

North East Practice Development Groups

Collaboration in Further Education has been a shining light in recent years, particularly through the COVID-19 pandemic. To further enable this sharing of ideas, skills and innovation, The Education and Training Foundation is establishing [Practice Development Groups \(PDGs\)](#) across England to give practitioners an insight into **practitioner-led development**.

The aim of the PDG programme is to create an **expansive learning environment** amongst FE providers, which will facilitate **professional growth and development** through participation in a community of practice.

PDGs will consist of action learning sets of practitioners who will **meet and work together** on a short-term, small-scale project to **improve an aspect of their teaching, learning and assessment**. The projects can cover any programme of study in the FE sector but need to develop an aspect of teaching, learning and assessment which enhances the teaching of English or the embedding of maths or English into that area.

Newcastle College is delighted to be hosting the PDGs for the North East region.

How will it work?

The North East PDG will consist of action learning sets (ALS) of five to six practitioners (within or ideally across organisations), who meet monthly over four months. The practitioners will support one another as they develop their mini projects, **supported by trained experienced group facilitators**. Meetings within the ALS will take place online monthly, at an agreed time.

The participants within each round will start with an **online launch event**, facilitated so practitioners can get to know each other and collaborate with other ALS groups. This **vibrant practitioner-led community** will also occupy a shared online space for further discussion, collaboration and support. The PDG rounds will end with a **face to face sharing*** of projects at the North East collaboration events (April 2021).

Getting involved

Each ALS will commit to meeting four times (online) over the round. You will also need to commit to attending the launch event, which will be a half day event in January and participate in the end of project collaboration event.

Your group of five to six participants, supported by a dedicated group facilitator will use an **action learning set approach** which provides an equal space for every voice and will enable participants to bring **ideas to action**.

Action Learning Sets

Each action learning set will have a specific focus. When signing up to be part of the PDGs, you will identify which action learning set you wish to be part of. These are outlined below:

1. Approaches to remote delivery of English – Audience – Curriculum Managers / Teachers
2. Approach to the delivery of contextualised English across an organisation – Audience - Curriculum Managers
3. Approach to the delivery of contextualised maths across an organisation – Audience – Curriculum Managers
4. Developing effective online assessment strategies in English - Audience - Teachers
5. Embedding of and development of maths skills within Sport and Uniformed Public Services – Audience – Teachers
6. Improving engagement in English and maths within Creative Arts – Audience – Teachers
7. Developing the embedding of numeracy skills to support home-schooling and remote learning – Audience - Teachers
8. Developing the embedding of literacy skills to support home-schooling and remote learning – Audience - Teachers

All participants will receive training on the ALS approach at the launch event; which will be of huge benefit to participants and their organisations following the project.

The ALS groups are for all teachers and trainers in FE and **no experience is required**, simply a desire to work with other educators to improve an aspect of your teaching, learning or assessment.

There are two rounds available to join (Oct 2020 to Feb 2021) and, after the success of the first we round, we are now recruiting for the second round: Feb to Apr 2021.

Interested? We have limited places so apply [HERE](#) today.

Information for Organisations

The North East PDG will provide our region with a space to explore and develop teaching, learning and assessment with a focus in the embedding and enhancement of English and / or maths.

We have 40 places per round for staff to get involved in the project and organisations can have multiple participants taking part. Each applicant must complete an individual application form and should declare the support of their senior management team.

What we ask from you:

Commitment from organisations

Release practitioners to participate in half day launch event in Jan/ Feb 2021.
Release practitioners to participate in four approx. 1.5-hour meetings to pursue maths/English collaborative inquiry (Feb – Apr)
Release practitioners to participate in collaboration event in Apr 2021.
Support PDG members to share collaborative inquiry findings within the organisation (and release them for any opportunity to present externally).

What we can provide in return:

- Access to a bank of co-curated resources: webinars, videos, articles, newsletter, guides and resources which link to PDG members maths/English projects.
- Access to a wider national community of peers curious about developing maths/English
- High quality training on action learning sets which can be brought to and developed by your teams.
- Signposting and support to access The Education and Training Foundation's latest CPD offers, including other opportunities across the diverse FE sector.

Further Information

For further information please contact jonathan.kay@ncl-coll.ac.uk