

Quality Improvement for Senior Leaders Programme

This hands on programme brings together a large number of school and central team leaders to support the application of quality improvement (QI) in an education planning cycle. It has the benefit of collaborative working and shared learning so that leaders and their teams have the understanding and tools required to improve outcomes.

It is designed for **headteachers and school leaders** to become equipped to build quality and skills for improvement into their school's strategy and support their staff to make sustained change.

Central Education staff are invited to join school leaders to support and drive local change and increase local capacity for future use of quality improvement.

The QI for Senior Leaders programme was developed by CYPIC in response to head teachers requesting information on how best to support staff to use quality improvement in their area of work.

Purpose

- To improve identified outcomes for learners through the application of Quality Improvement tools and techniques.
- To practically support head teachers, and where appropriate depute head teachers, to lead improvement and implement change.

"This has genuinely been the most useful training I have ever had. My brain just goes: I can use that, and that, and that!"

Cohort 1 participant

The termly programme sessions are designed to align with the school planning cycle so that participants can apply new theory to their strategic priorities in real time.

"It's been great combining [planning for improvement] at the end of a week where we have been writing our SIP. Great timing for the session"

Cohort 1 participant

Indicative Content
Exploring quality, Lens of Profound Knowledge and School Improvement Planning
Using QI tools, creating improvement aims and measures, exploring data and variation
Quality control and assurance, developing change theory
Iterative testing, data analysis and project sharing
Online 1:1 project support
Implementation, scale and spread
Online project surgery
Quality Management Systems, poster presentations

Sessions take place in-person with venues and location confirmed once each cohort is agreed (most likely central Glasgow). Accommodation will be offered to participants living 2 or more hours away from the venue but travel should be covered locally.

A separate **"Teacher Session"** is scheduled for ~2 team members from the schools of participating senior leaders to support broader staff development and application of quality improvement within schools.

Learning Outcomes

Senior Leaders will:

- Be able to identify and target improvement activity where it is most needed;
- Be equipped with the skills and knowledge to support practitioners to improve outcomes using QI;
- Be able to empower practitioners to understand data and implement change at classroom level;
- Be able to identify changes that have led to improvement and spread successfully;
- Be able to understand and apply the principles of Quality Management; exploring Quality Planning, Quality Control, Quality Improvement and Quality Assurance;
- Have the opportunity to share insights and collaborate with school leaders across a national platform.

“Meeting other people, sharing perspectives and ideas has been so useful.”

Cohort 1 participant

Central Education Staff will:

- Access the same learning as school colleagues, and;
- Be confident to apply QI at a strategic level, offering support and challenge to school colleagues;
- Create the conditions for QI more broadly in their education department.

“We’ve changed how we do school improvement planning... This course has helped me to properly understand my data. And now my measures are tighter, it is easier to measure it!”

Cohort 1 participant

To register interest in the next cohort (likely to run from February 2027 to May 2028), please email CYPIC@gov.scot with the following information:

- Name, School Name, local authority, Role, Primary/Secondary/Special Educational.
- Copying in local authority Senior Manager as confirmation of their support (noting all sessions to be attended in-person).

Closing date: December 2026

Please note this programme is for Primary Head teachers, Secondary Head teachers and Secondary Deputies. At least one central officer per local authority needs to attend (unless they participated in a previous cohort). Registration does not guarantee a place; decisions will be made alongside local authority central officers who have responsibility for school improvement.