User guide

❝ *Learning may be natural, messy and uncontrollable, but if the quality of learning in networks is to be improved in any significant way, there is a need to organise for learning. Gathering together participants from multiple schools in learning networks can be difficult to arrange. Yet these joint learning opportunities have the potential to make a considerable difference to the success or failure of a network.* ❞

Think pieces

- Facilitation within school networks
- The art of network facilitation
  Ann Kilcher
- Network facilitation: the power of protocols
  Karen Carter, Chris Cotton & Kirsten Hill

These think pieces are drawn from the public knowledge-base. They aim to make sense of the best of what is known from research, theory and policy perspectives in order to provoke and inform new thinking. The opening think piece, *Facilitation within school networks*, overviews the key themes explored throughout this edition of *What are we learning about…?* The remaining think pieces illustrate those themes.

Use these think pieces for personal reading and reference or to provoke dialogue and discussion with others. Try using them as part of a headteacher or lead learner study group activity, or as a starting point for a networked discussion forum on how the facilitation of your work will be taken forward within your school, network or Local Authority.

Accounts of practice

- Activating the learning space in networks
  Philippa Kabali-Kagwa
- Building capacity for network facilitation
  North East & South West Lancashire Primary Networks
- Developing a central network facilitation team
  Leading into Learning NLC, Blackburn with Darwen
- Facilitating the transfer of practice in networks
  Bill Lucas

These accounts of practice are generated from the work of practitioners involved in school networks. They aim to reflect the best of what is known from networked learning in action in order to provide concrete, illustrative examples of networked learning practice. The four accounts in this series explore in different ways and with differing emphases the characteristics of effective facilitation in school networks and what they look like in practice.

Use these accounts to access working examples and advice, or to reflect on network practices in discussion with others. Try using them as part of a cross-school working group session, or as a starting point for a leadership learning forum to explore key issues about the facilitation of collaborative learning, enquiry and the transfer of practice in your department, school or network.

Development tools

- Facilitation in action
  Facilitating network development
- Facilitating collaborative learning in networks
  Facilitating networked learning
- Energising enquiry in networks
  Facilitating networked enquiry
- Facilitating network knowledge exchange
  Facilitating network knowledge creation and transfer

These development tools have been designed from the best of what is known to work well in engaging network participants in the collaborative construction of new learning for action. The tools aim to enable system leaders and leaders at all levels within a network to work with others in order to develop, analyse and reflect on practice. The development tools in this series provide practical resources, designed to engage network participants in collaborative learning activities focused on networked approaches to facilitation. They can be adapted for use to suit your circumstances.

Use these development tools to explore with others the processes of facilitating network development, networked learning and enquiry, and network knowledge creation and transfer. Try using them as part of a programme of network planning meetings, or during a cross-school development day or other network event involving those in a variety of leadership and facilitation roles across your network.