www.ceredigion2020.org.uk, and their Plan will follow shortly.

Powys and Carmarthenshire Children and Young People's Partnerships have completed their consultations, and are in the process of updating their drafts in light of the responses received.

Chartered Teacher Pilots

- The pilot core module on Self Evaluation, Reflection and Personal Development commenced in February 2008, with the last of the taught sessions recently completed.
- Participants will now be working towards completing their Leadership and Learning Portfolios, the contents of which will form the focus of a structured school based discussion with course tutors.
- Accreditation of the module will be completed through Trinity College, Carmarthen
- The Consortium's tender to pilot a second module - Leading the Learning – has been accepted and the bilingual module will be running between October 2008 and Feb 2009. Eligible teachers from swamwac Authorities are encouraged to apply and anyone interested should contact Maria Boex at GTCW, email maria.boex@gtcw.org
- Further details of the Chartered Teacher programme can be found on the GTCW web site at <http://www.gtcw.org.uk/welcome.html>
- It is intended that the Self Evaluation, Reflection and Personal Development Core Module will be integrated into the swamwac middle leader programme being designed and developed by the Middle Leader Task and Finish Group.

14-19 Conference

On Wednesday, 6th February 2008 swamwac 14-19 Coordinators organized and hosted a successful Network Conference aimed at sharing good practice across Wales. The event took place at the Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells. Representatives from almost every 14-19 Network attended, together with WAG officers. The event attracted WAG funding. Feedback has been extremely positive with requests for another event to be organized next year.

The aim was to:

- Share practice from Networks around Wales.
- Build a more collaborative approach to working together, within and across regions.
- Develop a more strategic approach to planning in the future.

A range of workshops were offered and were well attended including:

- **Developing an E-learning Centre of Excellence for collaboration**
Contributors: Gwynedd and Anglesey Network.
- **14-19 Area Inspection – a nominee perspective**
Contributor: Wrexham Network.
- **Work Experience V Work focused experience**
Contributors: Vale of Glamorgan Network and Careers Wales West.
- **Monitoring your ANDP – a practical approach**
Contributor: Powys Network.

News...News...News...

Continuation funding

Progress is being made on our application to the Welsh Assembly Government Making the Connections Fund for continuation funding to further develop consortium working. A meeting with Welsh Assembly Government to clarify details of the application took place in February 2008 and we hope to know the outcome shortly.

ESF funding for West Wales region and the development of a proposed Regional Learning Partnership for South West Wales

Bulletin 2 included the background to the proposal to develop a Regional Learning Partnership for South West Wales with a remit to 'ensure publicly funded learning providers and associated organisations work collaboratively and efficiently to meet the demand needs of learners and the regional economy in South West Wales'. Following discussion, Directors and Strategic Groups endorsed the further development of the proposals, focusing initially, but not exclusively, on Adult Continuing Learning.

A Workshop for all proposed partners took place on 20th February 2008 to follow up from the first session in September 2007 and to update all partners on the progress of the RLP concept. The workshop was well attended (approx 50 delegates) from Local Government, FE, HE, work based learning, and voluntary sector. Workshops focused on what sectors hoped to gain from the RLP and what they could contribute,

as well as challenges and ways of meeting the challenges. The workshop ended with a general endorsement of the current direction of travel and a willingness to continue to support the development. Outline support from WAG has been received.

A Project Information Form has been posted on the WEFO web site and the next step is to develop an Expression of Interest. Further information on the development of funding bids, and Project Initiation Forms for each project (posted as development proceeds) can be found on the WEFO web site at <http://www.wefo.wales.gov.uk>

Web Site Update

Web site revision has commenced, allowing opportunity for posting shared practice and documentation to meet requests arising from groups. A draft protocol for putting jointly developed work, case studies and other good practice information on the swamwac web site has been developed and is available on the swamwac web site or by email from admin@swamwac.org.

We are aiming to make the web site a useful resource and if you have any links or articles you think would be helpful to others then please let us know by emailing admin@swamwac.org

HLTA

On 18th February 2008 successful candidates from the 2007 cohort were presented with their certificates. Congratulations to those colleagues on their success.

Applications for the next round will be sought in September 2008. Anyone interested should contact their Local Authority lead officer. Names of the lead officers can be found under the HLTA area of work on the swamwac web site at www.swamwac.org/cpd/hlta.asp

Details of last years application information is also on the web site and this year's process is expected to be similar. Anyone interested should note that they will need to demonstrate that they must have a qualification in Welsh or English literacy and mathematics/numeracy at level 2 of the National Qualifications Framework (NQF), equivalent to GCSE A - C, or above and must have proof of their qualifications.

Further school staffing reviews

By 31st March 2006 all schools were legally obliged to conduct a school staffing structure review and formally approve a staffing structure and plan for implementation. As schools are aware, that approved staffing structure has to be fully in place by 1st January 2009.

It is now sometime since the reviews were conducted and many schools have developed or changed considerably since their staffing structures were agreed, with the result that these structures are no longer appropriate and/or sustainable.

The swamwac Workforce Remodelling/HR Group has developed updated guidance and example accompanying letters to support schools who wish to conduct a further staffing structure review and these can be accessed on the consortium website www.swamwac.org

Schools should contact their HR/Workforce Remodelling Officer for more detailed advice and support in conducting a staffing review or in implementing their agreed structures.

RAISE

Val Scurlock, who has coordinated swamwac RAISE support for the last year retired at the end of March 2008. We wish her well and thank her for all her excellent work.

David Brunton has taken on the duties formerly carried out by Val and will be assisted by headteacher Sue Davies, who has been seconded from Ysgol Tirdeunaw. An updated action plan is in place and agreed, learning visits, peer consultancy support and LEA hosted half day workshops have been planned for every RAISE school. New school action plans for year 3 will be required and guidance to support schools will be provided.

The swamwac representative on the RAISE national steering group is Graham Longster, Pembrokeshire.

Consortium Working Schedule of Events

This section offers initial information on events which may be of interest. We aim to update the schedule of events on a regular basis therefore, 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.

As you can see, there are a number of important events during the next few months and therefore 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 – 2008

Title	Date /Time	Venue	Audience	Contact
Catch Up Numeracy Pilot	23 rd September	Y Llwyfan, Carmarthen and National Botanic Gardens, Llanarthne	Schools nominated by Local Authority	admin@swamwac.org
Teacher Learning – Changing Roles To Improve Pupil Performance	16 th June 2008 9.00 to 3.30	Blancos Hotel, PortTalbot	This is a short course facilitated by N and PT and open to all KS2/3 teachers in swamwac schools	c.f.jones@neath-porttalbot.gov.uk
Introduction of New Schools Curriculum and Sharing Resources	Summer Term 2008 – date tba			
ASPECT training on National Standards for Education Improvement	Summer Term 2008 – date tba			
Assessment for HLTA status	23 rd April – 23 rd May 2008		Selected candidates	admin@swamwac.org
Recycling: Imaginative use of rubbish to create exciting artworks. KS2-5	7 th November 2008	The Queen's Hall, Narberth	KS2-5 teachers	

Other events supported by consortium working

Title	Date /Time	Venue	Audience	Contact
WAG National Pedagogy Conference	13/14/15 th May 2008	Holland House Hotel, Cardiff	Schools from all phases nominated by Local Authorities	admin@swamwac.org

Contacts

Consortium Office and Facilitators

You can contact swamwac on 01267 245633 or email admin@swamwac.org

Keep in Touch

We will be sending bulletins on a regular basis to keep you in touch with consortium working progress and successes and all bulletins are also available on the swamwac we site.

It would be very helpful if you would forward the bulletins to anyone who may be interested and post them 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 or if you have any good practice that you would like to share via the web site then please email admin@swamwac.org