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…?

Establishing a network of schools

In this second edition in the series, we outline the key elements we have found to be evident when establishing a network of schools. We explore why networks are important and what is distinctive about collaborative working.

We also look at how establishing a network of schools involves:

- the process of building a network – its design, form and structure

- a focus on pupil learning at the heart of network activity

- the creation of new opportunities for adult learning

- planning, facilitation and dedicated leadership and management

- thinking about determining success and measuring impact

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 the theory, practice and policy perspectives on the best of what we are learning about establishing a network of schools. We hope that the publication will be of interest – if you are considering setting up or becoming part of a newly formed network, or if you are simply interested in finding out more about school networks.

Networked Learning Communities

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

What are we
learning about…?

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

To order a copy of this series, please email
nlc@ncsl.org.uk quoting the reference
WAWLA/Establishing a network of schools

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Establishing a network of schools

"Networks are now the most important organisational form of our time, reshaping the activities of families, governments and businesses. They are increasingly fundamental to any successful enterprise, and they challenge our notions of leadership"

Valerie Hannon

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