

The ‘**What are we learning about...?**’ series is designed to make public the learning that has emerged from NCSL’s Networked Learning Communities (NLC) programme and other initiatives during the last two years. The aim is to generate useful and usable knowledge for practitioners and policy-makers. We intend to produce readable and practical publications, that enable some of the current learning about networking and collaboration, from both NLCs and the wider knowledge-base, to be shared more widely.

Each edition in the series will include:

- Accounts of practice, written by practitioners, that provide concrete examples of networked learning.
- Articles and think pieces drawn from the public knowledge-base that try to make sense of what is known in order to provoke and inform new thinking.
- Development tools and data-sets that enable system leaders and network leaders to work with others in order to develop, analyse and reflect on practice.

What are we
learning about...?

LEA involvement in school networks

In this first edition in the series, we outline some of the different roles which LEAs perform and look at concrete examples of what that looks like in practice. We explore the concept of brokerage as a way of describing what LEAs do to support networks of schools.

We also look at how LEAs can:

- connect schools to external partners
- influence the membership of networks
- foster learning relationships
- help school networks to attract new resources
- broker knowledge exchange within and between schools and other organisations

These ideas are then illustrated through a series of think pieces, accounts of practice and development tools. These are intended to enable you to engage with theory, practice and policy perspectives on the best of what we are learning about LEA involvement in school networks.

Networked Learning Communities

learning from each other learning with each other learning on behalf of each other

Networked Learning Communities

LEA involvement in school networks

What are we **learning about...?**

NCSL National College for School Leadership

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The ‘What are we learning about...?’ series is designed to make public the learning that has emerged from NLCs in the last two years.

The first six titles in the series will focus on:
What are we learning about...?

- **LEA involvement in school networks**
- Establishing a network of schools
- The impact of school networks
- Professional development within school networks
- Leadership within school networks
- Sustaining a network of schools

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“Networks offer the possibility of new patterns of leadership - more lateral and more distributed - they offer new possibilities for LEAs and schools to engage in co-leadership.”

Michael Fullan

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