



Children and Young People Improvement Collaborative

CYPIC NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2026

Who we are

CYPIC's purpose is to bring focus, connection and method (quality improvement) where it is most needed to improve the wellbeing and life chances of babies, children & young people in Scotland.

- Focus on improving outcomes for evidence-based priorities
- Connect people and share learning to accelerate improvement
- Support systematic use of the Quality Improvement journey to improve outcomes

More information

Email: cypic@gov.scot

Website: <https://cypic.co.uk/>

Welcome to our Summer 2026 edition!



Photo by Ana Klipper on Unsplash

Read on to find out more about:

- Developing early language and communication
- Connecting learning to improve early child development outcomes
- Empowerment and improvement in education
- Progress with the National Improving Writing Programme



Early Language Improvement Collaborative

Improving early language remains a priority across Scotland. Too many children experience concerns in speech, language and communication during their early development which can impact on learning, wellbeing and later attainment. We know language starts to develop from before birth and every interaction counts so, in response, settings in East Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire have been working with CYPIC to test a simple, practical approach to improving everyday interactions.

The focus is on what adults do every day, linked to the [Chatting Together](#) principles. Using Quality Improvement (QI) methods, practitioners have been testing changes in real time. Video reflection and regular team discussions have helped staff see what works and build confidence in their practice when working with children aged 2–3 years.

This has led to clear changes with practitioners reporting more intentional interactions, stronger understanding of children's communication and increased engagement. North Lanarkshire staff describe the approach as *"transformative – not an add-on, but a different way of working"*. Children are showing improved engagement and progressing in their language development over time. Another key message is that improvement comes from consistently strengthening everyday practice which requires simple tools, protected time for reflection and ongoing support to build capability.

This learning is helping to inform the beginnings of an Early Language Improvement Collaborative (ELIC). ELIC is building on what we know works – bringing together evidence, QI methods and practitioner expertise – to support improvement. The work is initially being progressed in partnership with East Ayrshire, North Ayrshire and North Lanarkshire to help us consider potential for scale and spread. To find out more please contact cypic@gov.scot and watch this space!



Early Child Development Improvement Community

Across CYPIC work we regularly hear people say how much they want to learn from each other. Colleagues are keen to hear what's working in different places, share their own QI experiences, and connect with others tackling similar challenges.

There's lots of great work happening to improve early child development but learning doesn't always travel easily. Good ideas can stay local and teams can end up working on similar challenges without shared insight. So what would help?

From conversations across the system, a few things stand out:

- Opportunities to connect and problem-solve together.
- Practical examples of what's been tried, including what didn't work.
- Spaces to share and discuss knowledge, insights and evidence.
- Space to reflect and adapt approaches over time.
- The opportunity to explore how QI could help.

There is lots we can build on and connecting these efforts can help learning go further, faster. As a next step, we'd love to hear about your current approach to sharing learning about what works in early child development. If you are already bringing people together – whether through formal networks, local collaborations or informal communities of practice – and would be happy to share your experiences, please email cypic@gov.scot.

WFWF Learning Into Action Network

The next Whole Family Wellbeing Funding Learning into Action Network session is on 27 August. Nesta and CELCIS will share insights on pregnancy and early years support across Scotland, along with recommendations on what needs to change nationally and locally to strengthen practice and improve outcomes. If you are not on the network and would like to join please email wholefamilywellbeing@gov.scot



Empowerment and Improvement: The QI for Senior Leaders Programme

A big shout out to all the head teachers, deposes and central improvement leaders across Scotland taking part in the Quality Improvement (QI) for Senior Leaders Programme. They are using the learning to hone in on what really matters to them, their schools, their children and young people – amazing work so far and a joy to work with.

Our 180 participants are using Quality Management and the QI journey. This is empowering them to identify clear, practical changes to make immediately –whether that’s reshaping their school improvement plans, working differently with staff, or targeting support where it’s

most needed for sustained and evidence-based impact. They tell us the biggest shift is they are moving from trying to do more to doing the right things, better.

“I cannot tell you how empowered I feel and this has completely changed the way I look at school improvement”

Lynsey Blair, Headteacher of Sanderson’s Wynd Primary in East Lothian, shares her experience of being on the programme in a blog on our website.

[Read Lynsey's full blog](#) to find out why she joined the programme, how she’s used the learning and the early results.



Her key learning so far:

- Narrow the focus to widen the impact
- Create a safe environment for staff and pupils to test ideas and learn from failure

We look forward to hearing more as Lynsey continues to use improvement tools with both staff and learners.

You can find out more about the programme on our [here](#). If you would like to be kept informed about the next intake, contact us at CYPIC@gov.scot.



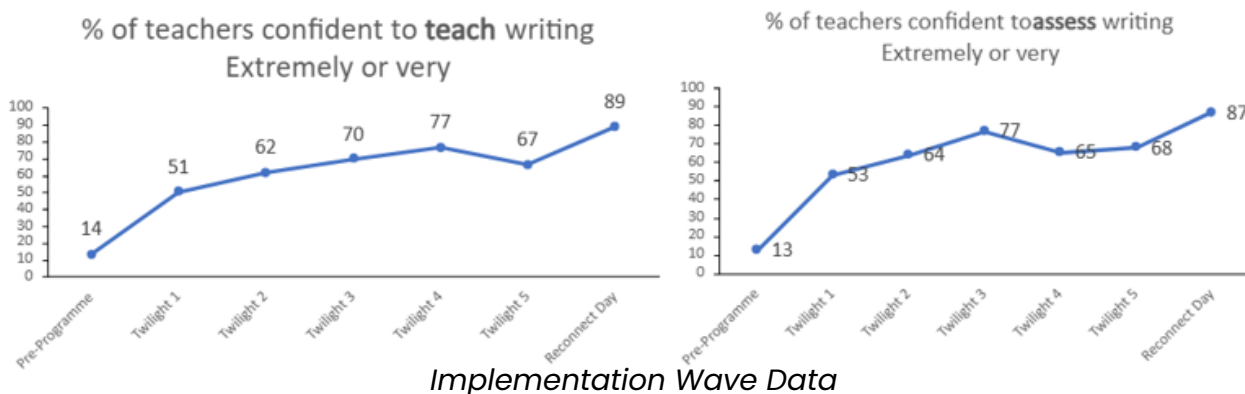
National Improving Writing Programme

A very warm welcome to five new local authorities joining the Writing Programme taking us up to 25 local authorities committed, engaged and “fired-up” for improved writing outcomes! It has been a pleasure to meet our new teams in Inverclyde, Renfrewshire, South Ayrshire, Stirling and West Lothian. Welcome and good luck to colleagues joining all cohorts!

The CYPIC community has had another impactful year delivering the Writing Programme across the country. Whether you have participated in a national or local cohort, it is clear you are part of a movement creating improved outcomes for children and young people, and there is lots of evidence showing this impact.

Progress at a glance:

- **74% of children predicted on track by June 2026**, up from 57% in August 2025 (+17 points)
- Strong improvement in key process measures, giving confidence in continued gains from P4 onwards



Expansion into secondary underway

A small number of secondary schools have begun implementation, with early tracking showing positive impact across subjects. More schools will join from September as this work develops.