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

Facilitation within school networks

Energising enquiry in networks

A development tool designed to explore the
facilitation of collaborative enquiry in networks

Energising enquiry in networks

This development tool has been designed to be used with network participants to facilitate the development of collaborative enquiry work. The tool contains three activities, each of which can be used flexibly to support those involved in collaborative enquiry at different stages of its development.

The first two linked activities in the development tool use an approach to mapping enquiry activity known as a 'network-o-gram'. This two-part activity involves participants in creating a picture and a chart detailing the organisation of, and opportunities for, enquiry activity in their network. It can be used by network facilitators in supporting participants to build up a detailed picture of their enquiry work, the opportunities it provides and its organisation across a network of schools. By sharing the outcomes of this activity across network enquiry groups, enquirers are able to see how their enquiry activity fits into a bigger picture of collaborative enquiry work across their network. It also provides a useful opportunity for enquirers to update each other on the nature, scope, composition, connections and impact of their enquiry work as it develops over time.

The third activity is designed for use when supporting network practitioners in writing up a summary of their collaborative enquiry. It provides a template, together with instructions about suggested content for participants to use in constructing a short article about their enquiry. This can then be reproduced or published in a standard format to encourage participants to put their work into the public domain where it can be shared with others. As this is a summarising activity, it is probably best undertaken at the point of completing a particular enquiry project. It may be useful, however, for facilitators to introduce this writing framework to network enquirers at an earlier stage, in order to give some guidance about expectations regarding a summary product from their work.

This activity provides one suggested framework for writing up enquiry in learning networks. A useful alternative is provided in the publication *Writing up research and enquiry summaries* (NCSL & CUREE, 2004) which can be ordered in hard copy from: nlc@ncsl.org.uk or downloaded directly from www.ncsl.org.uk/nlc

The development tool can be used with network enquirers who are just starting out, or with more established enquiry groups which may be some way along their enquiry journey. We hope that you will find this tool useful in facilitating collaborative enquiry at its different stages of development in your network context. □

Acknowledgements

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Lead Developers

Energising enquiry in networks

Activity guidance

Activity 1 Mapping enquiry activity Network-o-gram picture



20 mins

- Invite participants to work in pairs or small groups of three or four.
- Using the template task sheet – or flip chart paper if you prefer – ask them to draw a picture or diagram which represents the organisation of, or opportunities for, enquiry in their context.

Notes...

- ✓ Distribute a copy of the 'Network-o-gram picture' task sheet. This can be copied from the template on pages 4-5.
- ✓ Indicate that you are not looking for beautiful drawings, and that words, symbols, diagrams, charts etc can be used.

Activity 2 Mapping enquiry activity Network-o-gram chart



40 mins

- Using their network-o-gram picture as a reference point, ask participants to complete the 'Network-o-gram chart' giving details of three examples of the different sorts of enquiry opportunities which exist in their context.

Notes...

- ✓ Ensure that all groups have a copy of the 'Network-o-gram chart' task sheet which should be copied on to A3 paper from the template provided on pages 6-7.
- ✓ Details under the heading boxes should be completed for each of the three examples given.

Activity 3 Writing up enquiry Enquiry recording framework



Unlimited time

- This activity can be undertaken individually or co-authored in pairs. It could be used during a writing day for network enquirers or completed as a separate individual task.
- Ask participants to use the 'Enquiry recording framework' as a template for writing up a short article on their enquiry work.

Notes...

- ✓ Give everyone a copy of the 'Enquiry recording framework' article template which can be copied from pages 8-10.
- ✓ Participants should be encouraged to think about the construction of their article, using the headings and suggestions given.

Activity 1: Network-o-gram picture Photocopy these pages onto A3 paper.

Draw a picture or diagram which represents the organisation of, and opportunities for, enquiry in your network context.

Activity 2: Network-o-gram chart

Photocopy these pages on to A3 paper.

Complete the chart below giving details of three examples of the different sorts of enquiry opportunities which exist in your network context.

Context What are the different types of enquiry opportunities/ activities available in your network?	Structure What is the nature and structure of the enquiry activity involved?	Scope What is the scope of the enquiry activity – network-to-network, network-wide, between schools, within schools?
Enquiry opportunity/activity 1		
Enquiry opportunity/activity 2		
Enquiry opportunity/activity 3		

Composition and frequency

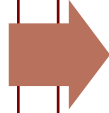
Who is involved? What is the frequency and uptake of the activity across the network?

Connects to

What are the linkages to pupil learning, adult learning and leadership learning?

Impact and transferability

Is this activity having an impact (eg in the classroom, on teaching/learning, leadership/professional practices) and is it transferable to others?



Enquiry recording framework Photocopy these pages.

Title of article

Give your write-up a title.

Background context

Add here:

- background information on your network eg size, number and sector of schools, geographical location, special features
- the main focus of your network's activity eg the theme of the work, the pupil learning focus, the adult learning focus

Nature and scope of the enquiry

Add here:

- a description of research and enquiry activity in your network – its focus and the sorts of activities it involves
- details of the scope of the activity and the participants involved – including adults and children

Enquiry outcomes

Add here:

- a description of the outcomes of research and enquiry activity in your network – give details of what you found out
- a description of the outcomes of research and enquiry activity in your network – for pupils, adults, school leaders and others

Presentation: *Insert photographs, diagrams, charts, tables, narratives, journal extracts, pictures etc to illustrate both quantitative and qualitative outcomes.*

Presentation:

Use quotes from research and enquiry participants to illustrate the outcomes you describe.

Professional development outcomes

Add here:

- a description of what for you have been the key professional development outcomes from your involvement in this enquiry

Key lessons to share from the enquiry

Add here:

- details of one key outcome from the research and enquiry activity in your network which you think is the most significant in terms of its impact on classroom practice
- details of one key outcome from the research and enquiry activity in your network which you think is the most significant in terms of its potential transferability to other networks and network schools

Presentation: Use bullet points, diagrams or quotes from enquiry participants to illustrate your ideas succinctly.

Add here:

- a description of the key challenges you have faced as an enquirer in your network
- a description of the key lessons you have learned about undertaking enquiry in your network which you would want to share with others
- one piece of advice which you would give to others undertaking enquiry in a network of schools

Enquiry resources and contact details

Add here:

- details of any resources which relate to your work and which you have available to share with other networks
- your names and contact details – including email and network website where appropriate

What are we learning about...?

The seven titles in the series focus on:

What are we learning about...?

- LEA involvement in school networks
- Establishing a network of schools
- Community leadership in networks
- *'Making mathematics count'* in school networks
- **Facilitation within school networks**
- Sustaining a network of schools
- Leadership of school networks

To order a copy of this publication and others in this series, please email **nlc@ncsl.org.uk** quoting the reference **WAWLA/Facilitation within school networks**

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Networked Learning Communities

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