

**1. All communications regarding the decision establish the P1 Practitioner Forum (including attachments)**

**Document 1 Programme Board Paper where the set-up of the P1 Forum is recommended.**

## NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK

### SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS – SNSA USER REVIEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18

#### PROGRAMME BOARD – 07/06/18

#### **Purpose**

- This report provides an overview of the user experience from year 1 of the implementation of the SNSA.
- The report has a particular focus on the P1 assessments as these have received the most user comments.

#### **Proposals for consideration**

1. In response to the feedback, the report proposes options for improvement for the SNSA in year 2 – 2018/19.

**[redacted – 17 paragraphs and 2 charts – out of scope]**

#### **User focus groups, observations and responses**

2. In addition to the feedback gathered by ACER, SG undertook a user review based on focus groups and classroom observations which had a particular focus on P1 assessments.
3. Seven focus groups were consulted and six classroom observations conducted
4. **Appendix 2** outlines the visit schedule and **Appendix 3** the range of questions discussed with the focus groups. The focus groups were selected to represent a variety of local authorities in terms of demographics and history of using standardised assessments.
5. In addition SG consulted with members of the SNSA User Assurance Group and the professional associations.
6. Written submissions were received from AHDS, EIS and Voice. Glasgow City Council and City of Edinburgh Council provided feedback from their staff after the

norming studies. Around 30 emails or letters were received from individual teachers or practitioners, 15 of which concerned P1 assessments. SG also met with Connect (who have been encouraging parents to opt out of the SNSA) and with Upstart, a group seeking to raise the school starting age, who have launched a campaign called 'Play not Tests' seeking to generate opposition to SNSA in P1.

## **Overall feedback**

7. Overall the feedback on the SNSA has been positive. The largest volume of engagement has been in relation to the Primary 1 assessments and these are reviewed in greater detail in the next section.

8. The response to the P4, P7 and S3 assessment has been very encouraging. The majority of children have found the assessments straightforward to do once they have become familiar with the assessment platform. Some of the questions have been challenging but on the whole children have found the assessments accessible and stimulating. Some have commented that they were better than previous assessments they had experienced.

9. P7 girl *' I especially liked that there was no timer and that I was not thrown out of the assessment if I couldn't answer the questions like in the previous assessments'*

10. Some teachers reported that there had been classroom management issues concerning timetabling access to IT equipment and the supervision of groups of children. However almost all said they had been very pleased with the reports generated and with the diagnostic information provided. The information provided by the platform gave them the ability to drill down into the curriculum organisers to identify areas for further development.

11. Teacher *' I love to see them so engaged and trying their best. I also find the information it gives me invaluable to my teaching and the pupils' learning.'*

12. School managers have found the group reports very helpful in providing an overview of children's progress and particularly the ability to analyse the reports using the pupil characteristics embedded in SEEMiS. The use of tags and filters and the immediacy of the reports was especially helpful.

13. Many schools are already using the diagnostic data provided by the SNSA to plan future learning and teaching both at an individual and cluster level.

## **Accessibility feedback**

14. SNSA was designed to be as inclusive as possible. An Accessibility Advisory Group was established when the assessments were being developed and provides valuable assistance in ensuring the SNSA is accessible to most children. Feedback from the ASN sector has illustrated the on-going challenges in making an online assessment available to the majority of children. Management of the support required is still inconsistent and the time taken to undertake the assessments can be demanding.

15. The Accessibility Advisory Group were especially pleased to find their recommendations to remove the timing of the assessments, the provision of off-stage

assessments and browser controls to adjust font size, type and background contrasts had been incorporated into SNSA provision.

16. Additionally feedback is clear that the SNSA is an improvement on the existing standardised assessments and the accessibility features are really valued by the teachers and children. On-going improvements to the assessment system, training and accessibility guidance are planned.

### **Local authority (LA) feedback**

17. SG has worked closely with LA representatives throughout the development and implementation stages of the SNSA. LAs were very helpful in supporting the norming and equating studies. Training has been provided on a be-spoke basis according to LA requirements and on the whole has been well supported by LA reps. SNSA progress reports were provided at Education Scotland Assessment Coordinator events and at the ADES Performance and Improvement Network.

18. LA feedback has been positive and constructive. The LA level reports have recently been made live in the SNSA system with additional information being issued separately providing LAs with a wealth of information on the SNSA in their council areas. Engagement on how LAs are using this information is planned for early in the new academic year.

19. Most LAs have indicated that they will be replacing their existing standardised assessments with the SNSA

### **P1 Assessment feedback - Key themes**

20. The P1 SNSA in Literacy and Numeracy have received the largest volume of responses. These have been carefully scrutinised and the issues organised into 4 categories for consideration

#### Technical challenges

21. User feedback suggested that the IT infrastructure, the type of devices available and the children's IT skills have had an impact on the experience of the assessments. This led to some frustrations and management challenges

22. Teachers reported that broadband coverage is variable across Scotland and within LA areas. Where it was slow or inconsistent this led to delays in administering the assessment. The assessments can be stopped and restarted at any time with no detriment to the user reducing the concerns if broadband coverage dropped unexpectedly.

23. Access to appropriate IT equipment was also variable and created management challenges. Finding an appropriate space to administer assessments to a whole class was a challenge in some schools. Some teachers expressed a preference for a paper based assessment as this was easier to administer. Many other teachers really valued the ability of the assessments to adapt to individual needs, the real time marking of the assessments, the range of reports and the ability to analyse these, all of which are only available on a digital platform.

24. The assessments are designed to be delivered on any IT platform. Teacher appreciated this freedom and assessments were delivered successfully on a range of devices. Children using tablets found the assessments easy to use however these tablets are not available in all schools.

25. Where IT support was available locally this helped support class teachers and many commented on the positive responses they received from the SNSA service desk.

26. The digital skills of children had an impact on their experience of the assessments. Some younger children found using a mouse challenging. The design of the questions, with drag and drop and scrolling, were consequently more difficult. Some schools deployed adults or senior pupils to manage the user interface for children who were experiencing difficulties. Teachers commented that this was a developmental issue that might inhibit children doing the assessments early in P1. The audio narration provided for P1 assessments was widely appreciated. Children built up familiarity with the assessment platform by using the practice assessments, either individually or as a class.

### Classroom management

27. The SNSA is designed to give teachers and schools maximum flexibility on how they administer the assessments. This has led to a wide variation in classroom management of the assessments.

28. Many schools provided children with one to one support and, while this was generally a positive experience for the child, reported that this had a significant impact on staff time and workload. A range of staff from managers to support assistants were used depending on availability in the school. Some schools advised that several weeks were required to deliver assessments to a class, impacting on the time for the rest of the curriculum. Other schools used small group sessions successfully and some schools used senior pupils to act as buddies for their P1 pupils.

29. For some the length of the assessments also contributed to management challenges. Some schools commented that children were taking over 40 minutes to complete an assessment and this led to frustration and demotivation. This could indicate that not all teachers were aware that the assessments do not need to be completed in one session. Other schools provided children with breaks. However figures available suggest that the majority of children were able to complete the assessments within 30 minutes.

30. Some teachers were concerned that they could not preview the assessments and therefore could not adequately prepare their children.

31. Some teachers and children found logging on to the assessments difficult. Others found setting easier passwords and logging on children in advance eased the administration of the process. This would indicate that not all teachers were aware that passwords could be changed at the user end.

### Question style and difficulty

32. Some teachers expressed concern that the assessments were too difficult for some children, that the style of questions was unfamiliar and some content was too complex. In these instances they reported children became frustrated and demotivated. Other teachers commented that children really enjoyed doing the assessments. Teachers appreciated the adaptive nature of the assessments but some felt that the first range of questions was too challenging for some children. Some teachers questioned the value of the feedback from the reports commenting that they didn't learn anything they didn't know already. Others expressed concern that the questions didn't align to the early level benchmarks.

33. Others found the immediacy of the feedback very helpful, particularly as it is framed in terms consistent with the Scottish curriculum.

34. A number of teachers commented positively on the value of the practice assessment and the ease of access of the platform, stating that it was easier and of a higher quality than other standardised assessments.

### Appropriateness of assessments

35. Beyond issues of management and style, some teachers questioned the appropriateness of the assessments for P1 children. Some stated that online assessments are in contrast to normal classroom activities especially in a play based approach to learning. They felt that children's digital skills were not yet sufficiently developed and literacy and numeracy skills are better assessed through classroom observation. Some were concerned that using the SNSA will formalise the early years curriculum and have a detrimental impact on children's progression.

36. Other teachers stated that children found the online assessments stimulating, easy to use and enjoyable. The assessments were part of a range of teaching and learning approaches. They provided useful information alongside a range of other means of gathering evidence of children's progress.

### **Potential improvements**

37. Overall, the SNSA has been well received by users. In the case of P4, P7 and S3, user feedback has been largely very positive and there are only a small number of options proposed for improvement.

38. **Appendix 4** is a report detailing ACER's view (pages 4-6), that the present diet of questions within the SNSA are pitched at the easier end of the scale when compared to demonstrable learner capacities. This is based on psychometric matching between question difficulty and learners' capacities in Scotland. Consequently, ACER recommends that the difficulty of questions be increased to widen the range of adaptation available to learners and to better reflect individual learning needs.

39. In addition, given the evidence of overall performance across capacity levels, the paper suggests (pages 9-11) that in-test trial clusters are extended beyond those who demonstrate middle to high capacity to include those who show a reasonable capacity following the lower level pathway. This enables questions designed for lower

level capacities to receive the same level of user testing as those for other capacity levels and would lead to improved questions in this area.

### **Options that are recommended for P1:**

40. In the case of the P1 assessments the scale and range of issues requires consideration of a greater number of options to improve the experiences of children and teachers. Some of these are already in development.

#### **A. Replenishment of questions**

Around a third of questions are replenished on an annual basis. ACER and Education Scotland assess each question and questions are also trialled as part of the previous year's assessments.

Questions that have not delivered the outcomes expected or have caused undue concern ( e.g. Hummingbird) will be replaced by alternative questions that have been trialled this year. These new questions will be at the same level of difficulty. The context of questions will continue to be carefully considered to ensure they match the Scottish curriculum and are aligned to early level benchmarks. This is part of the quality assurance process led by Education Scotland.

#### **B. Reordering of questions**

Within each group of questions (testlet) it is possible to reorder questions. In so doing, children experience easier or more familiar question types in the first instance. Reordering questions does not change the diagnostic value of the testlet but may better ease the child into the assessment.

#### **C. Question design**

To reduce the range of digital skills required by young children question design is being examined. There are options to reduce the amount of scrolling required and the number of drag and drop type questions. This does not impact on the diagnostic value of the questions but will have a positive impact by making the assessment more user friendly.

#### **D. Update the practice assessment.**

The practice assessment is designed for class and individual usage to prepare children for the assessment platform. Additional styles of questions can be added for those question types that have proved to be more challenging( e.g. unsupported reading). Care will be taken not to make the practice assessment too long.

#### **E. Advice and illustrations on classroom management**

It is clear that classroom management is one of the key areas of concern. The assessment design allows for flexibility so that local decisions can be made on the timings, groupings and range of devices used. A wide variety of approaches has been reported and observed across the country with differing degrees of success.

There are many examples of how careful classroom management and creative use of existing resources have supported effective delivery of the SNSA. These include simplifying the log in process, setting small groups, encouraging older children to be mentors and deployment of support staff.

It is planned to update the help section with illustrations of proven classroom practice. Tips and hints will also be provided and the training package updated

It could be possible to provide short films of effective practice in action.

#### F. User feedback mechanisms

In order to provide on-going, high quality information to support the continuous improvement of the SNSA, the assessment platform will be enhanced with a more systematic user feedback process.

At the end of each assessment, children will be presented with a short age appropriate survey that will encourage them to feedback on their experience.

Teachers will have access to a feedback survey at any time, thus providing a simple but systematic means to report their views.

An annual survey of users will be conducted using randomly selected groups of staff to provide an overview of the SNSA experience.

The on-going use of focus groups and observations will allow SG to gain qualitative understanding of the user experience.

### **Options that require further consideration for P1**

#### G. Sample questions for teachers.

As the pool of questions grow and some are being replenished or replaced, it would be possible, in time, to provide teachers with some sample questions that illustrate the type of questions children will experience. This may give teachers more confidence in the preparation of their children. The risk, however, is this encourages 'teaching to the test' and clear advice would need to be provided.

#### H. Specialist review group for P1 SNSA

It is recognised that this review has been conducted at a time when a significant number of assessments are still being completed. It may be worth establishing a specialist review group to consider how to enhance the SNSA experience in P1. This would be led by Education Scotland engaging with those who have specialist interest in early learning. The recommendations could be implemented for 2019/20 SNSA.

### **Options that are not recommended for P1**

#### I. Length of assessment

Average time taken to complete the P1 assessment is 30 minutes. This is based on an analysis of all assessments taken by the end of March (25000).

Average number of questions in the P1 assessments is 30.

ACER say that the number of questions could be reduced to 21 without loss of psychometric value. This would reduce the length of time taken for children to undertake the assessments.

It would however reduce the content coverage of the assessments and therefore the range of diagnostic information for teachers. Education Scotland specialists are very

concerned that this measure will reduce the value of the assessment to teachers and therefore weaken its role. Their recommendation is to retain the current number of questions. There is also the risk that in reducing the number of question in the P1 assessments this could be seen as an acknowledgement that the assessment was flawed.

#### J. Difficulty of Questions

ACER and Education Scotland re-examined the difficulty levels of existing questions and the proposed replenishment questions. They concluded that the questions were stage appropriate and aligned to the early years benchmarks. This would indicate that there is some advice needed on understating the benchmarks at early level.

The psychometric data for P1 assessment questions indicates that they are at an appropriate level of difficulty, if not a little on the easy side. (Appendix 4, page 5)

The proposal is therefore not to change the range of difficulty of questions at the P1 stage.

**[redacted – 3 paragraphs – out of scope]**

### **Handling**

41. Given the interest there has been in the operation of the assessments and the concerns that have been raised, we intend to announce the changes and enhancements we will be making. DFM was keen to stress at Committee in May that he was listening to the concerns being raised, particularly about the P1 assessments, and this would allow us to demonstrate the changes we are making as a result.

42. This announcement would need to be before the end of the current school year so that schools know what to expect in advance of the new school session. We are currently in discussions with Comms colleagues about the best way to make this announcement and the timing.

### **Summary and Conclusion**

43. The first year of implementation of the SNSA has been a success on a number of levels.

- Approximately 90% of children and young people have completed the assessments. Two norming studies and an equating study were successfully undertaken with high levels of engagement.
- Training has reached more than 7000 participants and help materials are available at all times on-line.
- The support desk has responded effectively to more than 5000 enquiries.
- There is growing evidence that the information generated by the assessments and reports is being used to plan next steps in learning effectively. This, in turn, will give teachers more confidence in assessing children's progress.

44. As may be expected a number of issues have been raised in the first year of implementation. These have been taken seriously and are being carefully considered. Improvements will be made to the assessments to enhance the user experience. In addition, the SNSA will be significantly upgraded with the implementation of the SNSA long scale.

45. There is a growing international interest in what Scotland is doing and how standardised assessments contribute to an assessment model that puts teacher professional judgment at the heart of monitoring the progress of children and young people.

46. ACER comment that *‘One of the most admirable features of SNSA, apart from the pace of implementation, is its focus on teacher support and formative/diagnostic utility, in contrast with the emphasis on accountability that dogs many national assessments. Many of the features built into the SNSA have contributed to giving this unique flavour to SNSA: the focus on learner improvement through teachers being enabled to receive school-, class- and individual reports instantly; the prominence of diagnostic information in the report designs; the support provided in interpreting results through the SCHOLAR-led training programme; the ability of schools to choose the time of year when each learner can present for the assessments, which in itself subverts invidious comparisons. All of these features have been noted with approval internationally’.*

47. The SNSA should continue to progress with confidence based on the success of the first year of implementation.

## Recommendations

- Programme Board to note the content of the report
- Programme Board to agree that we take forward the options **A - F** identified on **pages 8-9** above,
- Programme Board to agree to consider options **G** (sample questions) and **H** (review group) on **page 9**
- Programme Board to agree to reject options **I** (length of assessment) and **L** (question difficulty) on **page 10**;
- Programme Board to agree that we take forward the options **K and L** for the P4-S3 assessments identified on **page 10**; and
- Programme Board to agree that the SNSA team continue to work with Comms on handling the announcement of the changes/enhancements

**DOCUMENT 2 –SNSA USER REVIEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18 – SRO Meeting 7/6/18**

**NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK**

**SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS – SNSA USER REVIEW ACADEMIC YEAR 2017/18**

## SRO MEETING – 07/06/18

### Purpose

- This report provides an overview of the user experience from year 1 of the implementation of the SNSA.
- The report has a particular focus on the P1 assessments as these have received the most user comments.

### Proposals for consideration

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### User focus groups, observations and responses

49. In addition to the feedback gathered by ACER, SG undertook a user review based on focus groups and classroom observations which had a particular focus on P1 assessments.

50. Seven focus groups were consulted and six classroom observations conducted

51. **Appendix 2** outlines the visit schedule and **Appendix 3** the range of questions discussed with the focus groups. The focus groups were selected to represent a variety of local authorities in terms of demographics and history of using standardised assessments.

52. In addition SG consulted with members of the SNSA User Assurance Group and the professional associations.

53. Written submissions were received from AHDS, EIS and Voice. Glasgow City Council and City of Edinburgh Council provided feedback from their staff after the norming studies. Around 30 emails or letters were received from individual teachers or practitioners, 15 of which concerned P1 assessments. SG also met with Connect (who have been encouraging parents to opt out of the SNSA) and with Upstart, a group seeking to raise the school starting age, who have launched a campaign called 'Play not Tests' seeking to generate opposition to SNSA in P1.

### Overall feedback

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55. The response to the P4, P7 and S3 assessment has been very encouraging. The majority of children have found the assessments straightforward to do once they have become familiar with the assessment platform. Some of the questions have been

challenging but on the whole children have found the assessments accessible and stimulating. Some have commented that they were better than previous assessments they had experienced.

56. P7 girl *' I especially liked that there was no timer and that I was not thrown out of the assessment if I couldn't answer the questions like in the previous assessments'*

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59. School managers have found the group reports very helpful in providing an overview of children's progress and particularly the ability to analyse the reports using the pupil characteristics embedded in SEEMiS. The use of tags and filters and the immediacy of the reports was especially helpful.

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62. The Accessibility Advisory Group were especially pleased to find their recommendations to remove the timing of the assessments, the provision of off-stage assessments and browser controls to adjust font size, type and background contrasts had been incorporated into SNSA provision.

63. Additionally feedback is clear that the SNSA is an improvement on the existing standardised assessments and the accessibility features are really valued by the teachers and children. On-going improvements to the assessment system, training and accessibility guidance are planned.

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#### **R. Specialist review group for P1 SNSA**

It is recognised that this review has been conducted at a time when a significant number of assessments are still being completed. It may be worth establishing a specialist review group to consider how to enhance the SNSA experience in P1. This would be led by Education Scotland engaging with those who have specialist interest in early learning. The recommendations could be implemented for 2019/20 SNSA.

### **Options that are not recommended for P1**

#### **S. Length of assessment**

Average time taken to complete the P1 assessment is 30 minutes. This is based on an analysis of all assessments taken by the end of March (25000).

Average number of questions in the P1 assessments is 30.

ACER say that the number of questions could be reduced to 21 without loss of psychometric value. This would reduce the length of time taken for children to undertake the assessments.

It would however reduce the content coverage of the assessments and therefore the range of diagnostic information for teachers. Education Scotland specialists are very concerned that this measure will reduce the value of the assessment to teachers and therefore weaken its role. Their recommendation is to retain the current number of questions. There is also the risk that in reducing the number of question in the P1 assessments this could be seen as an acknowledgement that the assessment was flawed.

#### **T. Question difficulty**

ACER and Education Scotland re-examined the difficulty levels of existing questions and the proposed replenishment questions. They concluded that the questions were stage appropriate and aligned to the early years benchmarks. This would indicate that there is some advice needed on understating the benchmarks at early level.

The psychometric data for P1 assessment questions indicates that they are at an appropriate level of difficulty, if not a little on the easy side. (Appendix 4, page 5)

The proposal is therefore not to change the range of difficulty of questions at the P1 stage.

**[redacted 3 paragraphs – out of scope]**

## **Handling**

88. Given the interest there has been in the operation of the assessments and the concerns that have been raised, we intend to announce the changes and enhancements we will be making. DFM was keen to stress at Committee in May that he was listening to the concerns being raised, particularly about the P1 assessments, and this would allow us to demonstrate the changes we are making as a result.

89. This announcement would need to be before the end of the current school year so that schools know what to expect in advance of the new school session. We are currently in discussions with Comms colleagues about the best way to make this announcement and the timing.

## **Summary and Conclusion**

90. The first year of implementation of the SNSA has been a success on a number of levels.

- Approximately 90% of children and young people have completed the assessments. Two norming studies and an equating study were successfully undertaken with high levels of engagement.
- Training has reached more than 7000 participants and help materials are available at all times on-line.
- The support desk has responded effectively to more than 5000 enquiries.
- There is growing evidence that the information generated by the assessments and reports is being used to plan next steps in learning effectively. This, in turn, will give teachers more confidence in assessing children's progress.

91. As may be expected a number of issues have been raised in the first year of implementation. These have been taken seriously and are being carefully considered. Improvements will be made to the assessments to enhance the user experience. In addition, the SNSA will be significantly upgraded with the implementation of the SNSA long scale.

92. There is a growing international interest in what Scotland is doing and how standardised assessments contribute to an assessment model that puts teacher professional judgment at the heart of monitoring the progress of children and young people.

93. ACER comment that *‘One of the most admirable features of SNSA, apart from the pace of implementation, is its focus on teacher support and formative/diagnostic utility, in contrast with the emphasis on accountability that dogs many national assessments. Many of the features built into the SNSA have contributed to giving this unique flavour to SNSA: the focus on learner improvement through teachers being enabled to receive school-, class- and individual reports instantly; the prominence of diagnostic information in the report designs; the support provided in interpreting results through the SCHOLAR-led training programme; the ability of schools to choose the time of year when each learner can present for the assessments, which in itself subverts invidious comparisons. All of these features have been noted with approval internationally’.*

94. The SNSA should continue to progress with confidence based on the success of the first year of implementation.

### **Recommendations**

- SROs to note the content of the report
- SROs to agree that we take forward the options **A - F** identified on **pages 8-9** above,
- SROs to agree to consider options **G** (sample questions) and **H** (review group) on **page 9**
- SROs to agree to reject options **I** (length of assessment) and **L** (question difficulty) on **page 10**;
- SROs to agree that we take forward the options **K and L** for the P4-S3 assessments identified on **page 10**; and
- SROs to agree that the SNSA team continue to work with Comms on handling the announcement of the changes/enhancements

**Document 3 National Improvement Framework Decision Log highlighting the decisions made by SROs in relation to the P1 Forum**

Meeting Reference	Programme Area	Owner	Details	Due Date	Status	Expected Completion Date
20180706 - 1	SNSA	DL	SROs agreed the proposed enhancements to the SNSA for 2018/19 - paper to go to PB for approval	Jun-18	Complete	Jun-18

**Ongoing Actions**

Meeting Reference	Programme Area	Owner	Details	Due Date	Status	Expected Completion Date
20180816-2	SNSA	DL	To have a think about terms of reference for P1 Practitioner Forum	Sep-18	Draft terms of reference produced and agreed with Sue Ellis who will chair the Forum. First meeting taking place on 10 December.	Complete

## **Document 4 – FORUM PAPER TO SRO**

# **NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK – SCOTTISH NATIONAL STANDARDISED ASSESSMENTS – P1 PRACTITIONER FORUM**

## **SRO MEETING – 150818**

### **1. Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide the Senior Responsible Officers (SROs) with information on the proposed establishment of a Practitioners' Forum to support assessment particularly in early primary, with an initial emphasis on the role of the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) in Primary 1 assessment.
- 1.2 To invite comment from the SROs
- 1.3 To gain approval to begin to action the plan

### **2. Background**

- 2.1 The SNSA was implemented across Scottish schools in session 2017/18 to support improvements in consistency of teachers judgements and to provide practitioners with a diagnostic tool to help with planning learning. It has been largely well received with .....assessments being undertaken by children from P1, P4, P7 and S3.
- 2.2 While these assessments have been generally well received, and there have been very few concerns raised by the profession, as logged in the data from the help desk, considerable concern has been expressed in the media around the assessments being administered to P1. These concerns have been voiced by a number of groups including teachers' associations, 'Connect' and 'Upstart'.
- 2.3 At the SRO meeting of 06/07/18 it was agreed to establish a practitioners forum to be jointly led by the Scottish Government and Education Scotland in order to look more closely at this area; find solutions for any issues and to provide reassurance to the profession and the public that the concerns being raised are being taken seriously.

### **3. Proposal for consideration**

- 3.1 A group be established comprising the following membership:
  - Chair – an early years expert?
  - Representatives from the Scottish government
  - Representatives from Education Scotland to include NIF, Early Years and literacy and numeracy
  - A representative from ADES Early Years and PIN Networks
  - An appropriate academic (Sue Ellis) and or an Educational Psychologist

- A number equal to the above of school based practitioners (to include ASN and at least one head teacher or depute head teacher)
  - A representative from the teachers' associations
- 3.2 This group would be a large group (18-20) and it would be hoped that over time, the focus would move on from P1 and the SNSA and provide a forum for more general assessment issues to be discussed. The membership would therefore evolve to include practitioners from across school age range.
- 3.3 The group would meet for the first time before the end of September and thereafter, once a term.
- 3.4 Terms of reference would be considered by the group at the first meeting and agreed at the second meeting to ensure appropriate time for members to consult.
- 4. Recommendations**
- 4.1 Agree the establishment of the practitioners' Forum  
 Comment on and agree the composition of the Forum  
 Consider the minutes and recommendations from the Forum at future SRO and Programme Board meetings

**Document 5 – email chain from Education Scotland – early thinking about set up of Forum**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 06 August 2018 09:53  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [redacted]

One of the actions from the last SRO meeting was the establishment of a practitioners' forum. I've shared some of the thinking around this with [redacted](see below) and her suggestion was that I contact you with regards the format of a paper for the SRO meeting and also for other terms of reference papers that may have been written for other NIF groups.

Any help gratefully received!

Kind regards

[redacted]

**[redacted]**

[redacted]

Endevour House  
Dundee  
DD1 4QB  
Tel [redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 06 August 2018 08:14  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David)  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Good morning [redacted]

I am well thanks – very busy week but beginning to see the end in sight.

Thank you for this update – it is critical that we have as many practitioners involved in this forum as possible given that the main purpose of the group is to learn from what is working/challenging in the classroom and using this to further improve. To this end, if we have a restriction on numbers, practitioner places should be prioritised. I am happy with the proposed membership as outlined below taking account of the points made above.

Your suggested areas to include in the terms of reference are spot on. There will be existing terms of reference for other NIF groups/papers for SRO which you can use as a basis for this one if you wish. If you contact [redacted], he will be able to assist.

Delighted we have schools identified for the talking heads approach – once you have a final proposed list can you let me know who they are.

Many thanks  
[redacted]

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 03 August 2018 13:37  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [redacted]

I hope you had a good holiday and you got all your house things sorted.

I met with David Leng this week and we discussed the P1 Practitioner Forum that was proposed at the last SRO meeting. I thought I'd share our initial thinking with you before we go any further as I wasn't at the meeting as I don't want to go off on the wrong track.

We had thought of forming a group of practitioners comprising representatives from the NIF Team and SG, a couple of people from Education Scotland Early Years team (would need advice on who to approach), ADES Early Years Network, a rep from the PIN network, Sue Ellis (as she was involved in early discussions) and a representative from the EIS. As it's a practitioners' forum it would be important to include classroom teachers and head teachers and would look to Local Authorities or perhaps ALOs to provide suggestions for this.

We would need to develop terms of reference for the group to be clear about what it can achieve, but it's clear aim would be to initially share what's working well and not working so well, and to look at ways in which things could be improved as necessary.

This group would meet asap in the new session

We'd need to put a paper to SRO but just wanted to touch base on this with you before we go any further.

Kind regards

[redacted]

PS

We've also been discussing the sharing good practice advice and 'talking heads' and have a number of schools that we will approach in the new term.

**[redacted]**

[redacted], National Improvement Framework  
Endevour House  
Dundee  
DD1 4QB  
Tel [redacted]

**2. all communications regarding the decision to appoint Prof Ellis as chair of this forum (including attachments)**

**Document 6 - Email chain discussing Chair of P1 Forum**

From: Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
Sent: 10 September 2018 10:47  
To: Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: P1 practitioner Improvement Forum

Hi David,  
I am happy to do that. I am away from 23 Nov-10 Dec (working in California - life is tough!) and every Tuesday and Thursday has all-day commitments I can't shift, as does Wed 3-6pm. Apart from that I am fairly flexible.

Best wishes,

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 [redacted]

---

From: [David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot) [David.Leng@gov.scot]  
Sent: 09 September 2018 18:11  
To: Susan Ellis  
Cc: [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: P1 practitioner Improvement Forum

Hi Sue

Sorry not to pick up the other week but I was off ill. I heard your radio interview went well!

We spoke recently about Education Scotland setting up a P1 Practitioner Improvement Forum to look at assessment in P1 with an initial focus on the SNSA.

You expressed a willingness to participate on this. After further discussion we feel it would be good to have an independent chair of this forum, and I am writing to ask whether you would be willing to take on the role of chair.

ES and SG would manage the forum but it would be good to have an independent voice drawing together the various views and leading the forum to make recommendations for future years.

Terms of reference are currently being developed and we would be happy for your input if your agreed. We would hope to hold the first meeting in November 2018.

I am happy to discuss this with you, however I am on leave until the 18th September. We can certainly catch up after then.

I look forward to hearing your views on this

David

David Leng

Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate

Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**DOCUMENT 7 - Email chain between David Leng and Carrie Lindsay discussing Forum**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 26 November 2018 19:02  
**To:** Carrie Lindsay <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Carrie

Thank you for your support and quick response on this. We are collating the various nominations at the moment and will then be clearer if we still have any gaps. Will be in touch if there are still areas to cover.

Thank you again

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** Carrie Lindsay <[Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 26 November 2018 17:41  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

David

[redacted] sent you some names direct. They were names of P1 practitioners and I think you might have been looking for some more strategic members.

Give me a ring if you still need any further names with a strategic overview. [redacted]

Hope things good with you.



Carrie Lindsay  
Executive Director for Education & Children's Services  
Fife Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fife House  
North Street  
Glenrothes  
KY7 5LT

03451 555555 ext [REDACTED]



[Click here](#) for more information and to download the Plan for Fife – the vision for Fife for the next ten years.

**From:** [David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot) [<mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot>]  
**Sent:** 14 November 2018 15:56  
**To:** Carrie Lindsay <[Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi Carrie

I trust you are well and no doubt very busy.

You previously very helpfully offered advice on people to chair the SNSA P1 practitioner forum. [redacted – two sentences – out of scope]

I am however continuing to organise a P1 practitioner forum. I attach a draft remit for the forum and Professor Sue Ellis has agreed to chair it.

We are looking for nominations for practitioners who have had practical experience of the P1 SNSA , and who have views that will constructively help us to address concerns and continue to improve the P1 assessments. I was hoping in your capacity as RIC lead, Executive Director in Fife and early years specialist you could suggest some practitioners that you feel could be effective in such a forum. They don't necessary have to be champions of P1 assessments, however it would be great if they were willing to engage constructively so that we can move the whole issue forward. We are trying to hold the first meeting of the forum before Christmas!

I look forward to hearing your suggestions

Happy to discuss

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

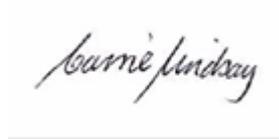
Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** Carrie Lindsay <[Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk)>  
**Sent:** 22 August 2018 14:16  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** Logan G (Graeme) <[Graeme.Logan@gov.scot](mailto:Graeme.Logan@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

David

Not so sure that they would be seen to be independent which is why I didn't suggest any of them.

Not many have an EY background either, not many of us around at this level.



Carrie Lindsay  
Executive Director for Education & Children's Services  
Fife Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fife House  
North Street  
Glenrothes  
KY7 5LT

03451 555555 ext [REDACTED]



[Click here](#) for more information and to download the Plan for Fife – the vision for Fife for the next ten years.

**From:** [David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot) [<mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot>]  
**Sent:** 22 August 2018 14:13  
**To:** Carrie Lindsay <[Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk](mailto:Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk)>  
**Cc:** [Graeme.Logan@gov.scot](mailto:Graeme.Logan@gov.scot); [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Carrie

Thanks for responding so quickly.

These are really useful suggestions which I will follow up. Are there any ADES members who might also be considered?

David

David Leng  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment Product Owner  
Scottish Government \ Learning Directorate \ 2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** Carrie Lindsay <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>  
**Sent:** 22 August 2018 12:20  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Logan G (Graeme) <Graeme.Logan@gov.scot>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

David

A lot of the prominent people in early years are not totally in favour of the testing so you probably want someone who is a bit more neutral. As you know we've been using these types of assessment in P1 for many years and although I can understand some of the arguments against I think there are also many benefits.

I wondered about -

[redacted – 2 sentences]

[redacted – 2 sentences]

Hope that helps.

Feel free to give me a ring if that would be of any further help.



Carrie Lindsay  
Executive Director for Education & Children's Services  
Fife Council  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fife House  
North Street  
Glenrothes  
KY7 5LT

03451 555555 ext [redacted]



[Click here](#) for more information and to download the Plan for Fife – the vision for Fife for the next ten years.

**From:** David.Leng@gov.scot [<mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot>]  
**Sent:** 22 August 2018 09:20  
**To:** <Carrie.Lindsay@fife.gov.uk>  
**Cc:** Graeme.Logan@gov.scot; [redacted]  
**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Good Morning Carrie

I hope you enjoyed a good summer and the new academic session has started well in Fife.

I am seeking some advise from you. As you will be aware there has been a concerted campaign over the summer against P1 assessments.

Scottish Government is addressing this in a number of ways. One of these is to set up, through Education Scotland, a P1 Practitioner Forum to look at Assessment in the Early Level. Initially it will address some of the concerns about the SNSA but should have a broader focus in due course.

The ambition is that it will be made up of a combination of practitioners, early years experts and academics. It should be a place for robust discussion and practical advice.

We are looking for an independent chair for the Forum, who has credibility and strategic understanding of the P1/Early learning sector.

With your own expertise in this area I seeking your advice on who would be appropriate to approach.

Happy to discuss this with you

Regards

David

David Leng  
National Standardised Assessments Product Owner  
Scottish Government\Learning Directorate  
2-B South\Victoria Quay\EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0891

Mob: [REDACTED]

Email: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

### **3. Any other communication regarding the work of the Forum (including attachments)**

*In addition to the information provided here in this section a separate response document has been included. This details all logistical and organisational correspondence between Scottish Government, Education Scotland and Forum attendees.*

#### **DOCUMENT 8 - Clarification of remits – P1 assessments**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 11 November 2018 20:32  
**To:** Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Clarification on remits - P1 assessments

Colleagues

I have drafted a paper comparing and contrasting the role and remits of the independent review and the P1 practitioner forum.

I attach for your comment and additions

I am meeting with Sue Ellis tomorrow (Monday) to discuss her role as chair of the P1 practitioner forum. I will use this paper as a starter with her but as a draft.

I would like the first meeting of the forum to be before the turn of the year, but will require support from ES to do this.

Who should be copied in from ES?

David

***David Leng***

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

Attachment from email above – (David Leng 11/11/18)

Comparing and contrasting the independent review of P1 assessments and the P1 practitioner forum

	Independent Review	P1 Practitioner Forum
Membership	An individual reviewer independent of the current issues with credibility in both early years and assessment. Possibly supported by a small team of Scottish advisers	A group (18-20) be established comprising the following membership: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair – Professor Sue Ellis, Strathclyde University (literacy and early years expert)</li> <li>• Representatives from Education Scotland to include NIF, Early Years and literacy and numeracy</li> <li>• A representative from ADES Early Years and/or PIN Networks</li> <li>• An appropriate academic and or an Educational Psychologist</li> <li>• A majority of school based practitioners (to include ASN and senior management)</li> <li>• Representatives from the teachers' associations</li> <li>• Representatives from the Scottish government</li> </ul>
Remit	An independent review of the P1 assessments to consider all the evidence and make recommendations on the following issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the compatibility of the assessments with the play based approach to early level of CfE;</li> <li>• the alignment of the assessments to the benchmarks for early level;</li> </ul>	The main function of the Practitioners' Forum will be to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early level curriculum planning and assessment</li> <li>• The use of standardised assessments within play based learning</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the effect of taking an on-line assessment on P1 children;</li> <li>• the usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers and how it supports their professional judgement;</li> <li>• the implications of the review for the ongoing development of the national Gaelic Medium Education standardised assessments; and</li> <li>• the future of the assessments considering in particular whether they continue in line with the current continuous improvement model, whether they be substantially modified, or whether they should be stopped.</li> </ul>	<p>The Forum will discuss, evaluate and be informed by a range of evidence including; the opinions of practitioners; parents; professional associations and other stakeholders;</p> <p>An important focus will be ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between assessment as part of on-going learning, within a play-based learning environment, and the need to ensure teachers are supported in making nationally consistent judgements about children’s learning and progress.</p>
Timescale	The review will be asked to provide conclusions and recommendations by the end of May 2019.	<p>The forum will engage with practitioners and other stakeholders and consider how to enhance the assessment model for early level CfE with a view to developing recommendations for implementation in session 2019/20.</p> <p>It will meet regularly as determined by the group.</p>
Outcomes	A report with recommendations to be presented to the DFM and which will be debated in Parliament.	<p>Practical advice to practitioners during session 2018/19</p> <p>Advice on enhancements to the 2019/20 SNSA</p>

## DOCUMENT 9 – Email to Professional Associations seeking nominations for Forum

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 13 November 2018 12:01

**To:** [greg@ahds.org.uk](mailto:greg@ahds.org.uk); 'Abradley@eis.org.uk' <[Abradley@eis.org.uk](mailto:Abradley@eis.org.uk)>; Dougie Atkinson ([DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)) <[DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)>; [jane.peckham@mail.nasuwat.org.uk](mailto:jane.peckham@mail.nasuwat.org.uk)

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted] Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Colleagues

As discussed at the recent NIF professional association meeting, we are setting up a P1 Practitioner Forum as recommended in the SNSA User Review.

We are looking for nominations for practitioners who have had practical experience of the P1 SNSA , and who have views that will constructively help us to address concerns and continue to improve the P1 assessments.

As described to you we are happy for associations to nominate individuals however we are seeking practitioners rather than representatives.

The first meeting is planned for before Christmas so a quick response would be really helpful.

I attach the remit and membership for the forum to guide your considerations.

Thanks for your support

David

***David Leng***

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner**

**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government

2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**Attachment noted in email has been published on the National Improvement Hub on Education Scotland's website and can be found by following this link :**

**<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/practitioner-forum-remit-and-membership.pdf>**

## Document 10 - Email chain – suggested Education Scotland membership for Forum

**From:** Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 13 November 2018 18:29  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Clarification on remits - P1 assessments

Thanks for this David – I think it's really helpful.

I have 2 small suggestions:

- Add a row at the very top just making clear the first column is the independent review and the second column is the practitioners forum
- Add the fact that Sue Ellis will be the chair of the forum

In terms of who it should go to at ES, I would suggest [redacted], [redacted], [redacted] and [redacted]

Andy

**Andy Bruce**  
**Deputy Director, Improvement, Attainment and Wellbeing**  
**Learning Directorate**

0131 244 0984  
[andrew.bruce@gov.scot](mailto:andrew.bruce@gov.scot)

Learning Directorate | Area 2C North | Victoria Quay | Edinburgh | EH6 6QQ  
Buidheann-Stiùiridh an Ionnsachaidh | Raon 2B Tuath | Cidhe Bhictòria | Dùn Èideann | EH6 6QQ

**From:** Leng D (David)  
**Sent:** 11 November 2018 20:32  
**To:** Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Clarification on remits - P1 assessments

Colleagues

I have drafted a paper comparing and contrasting the role and remits of the independent review and the P1 practitioner forum.

I attach for your comment and additions

I am meeting with Sue Ellis tomorrow (Monday) to discuss her role as chair of the P1 practitioner forum. I will use this paper as a starter with her but as a draft.

I would like the first meeting of the forum to be before the turn of the year, but will require support from ES to do this.

Who should be copied in from ES?

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**DOCUMENT 11 – Email to Education Scotland seeking clarification on resource available to assist with the Forum**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 14 November 2018 10:39

**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Colleagues

As you are aware the DFM responded on 25<sup>th</sup> October to the recent parliamentary debate and vote on P1 assessments.

His statement included

- Commissioning an independent review of the P1 assessments which is currently at planning stage
- advising schools to continue to administer the P1 SNSA during this academic year.

As part of the support for continuing the assessments, a number of enhancements to the SNSA for 2018/19 have been agreed as a response to the SNSA User Review. These included the setting up of a P1 practitioner forum.

In order to be clear about the respective roles of the independent review and the practitioner forum the attached paper outlines the respective roles and remits. Happy for comments on this.

Professor Sue Ellis, Strathclyde University, has agreed to chair the P1 practitioner forum, which we hope to meet for the first time before Christmas.

We are seeking support from Education Scotland to organise and manage the practitioner forum in partnership with Scottish government. In particular we are seeking input from the numeracy, literacy and early years teams. In addition it would be really valuable to have input from HMI especially from the primary sector.

I have had preliminary discussions with [redacted], SEO Literacy and English and most recently Education Content Adviser to the SNSA. I am keen to progress this quickly and seek clarity on the resource available from Education Scotland and who will be the key people to link with to run the P1 practitioner forum.

Happy to discuss.

David

***David Leng***

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**Document 12 - Attachment from email above David Leng to Education Scotland.**

Comparing and contrasting the independent review of P1 assessments and the P1 practitioner forum

	Independent Review	P1 Practitioner Forum
Membership	An individual reviewer independent of the current issues with credibility in both early years and assessment. Possibly supported by a small team of Scottish advisers	<p>A group (18-20) be established comprising the following membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair – Professor Sue Ellis, Strathclyde University (literacy and early years expert)</li> <li>• Representatives from Education Scotland to include NIF, Early Years and literacy and numeracy</li> <li>• A representative from ADES Early Years and/or PIN Networks</li> <li>• An appropriate academic and or an Educational Psychologist</li> <li>• A majority of school based practitioners (to include ASN and senior management)</li> <li>• Representatives from the teachers’ associations</li> <li>• Representatives from the Scottish government</li> </ul>
Remit	An independent review of the P1 assessments to consider all the evidence and make recommendations on the following issues:	<p>The main function of the Practitioners’ Forum will be to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early level curriculum planning and assessment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the compatibility of the assessments with the play based approach to early level of CfE;</li> <li>• the alignment of the assessments to the benchmarks for early level;</li> <li>• the effect of taking an on-line assessment on P1 children;</li> <li>• the usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers and how it supports their professional judgement;</li> <li>• the implications of the review for the ongoing development of the national Gaelic Medium Education standardised assessments; and</li> <li>• the future of the assessments considering in particular whether they continue in line with the current continuous improvement model, whether they be substantially modified, or whether they should be stopped.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of standardised assessments within play based learning</li> </ul> <p>The Forum will discuss, evaluate and be informed by a range of evidence including; the opinions of practitioners; parents; professional associations and other stakeholders;</p> <p>An important focus will be ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between assessment as part of on-going learning, within a play-based learning environment, and the need to ensure teachers are supported in making nationally consistent judgements about children’s learning and progress.</p>
Timescale	The review will be asked to provide conclusions and recommendations by the end of May 2019.	<p>The forum will engage with practitioners and other stakeholders and consider how to enhance the assessment model for early level CfE with a view to developing recommendations for implementation in session 2019/20.</p> <p>It will meet regularly as determined by the group.</p>
Outcomes	A report with recommendations to be presented to the DFM and which will be debated in Parliament.	<p>Practical advice to practitioners during session 2018/19</p> <p>Advice on enhancements to the 2019/20 SNSA</p>

**DOCUMENT 13 – email from Education Scotland to discuss HMI requirement**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Date:** 19 November 2018 14:09  
**To:** [redacted] Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi David,

Please can you contact me to discuss your requirements regarding HMI

Thanks  
[redacted]

---

[redacted] | HM Inspector | Assistant Director  
[redacted] | [redacted]

---

Denholm House, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA

**Document 14 – Email from Education Scotland re Forum member nominees**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 19 November 2018 12:20  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hello David  
Re your request for ES involvement below, I note you have been in contact with [redacted]

Literacy  
Education Officer [redacted], who has a primary background, is best-placed to be on the forum.

Numeracy  
Development Officer [redacted] is from a primary background, but is only part-time with ES, so maybe [redacted]. I'm due a catch-up with [redacted] tomorrow so we'll get back to you.

Early Years  
Senior Education Officer, [redacted]

I am not in a position to comment on the availability of HMI, so am copying in [redacted] Assistant Director for inspection. Hope [redacted] can help.

[redacted]

-----  
[redacted] | Assistant Director | Education Scotland | Foghlam Alba  
-----

Tel: [redacted]

Mob: [redacted]

Address: Denholm House, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA

### **Document 15 – Email chain re contacting Education Scotland staff directly**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 19 November 2018 12:49

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Thank you [redacted]

Much appreciated! Are you ok for me to contact them directly about arrangements?

David

David Leng

National Standardised Assessments Product Owner

Scottish Government\Learning Directorate

2-B South\Victoria Quay\EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0891

Mob: [redacted]

Email: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

### **DOCUMENT 16 – Email to Professional Associations seeking nominations for Forum**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 20 November 2018 12:40

**To:** [greg@ahds.org.uk](mailto:greg@ahds.org.uk); 'Abradley@eis.org.uk' <[Abradley@eis.org.uk](mailto:Abradley@eis.org.uk)>; Dougie Atkinson ([DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)) <[DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)>; [jane.peckham@mail.nasuwt.org.uk](mailto:jane.peckham@mail.nasuwt.org.uk)

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted] Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>

**Subject:** RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Colleagues

This is a reminder to provide me with nominations for the P1 Practitioner Forum as soon as possible. Professor Sue Ellis has agreed to be the chair of the forum and the first meeting has now been fixed for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10.00-13.00, at Strathclyde University. (sorry couldn't avoid December!)

Can you forward names to me as soon as possible so that we can finalise the membership of the panel and send out details of the first meeting.

Thanks

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** Leng D (David)  
**Sent:** 13 November 2018 12:01  
**To:** 'greg@ahds.org.uk' <[greg@ahds.org.uk](mailto:greg@ahds.org.uk)>; 'Abradley@eis.org.uk' <[Abradley@eis.org.uk](mailto:Abradley@eis.org.uk)>; Dougie Atkinson ([DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)) <[DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk](mailto:DougieAtkinson@voicetheunion.org.uk)>; 'jane.peckham@mail.nasuwat.org.uk' <[jane.peckham@mail.nasuwat.org.uk](mailto:jane.peckham@mail.nasuwat.org.uk)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted] Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Colleagues

As discussed at the recent NIF professional association meeting, we are setting up a P1 Practitioner Forum as recommended in the SNSA User Review.

We are looking for nominations for practitioners who have had practical experience of the P1 SNSA , and who have views that will constructively help us to address concerns and continue to improve the P1 assessments.

As described to you we are happy for associations to nominate individuals however we are seeking practitioners rather than representatives.

The first meeting is planned for before Christmas so a quick response would be really helpful.

I attach the remit and membership for the forum to guide your considerations.

Thanks for your support

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

### **DOCUMENT 17 – Email asking for advice on arrangements**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

**Sent:** 20 November 2018 13:57

**To:** [REDACTED]

**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [REDACTED]

Tried phoning but no success!

Some advice if you please – [REDACTED – 2 sentences ] I am thinking an email but wait your thoughts.

Additionally can I draw on a small budget for the forum. We would like to offer a sandwich lunch for delegates, and expenses for a small number of speakers? Happy to explain.

Lastly we need to discuss tickets, money etc.

I will be in Glasgow tomorrow and VQ Thursday.

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**DOCUMENT 18 – Email requesting a copy of the document ‘comparing and contrasting’**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 21 November 2018 10:39  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Quick thing

Hi [redacted]

Paper attached

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 20 November 2018 16:11  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Quick thing

Hi David

Could you send me the paper you produced highlighting the differences between the P1 Practitioner Forum and the independent review please? Just for my interests.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**  
National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext: [redacted]  
External Ext[redacted]

**attachment already provided – *comparing and contrasting the independent review of P1 assessments and the P1 Forum***

**DOCUMENT 19 – Documents to be issued to Forum members ahead of 1<sup>st</sup> meeting**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 11:56  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Papers for P1 practitioner forum

Hi [redacted]

I have prepared the following documents for distribution to the P1 forum members. Can you send this out to all confirmed nominations including all the Fife nominations. I have asked [redacted] for some more suggestions. Include all the Education Scotland names.

An email of introduction – can you check if it covers everything and could you insert the links to the recent publications – the SNSA User review published on the SG website, and the SNSA case studies on the Education Scotland Improvement Hub. Returns should come to the NIF mail address

The remit of the forum

The profile proforma

The Agenda for the first meeting plus any details on location and travel arrangements you got from Strathclyde Uni.

Is there anything else at the moment?

Have you set up the spreadsheet of members?

Happy to chat – call my mobile

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [REDACTED]

e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**4 attachments included in this email are now attached as the following documents**

**Document 20 – attachment 1 from email above**

SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the P1 practitioner forum. This is an important group set up to discuss some of the challenges and issues raised from the first year of implementation of the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). The forum will be chaired by Professor Sue Ellis and will provide an educational context for deliberation on a range of themes that are impacting on our early years classrooms and teachers.

The remit of the group is attached as well as the agenda and details for the first forum meeting.

In preparation for the first meeting it would be really helpful if you could complete the short profile of yourself and your views and experiences of the SNSA to date. Links are also provided to recent publications on the SNSA.

User Review

## Case Studies

You have been nominated to represent the views of practitioners and we really appreciate your willingness to participate in the discussions. The outcomes and recommendations from the forum will be fed back to the SNSA development team and to the Deputy First Minister.

It would be very helpful if you could confirm your intention to attend the first meeting.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact us at

Regards

Sue Ellis (Chair)

David Leng (Scottish Government)

### **Document 21 – attachment 2 from email above**

#### **SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

##### **Members Profile**

**Name:**

**School/Organisation:**

**Employment Position:**

**Years Teaching:**

**Experience with the SNSA:**

##### **VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- 
- 
- 
-



12.30:

**WORKING LUNCH - Recommendations for:**

- Class Teachers
- Schools
- Local Authorities
- Independent bodies (e.g. Education Scotland; GTCS)
- National Government

13.00:

**Meeting Ends**

**Document 23 - Attachment 4 from email above.**

SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Membership	<p>A group (18-20) be established comprising the following membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Chair – an early years and/or academic expert</li><li>• Representatives from Education Scotland to include NIF, Early Years and literacy and numeracy</li><li>• A representative from ADES Early Years and/or PIN Networks</li><li>• An appropriate academic and or an Educational Psychologist</li><li>• A majority of school based practitioners (to include ASN and senior management)</li><li>• Representatives from the teachers' associations</li><li>• Representatives from the Scottish government</li></ul>
Remit	<p>The main function of the practitioner forum will be to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Early level curriculum planning and assessment</li><li>• The use of standardised assessments within play based learning</li></ul> <p>The Forum will discuss, evaluate and be informed by a range of evidence including; the opinions of practitioners; parents; professional associations and other key stakeholders.</p> <p>An important focus will be ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between assessment as part of on-going learning, within a play-based learning environment, and the need to ensure teachers are supported in making nationally consistent judgements about children's learning and progress.</p>
Timescale	<p>The forum will engage with practitioners and other stakeholders and consider how to enhance the assessment model for early level CfE with a view to developing recommendations for implementation in session 2019/20.</p> <p>It will meet regularly as determined by the group.</p>
Outcomes	<p>Practical advice and support to practitioners during session 2018/19.</p> <p>Advice on enhancements to the 2019/20 SNSA.</p>

## Document 24 – Email chain from Scottish Government to Education Scotland

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 10:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 practitioners forum

Hi [redacted]

Sorry we have not caught up on this, but I know you were bust on the NIF report yesterday.

In terms of progress on P1 Practitioner Forum here is the summary

Date: 10<sup>th</sup> December, 10-1 (lunch provided) whatswwhawhhwhawonkeywownat  
Strathclyde University  
Chair: Professor Sue Ellis  
Admin support: [redacted]; (SU) [redacted] (SG)

Membership:

8 practitioner nominations from different areas of country  
Waiting for responses from AHDS, ADES, Tayside, Northern Alliance  
([redacted] is preparing a spreadsheet with their details)

Education Scotland  
Expressed interest – [redacted] (Content Adviser), [redacted]; (Gaelic),  
[redacted];(Numeracy)  
Asking – [redacted]; (Literacy), [redacted]; ( or another EY rep), HMI (Primary)

SG – DL, SCHOLAR rep

I am not convinced that all practitioners will come so I think it might be good to ask one or two more to ensure the correct balance?

We would be looking for one or two more P1 practitioner and DHT/HT who have experience overseeing the SNSA?

What do you think? Should we also look for a QIO as ADES early years network have not responded so far?

Happy for your thoughts and suggestions

Available for a chat if you phone my mobile.

David

*David Leng*

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 22 November 2018 17:59  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** P1 practitioners forum

Hi David

I hope your meeting went well today

Please can you let me know

- the numbers of P1 practitioners
- if an DHTs with responsibility for P1 are required
- HTs
- QIOs
- ES staff ( I know one HMI was asked for )

Once you have given me the details of what/ who you need I can get names to you

Thanks

Best wishes / Dùrachdan  
[redacted]

---

**[redacted]** | HM Inspector | Education Scotland | Foghlam Alba

---

Tel: [redacted]  
Optima, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow G2 8DU  
An Optima, 58 Sràid Robastan, Glaschu, G2 8DU  
[www.education.gov.scot](http://www.education.gov.scot)

**DOCUMENT 25 Email from David Leng to [redacted] with updated list of attendees for P1 Forum**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 15:18  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: Attendees so far... P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [redacted]

This is the list so far with others getting back to us. You are most welcome to come along and see what is happening. See you in Aberdeen tomorrow

David

*David Leng*

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 15:00  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** Attendees so far... P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi David

As you'll see I've issued the email to attendees so far. Some have bounced back – so I'll need to go back and confirm the email addresses are correct:

[redacted]

[redacted]

I have chased up with Sheena Devlin so will await her confirmation.

Here is the sheet I've put together at the moment. Sue mentions a Gemma? I'm not sure who that is so if you could confirm I'll add her to the list. If you spot any others I've missed let me know.

Have a good weekend.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**

National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext: [redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

**Attachment with list of attendees**



SNSA P1  
Practitioner Forum -

**Attachment in email above replicated here with PII redacted.**

SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum – Attendees

Name	Confirmed?	Dietary requirements	Email
Sue Ellis (Chair)			<a href="mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk">sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk</a>

**14 lines with personal information redacted**

Sheena Devlin to nominate someone (tbc)			
AHDS tbc			
ADES tbc			
Tayside tbc			
Northern Alliance tbc			

**DOCUMENT 26 – Email chain outlining input to forum meeting**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 26 November 2018 12:41  
**To:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: ACER input to the SNSA P1 practitioner forum

[redacted]

Thank you for getting back to me so promptly.

All of your proposals are very welcome.

I would certainly appreciate input from [redacted] on the 10th December (appreciate this is just as she gets back from Australia! )

I'm know we would value an input from [redacted], however need to check with Sue Ellis which date is more appropriate.

A demonstration may be valuable although many will be practitioners who should be familiar with the assessments. Again let me get back to you on this.

An ACER rep would be fine although had assumed this might be the Scholar rep. I am trying not to overwhelm the forum with non teachers. Again let me confirm once numbers become more steady.

Thank you again for your prompt response and support for this important engagement with practitioners.

Regards

David

David Leng  
National Standardised Assessments Product Owner  
Scottish Government\Learning Directorate  
2-B South\Victoria Quay\EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0891

Mob [redacted]

Email: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** Monday, 26 November 2018 12:25

**To:** Leng D (David); [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]

**Subject:** RE: ACER input to the SNSA P1 practitioner forum

Hi David,

I met with [redacted] and [redacted] this morning. We are very happy to support the P1 Practitioner Forum. Our thoughts are:

- [redacted] could attend the first forum on 10 December and make a presentation covering the points you have suggested. This presentation would cover your general points below with a particular focus on P1 Numeracy.
- [redacted] could attend the second forum (14 January) or third forum (4 February) in person and make a similar presentation with a particular focus on P1 Literacy. [redacted] will be in the UK over this period and could attend either date. Let us know which you would prefer.
- [redacted]and [redacted] could do a short demonstration of the live assessments (similar to that given to SMPs). We think this would very much enhance the forum members' understanding of what the assessment is actually like. What are your thoughts about this? (Of course, any live demonstration of the assessment would need to be edited from the Forum content later made available via the ES website.)
- We would like to send an ACER representative as an observer to all of the P1 Practitioner Forum meetings. Can you let us know whether this is possible?
- We will confirm SCHOLAR representation at the first Forum with [redacted]. Did you envisage that SCHOLAR would have a continuing presence at the Forum meetings?

Please note that I will attend the Policy Meeting on 12 December in [redacted] place, as she will have only just returned from Australia, before the P1 forum, and will need to attend to affairs in the London office later in the week.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

Kind regards,

[redacted]

**[redacted]**

[redacted]  
ACER International United Kingdom Ltd  
13–15 Canfield Place, London NW6 3BT

t : [redacted]  
e : [redacted]  
w : [www.acer.org](http://www.acer.org)

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**From:** [David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot) [David.Leng@gov.scot]  
**Sent:** 25 November 2018 17:32  
**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: ACER input to the SNSA P1 practitioner forum

Hi [redacted]

Good to hear from you too! I hope you have settled well back in Melbourne.

It would be great if ACER could take this opportunity to provide better understanding of the SNSA to practitioners. I look forward to hearing from you.

David

*David Leng*

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 22:47  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: ACER input to the SNSA P1 practitioner forum

Hi David  
Great to hear from you!  
[redacted] will be in Melbourne during the coming week so we can discuss how we might best contribute to the first P1 practitioner forum.  
Best wishes  
[redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 November 2018 13:03  
**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** ACER input to the SNSA P1 practitioner forum

Hi Colleagues

I am contacting you about the ACER input for the first P1 Practitioner Forum, now confirmed for the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2018. Professor Sue Ellis of Strathclyde University has kindly agreed to chair this forum which is ideal as she has been a significant help to us in the past. The forum will be held at Strathclyde University and I attach the role and remit.

Sue is keen that we start each meeting with an input from external sources so that the dialogue is focussed and constructive. At the first meeting she is very keen that there is an input reflecting the work done behind the scenes to deliver the SNSA to schools and teachers as she believes this is widely unknown and underappreciated. I think this is a welcome opportunity.

Therefore she is looking for an presentation from ACER at the first meeting. It should be around 15 minutes and cover

- the sections in the assessment and how it fits to CfE;
- the design/ standardisation processes;
- psychometrics;
- why it provides different information from a locally devised assessment.

I realise this is short notice however we have just finished confirming the first meeting and I did give forewarning about 2 weeks ago at the project meeting. Ideally this is presented in person by one of you, however if that is not possible a presentation or even better a video would be acceptable (she was keen for your input [redacted]!!)

Her ambition is that all presentations will be made available on an Education Scotland website for wider access.

I am also keen that we have a SCHOLAR rep at the forum so that any training issues or inputs can be made.

I am happy to discuss any of this with you , and of course I will also be at the event.

Let me know

David

**David Leng**

**Professional Adviser Improvement  
Learning Directorate**

**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**Document 27 – paper for Programme Board 29/11/18**

**NATIONAL IMPROVEMENT FRAMEWORK – PAPER 4 – REMITS FOR INDEPENDENT REVIEW AND P1 PRACTITIONERS FORUM**

**National Improvement Framework Programme Board – 29 November 2018**

	Independent Review	P1 Practitioner Forum
Membership	An individual reviewer independent of the current issues with credibility in both early years and assessment. Possibly supported by a small team of Scottish advisers	<p>A group (18-20) be established comprising the following membership:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair – Professor Sue Ellis, Strathclyde University (literacy and early years expert)</li> <li>• Representatives from Education Scotland to include NIF, Early Years and literacy and numeracy</li> <li>• A representative from ADES Early Years and/or PIN Networks</li> <li>• An appropriate academic and or an Educational Psychologist</li> <li>• A majority of school based practitioners (to include ASN and senior management)</li> <li>• Representatives from the teachers’ associations</li> <li>• Representatives from the Scottish government</li> </ul>
Remit	An independent review of the P1 assessments to consider all the evidence and make recommendations on the following issues:	<p>The main function of the Practitioners’ Forum will be to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early level curriculum planning and assessment</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the compatibility of the assessments with the play based approach to early level of CfE;</li> <li>• the alignment of the assessments to the benchmarks for early level;</li> <li>• the effect of taking an on-line assessment on P1 children;</li> <li>• the usefulness of the diagnostic information provided to teachers and how it supports their professional judgement;</li> <li>• the implications of the review for the ongoing development of the national Gaelic Medium Education standardised assessments; and</li> <li>• the future of the assessments considering in particular whether they continue in line with the current continuous improvement model, whether they be substantially modified, or whether they should be stopped.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The use of standardised assessments within play based learning</li> </ul> <p>The Forum will discuss, evaluate and be informed by a range of evidence including; the opinions of practitioners; parents; professional associations and other stakeholders;</p> <p>An important focus will be ensuring an appropriate balance is struck between assessment as part of on-going learning, within a play-based learning environment, and the need to ensure teachers are supported in making nationally consistent judgements about children’s learning and progress.</p>
Timescale	The review will be asked to provide conclusions and recommendations by the end of May 2019.	<p>The forum will engage with practitioners and other stakeholders and consider how to enhance the assessment model for early level CfE with a view to developing recommendations for implementation in session 2019/20.</p> <p>It will meet regularly as determined by the group.</p>
Outcomes	A report with recommendations to be presented to the DFM and which will be debated in Parliament.	<p>Practical advice to practitioners during session 2018/19</p> <p>Advice on enhancements to the 2019/20 SNSA</p>

## **DOCUMENT 28 – Scottish Government Communication first Forum meeting**

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 04 December 2018 13:23  
**To:** Communications DFM & Education <[CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot](mailto:CommunicationsDFM&Education@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]; [redacted] Bruce A (Andrew) <[Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot](mailto:Andrew.Bruce@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum - Monday 10th December 2018

Hi [redacted]

This email is to give you notice of the first meeting of the SNSA P1 practitioner forum, 10-13.00 on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December at Strathclyde University. This was an action agreed on the back of the SNSA User report published in August. It was also mentioned as part of the questions following the DFM's statement on the SNSA in October. In that statement he indicated that there would be an independent review, however schools should continue to administer P1 assessments throughout this session. He also indicate there would be ongoing enhancements and support as agreed in the User review.

The P1 practitioner forum is part of the package of support (including 5 case studies already published on Education Scotland Improvement Hub). Professor Sue Ellis of Strathclyde University is chairing the forum, which will meet at least four times. The remit is attached. Nominations have been received from a number of sources including the teaching unions, local authorities and Education Scotland

With respect to communications, we are not looking for any proactive announcements, however there may be some enquiries from interested parties and this is to give you background information and details.

The outcomes of each forum meeting will be made public probably through the Education Scotland Improvement Hub ( still to be confirmed).

We were keen to provide you with lines particularly due to the proximity to the publication of the NIF data and plan on the 11<sup>th</sup> December.

Happy to provide any further information

Regards

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)



SNSA P1  
practitioner forum - **(remit already provided)**

**Document 29 – Email asking SG to collate information from Forum members' profiles**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 05 December 2018 12:47  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>; [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Profile sheet for P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [redacted]

Could you do me a favour please. We have the P1 Practitioner Forum meeting on Monday and as part of that we have asked for individuals experiences of SNSA to incorporate into one document. Could you collate that info?

Here is an example of one which has been done on a previous area of work – you can just use the same template in a word document if it is easier.



**Career Pathways**  
- ~~xxxxxx xxx...~~

**attachment not reproduced as out of scope.**

The text bubbles should have the headers below and include the information from the 'views on the SNSA table' (summarise and cut down on the wording if some of the responses are long)

**AHDS**



**Re: SNSA P1**  
**Practitioner For...**

**Document contained in AHDS email attachment**  
**SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

**Members Profile**

Name: [redacted]

School/Organisation: AHDS

Employment Position:  
Headteacher

Years Teaching: 20

Experience with the SNSA: Managing organisation of delivery, supporting staff and children through process, analysing data.

**VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- CONCERNS ABOUT HOW TO INTEGRATE A PLAY BASED LEARNING MODEL INTO AN ASSESSMENT PLATFORM
- PROVISION OF APPROPRIATE ICT TO MAKE THE PROCESS AS MANAGEABLE AS POSSIBLE WHEN HAVE LARGE NUMBERS OF CHILDREN UNDERTAKING WHAT CAN BE LENGTHY ASSESSMENTS
- AMOUNT OF TEXT AND HAVING TO SCROLL ETC TO ACCESS/MANIPULATE
- THE COMPLEXITY OF THE LANGUAGE AND THE CONCEPTS COVERED IN MATHS THAT ARE OFTEN NOT COVERED AT THIS STAGE AND CERTAINLY MAY NOT HAVE BEEN PART OF A PLAY BASED LEARNING APPROACH

**EIS**



RE: P1 Practitioner  
Forum

**Document contained in EIS email attachment**  
**SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

**Members Profile**

Name: [redacted]

**School/Organisation:**EIS

**Employment Position:**LA  
Sec – seconded from  
Primary HT

**Years Teaching:**29

**Experience with the SNSA:**

**VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- 
- 
- 
- 

**ES**



RE: SNSA P1  
Practitioner For...



RE: SNSA P1  
Practitioner For...



RE: SNSA P1  
Practitioner For...

**Documents contained in 3 ES email attachments**

**Name:** [redacted]

**School/Organisation:** Education Scotland

**Employment Position:** Numeracy and Mathematics Development Officer

**Years Teaching:** 24 years

**Experience with the SNSA:** Quality Assurance of Numeracy questions

**VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- 
- 
- 
- 

**SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

## Members Profile

Name: [redacted]

**School/Organisation:**  
Education Scotland

**Employment Position:**  
Education Officer- literacy  
and English

**Years Teaching: 23 (as class  
teacher, Depute HT,  
Headteacher and Campus  
Leader)**

**Experience with the SNSA:**  
In 2017-18 I was co-ordinating Perth and Kinross literacy and numeracy strategies. I supported the QIO for assessment and moderation in implementing the SNSAs at local authority level and led a feedback session for primary and secondary literacy/numeracy co-ordinators after the SNSAs had taken place.

## IEWS ON THE SNSA

- The SNSAs provide information for class teachers and senior leaders to identify key areas of progress and identify gaps in learning for groups, individuals and aspects of curriculum coverage, when used correctly.
- There is a need to have more challenging content (G Cluster) for those children who are exceeding expected levels at P1.
- Most headteachers and literacy/numeracy co-ordinators I have spoken to have welcomed the use of the standardised assessments. It will be very helpful to track the progress of cohorts and individuals at P1, P4, P7 and S3.
- Most P1 teachers are highly skilled at deploying a range of assessment approaches, including group assessments and 1-1 tasks. As a P1 teacher, I found that I often set aside “blocks of time” to work with individuals and

groups to gather evidence of progress e.g. phonics, sight vocabulary, key numeracy concepts/building blocks.

- The SNSAs provide schools with a greater clarity of the standards expected and support dialogue around professional judgement.

## SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

### Members Profile

Name: [redacted]

School/Organisation:  
Education Scotland

Employment Position:  
SEO - Curriculum

Years Teaching:  
32

Experience with the SNSA: I have very recently joined Education Scotland. Previously I was a primary headteacher in Aberdeen and was involved with the SNSA in P1, 4 and 7.

### VIEWS ON THE SNSA

- **MUST BE SEEN AS ONE FORM OF ASSESSMENT TO BACK PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT**
- **RESULTS DID BACK UP PROFESSIONAL JUDGEMENT BUT DIDN'T FIND THEM VERY USEFUL**
- **NO STRESS FOR CHILDREN OR NEGATIVE FEEDBACK FROM PARENTS**
- **OVER TIME, I FEEL THE ASSESSMENTS WILL BENEFIT IN HELPING TO IDENTIFY CHILDREN IN NEED OF ADDITIONAL SUPPORT OR CHALLENGE**

### Headteachers (name as 1,2,3... etc)



RE: SNSA P1  
Practitioner For...



RE: SNSA P1  
Practitioner For...



P.1 Practitioner  
Forum

Documents contained in 3 headteacher emails

## SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

### Members Profile

**Name:** [redacted]

**School/Organisation:** [redacted]Primary School

**Employment Position:** Head Teacher

**Years Teaching:** 21 years

**Experience with the SNSA:** Supported class teachers through this last session.

#### **VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- **USEFUL INFORMATION TO ADD TO OUR OTHER ASSESSMENT INFORMATION.**
- **EASY TO ADMINISTER PROVIDED PUPILS ARE FAMILIAR WITH USING A MOUSE AND WORKING ON A PC**
- **FURTHER CLARITY REQUIRED AROUND 'NORMAL SUPPORT' FOR PUPILS**

#### **SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

##### **Members Profile**

**Name:** [redacted]

**School/Organisation:**  
[redacted]  
East Dunbartonshire

**Employment Position:**  
Principal Teacher

**Years Teaching:** 13

**Experience with the SNSA:**  
Co-ordinating and  
administering testing at P.1  
stages

#### **VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- **NO PROBLEMS WITH CHILDREN ENGAGING**
- **NUMERACY TEST PITCHED AT CORRECT LEVEL AND RESULTS A USEFUL INDICATOR OF ATTAINMENT**

- LITERACY TEST DIFFICULT TO ADMINISTER DUE TO BEING PITCHED AT TOO HIGH A LEVEL.
- 

## SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

### Members Profile

<b>Name:</b>	[redacted]
<b>School/Organisation:</b>	[redacted]
<b>Employment Position:</b>	Headteacher
<b>Years Teaching:</b>	18
<b>Experience with the SNSA:</b>	ADMINISTERED TO THE WHOLE SCHOOL FOR THE FIRST TIME IN APRIL

### VIEWS ON THE SNSA

- GAVE US, AS A SCHOOL, A VERY ACCURATE ACCOUNT OF WHERE THE CHILDREN WERE IN THEIR LEARNING JOURNEY
- THE ASSESSMENTS ALSO PROVED USEFUL IN IDENTIFYING AREAS OF LITERACY AND NUMERACY THAT, IN CERTAIN CLASSES, HAD NOT BEEN LEARNED IN ENOUGH DEPTH.
- SNSA GAVE US CONFIDENCE IN OUR MONITORING AND TRACKING PROCESSES ACROSS THE SCHOOL, WHICH WERE SHOWN TO BE ROBUST.
- AN ANALYSIS OF INDIVIDUAL LEARNER FEEDBACK ALSO PROVIDED NEXT STEPS IN LEARNING FOR SPECIFIC CHILDREN.

### Practitioners (name as 1,2,3... etc)



RE: P1 Practitioner Forum



RE: Attendance confirmation

Documents contained in 2 Practitioners emails

## SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

### Members Profile

**Name:**

[redacted]

**School/Organisation:**

[redacted] Primary School,  
[redacted] Fife

**Employment Position:**

Primary Teacher  
(currently primary 1)

**Years Teaching:**

5

**Experience with the SNSA:**

Primary 1s completed SNSA  
with SfL teacher.

**VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- **IMPORTANT TO GATHER LOTS OF DIFFERENT EVIDENCE OF LEARNING – SNSA IS A PART OF THIS**
- **THE WELLBEING OF LEARNERS MUST BE CONSIDERED AND PROTECTED**
- **THE COMPARISON OF DATA FROM A BASELINE AT THE START OF PRIMARY 1 WITH THAT AT THE END OF THE YEAR IS VERY USEFUL – MY UNDERSTANDING IS SNSA IS COMPLETED ONCE PER YEAR.**

**SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum**

**Members Profile**

**Name:**[redacted]

**School/Organisation:**

[redacted] Primary School

**Employment Position:** Class  
Teacher

**Years Teaching:** 11 years

**Experience with the SNSA:**

Last year I was a P1/2 teacher and my P1 pupils were SNSA testing. I had only six pupils in P1 and this year I have seven. I was lucky in that my

Head Teacher was able to take the children out to take part in the assessments. The children were told about the assessments when they went out to do the tests, so they were not stressed taking part. On return to the class, they had time to play and did not seem worried about these.

## **VIEWS ON THE SNSA**

- **WITH SMALL NUMBERS IN A CLASS, THEY WERE ABLE TO BE DONE.**
- **THE RESULTS WERE USEFUL, REASSURING AND INFORMATIVE. ONE CHILD DID BETTER THAN I THOUGHT. THEY WERE QUITE POSITIVE IN THEIR REPORTING.**
- **IF I HAD A P1 CLASS WITH LARGE NUMBERS, I AM NOT SURE IF THE TESTING WOULD BE AS STRAIGHT FORWARD AS OUR CLASS EXPERIENCE WAS.**
- **MY P1 CLASS THIS YEAR NEED MORE WORK WITH MOUSE CONTROL AND I AM ALITTLE ANXIOUS ABOUT THEIR ABILITY TO PERFORM THE SNSA THIS YEAR.**

### **ADES Rep (still to be sent)**

We have quite a few responses still to come in so if you could make a start on this that would be great. If you could send me something by lunchtime tomorrow that would be really appreciated.

Give me a shout if you need a hand.

Many thanks,

**[redacted]**

National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext: [redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

### **Document 30 - email to Sue Ellis from David Leng following the first meeting**

From: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Sent: 10 December 2018 15:06  
To: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: Re: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Sue,

Thank you for today. I think it was a good start to the forum with helpful contributions from our speakers and the participants.

You chaired it very well, setting a nice tone while challenging members to think at a higher level as well as the practical .

All in all a good beginning and sets us up well for the next few meetings. I'll come back to you with some dates for a catch up. Thanks again to [redacted]

David

David Leng  
National Standardised Assessments Product Owner  
Scottish Government\Learning Directorate  
2-B South\Victoria Quay\EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0891  
Mob: [redacted]  
Email: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

Original Message

From: Leng D (David)  
Sent: Saturday, 8 December 2018 11:21  
To: Susan Ellis  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Great!

David Leng  
Professional Adviser Improvement  
Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
[redacted].cot

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
Sent: 07 December 2018 15:06  
To: Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>

Subject: FW: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

That is Elspeth McCartney (SLT from Stirling Uni) and [redacted] ([redacted] Primary) coming.  
[redacted] (DHT [redacted] Primary) has a Hospital appointment and can't make it..  
Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

---

From: [redacted] ( [redacted] Primary ) [[redacted]]  
Sent: 07 December 2018 13:54  
To: Susan Ellis  
Subject: RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Thanks

Arrived safely this time.

We will arrange cover so that [redacted] can attend.

If there is anything else we can help with, you know where we are.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted] Primary  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
Phone: [redacted]

Follow us on Twitter: @[redacted]

-----Original Message-----

From: Susan Ellis [<mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>]  
Sent: 07 December 2018 13:52  
To: [redacted] ( [redacted] Primary )  
Subject: FW: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Dear [redacted]

It came back the first time, so am trying again.

Please see the attached details and invite below for the practitioner forum.  
also, you might enjoy: <https://rebeccaallen.co.uk/> Thank you.

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

---

From: [redacted] on behalf of [nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot](mailto:nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot)  
[[nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot](mailto:nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot)]  
Sent: 23 November 2018 14:54  
Subject: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Dear Colleagues

Thank you for accepting the invitation to participate in the P1 practitioner forum. This is an important group set up to discuss some of the challenges and issues raised from the first year of implementation of the Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA). The forum will be chaired by Professor Sue Ellis and will provide an educational context for deliberation on a range of themes that are impacting on our early years classrooms and teachers.

The remit of the group is attached as well as the agenda and details for the first forum meeting.

In preparation for the first meeting it would be really helpful if you could complete the short profile of yourself and your views and experiences of the SNSA to date. Links are also provided to recent publications on the SNSA.

User Review - <https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-national-standardised-assessments-user-review-year-1-session-2017/>

Case Studies - <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/self-evaluation/primary-1-snsa-case-studies>

You have been nominated to represent the views of practitioners and we really appreciate your willingness to participate in the discussions. The outcomes and recommendations from the forum will be fed back to the SNSA development team and to the Deputy First Minister.

It would be very helpful if you could confirm your intention to attend the first meeting. Please also confirm if you have any dietary requirements.

Further information will be sent to you with venue information (how to get there, parking etc)

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact us at [nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot](mailto:nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot)<mailto:nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot>

Regards

Sue Ellis (Chair)  
David Leng (Scottish Government)

### **DOCUMENT 31 Email to Education Scotland from David Leng**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 11 December 2018 08:48  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** P1 practitioner forum - hosting presentations and actions.

Hi [redacted]

Thank you for your support at the forum yesterday. I think it was a good start and potentially a good place to resolve the P1 assessment issues.

Can you explore how we host the presentations and action points in the ES Improvement Hub. Is that the best place? Happy to pick this up with you at Heriot Watt tomorrow.

David

David Leng  
National Standardised Assessments Product Owner  
Scottish Government\Learning Directorate  
2-B South\Victoria Quay\EDINBURGH EH6 6QQ

Tel: 0131 244 0891  
Mob: [redacted]  
Email: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

### **DOCUMENT 32 Email to David Leng enclosing a National Improvement Hub template**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 December 2018 15:43  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi here is the template that has to be completed for anything going on the hub  
[redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David)  
**Sent:** 04 December 2018 12:28  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi [redacted]

Left a message in your voicemail. It would be good to catch up over a couple of details with regard to the P1 forum on Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

I attach the agenda for information. As you can see Sue Ellis has arranged for a couple on inputs from Professor Gemma Moss and from ACER. Her ambition is that these inputs, along with the outcomes of the forum meeting, are made available to a wider audience so that there is openness and transparency around the work of the forum. A film unit from Strathclyde university will record the inputs.

I would think that the Education Scotland Improvement Hub is the right place to host this information but do not know exactly how this would work. The SNSA case studies are hosted in the Hub and the work of the forum would be considered as similar support. The only other place would be the SG NIF web pages or the SNSA website, but I don't think this sends the right signals.

Your views would be welcome. We currently have around 20 confirmed attendees with approximately half of these practitioners. I would prefer a slightly better balance but it is a difficult time of year to release teachers. I will send through the definitive list towards the end of the week.

Be good to discuss this sometime soon. Call me on office phone or mobile when you are free

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

The template mentioned in the email above is considered out of scope and therefore is not attached.

**DOCUMENT 33 Email to David Leng from [redacted] requesting an new literacy and English officer is invited to P1 Forum**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 21 December 2018 15:48  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted]

Hi David

I would like to request that the new literacy and English Education Officer starting with us in January is invited to the next P1 Practitioners' Forum. Given her experience as an Early Years Manager with Angus Council, I think she would find it useful and I'm sure she would also be able to offer her perspective on the assessments within the context of a play based curriculum.

What do you think?

Best Wishes/Dùrachdan

[redacted]

[redacted] | Senior Education Officer | Education Scotland | Foghlam Alba

---

Tel: [redacted]  
Mobile: [redacted]  
Address: The Optima, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU  
Web: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)

**DOCUMENT 34 – email exchange between Scottish Government and ACER**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 06 January 2019 19:55  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: [redacted – out of scope]

Hi [redacted]

Happy New Year to you too!

[redacted – one paragraph – out of scope]

I also want to catch up with you with respect to the P1 forum. We hope you will be able to make an input on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> January and also be able to attend on the 4<sup>th</sup> February. I realise this is a big ask but your input and experience will be very welcome.

I am meeting with Sue Ellis tomorrow so will finalise this however our initial thinking was that you would do a 20 minute presentation as a counterpoint to a presentation from Dr Lynn McNair from Edinburgh University. She will be describing the play-based approach to literacy and numeracy development in the early years. We hoped you would be able to demonstrate how the SNSA can operate in a play based context? ( I will forward the invitation to Dr McNair)

So lots to catch up on and I will set aside a couple of hours and we can have lunch together.

**[redacted 3 sentences – out of scope]**

See you on Tuesday and safe travelling

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**DOCUMENT 35 - Email from Sue Ellis to David Leng enclosing the agenda for the Forum meeting on 14<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Sent: 07 January 2019 13:35  
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject: agenda for january

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

**Attachment from email above which has been published on the National Improvement Hub, Education Scotland website and can be found on the following link :**

**<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>**

## AGENDA

Scottish National Standardised Assessment

P1 Practitioner Forum Meeting

January 14th 2019

University of Strathclyde

Stenhouse Building, SW / 106 (on Cathedral Street, opposite the Strathclyde Sport building)

### Documents:

#### Presentations from last meeting

- ACER National Report link
- Profile of the group initial views
- Draft note of past meeting
- Summaries of participant comments
- List of panel members

**9.30-9.45: Coffee and Introductions**

9.45: **Welcome Sue Ellis**

**Introduction:** THEME 2: What are assessment data good for? What are they *not* good for? Can Scottish assessment data feed a holistic, inclusive play-based curriculum?

**Review of draft note** of meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December (Theme 1: The nature and use of Scotland's standardised assessment in P1).

**Importance of a balanced group**, representing a range of views and experience

**Chatham House Rules** – confidentiality and respect

10.00 David Leng: User Review process, report, enhanced processes and planned developments

10.15: Dr Lynn McNair, Edinburgh University.  
Leading Scottish academic on play-based learning.

10.30-35: Questions

10.35: [redacted], [redacted], ACER  
[redacted].

10.50: Questions

10.55: 11.10: Thanks to Lynn and Juliette  
COFFEE BREAK

11.10: Discussion:

- How do literacy and numeracy development feature in play-based curricula?
- Does a play-based curriculum address the literacy and numeracy items in the assessment?
- Is it reasonable for a child to do this kind of assessment after a year in school?
- Is this a style issue, or a substance issue?
- Why are literacy/numeracy teaching/learning and standardized assessments seen as work, not play?
- What should be the conversations with teachers, head teachers, LA and national government about play and standardized assessments?

12.30: **WORKING LUNCH - Recommendations for:**

- Class Teachers
- Schools
- Local authorities
- Independent bodies (e.g. Education Scotland; GTCS)

13.00: Meeting Ends

**Document 36 Email chain Sue Ellis to David Leng with information for Elspeth McCartney**

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
 Sent: 07 January 2019 12:45  
 To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
 Cc: [redacted]  
 Subject: FW: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Sue Ellis  
 Professor of Education  
 Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
 141 St James Road,  
 Glasgow G4 0LT.  
 0141 444 8045

---

From: Elspeth McCartney [elspeth.mccartney@stir.ac.uk]  
 Sent: 12 December 2018 19:53  
 To: Susan Ellis  
 Subject: Re: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

[redacted 2 sentences]

[redacted – 3 sentences – out of scope]

Have also a very happy Christmas, Best, Elspeth

Professor Elspeth McCartney, FRCSLT

---

From: Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
Sent: 07 December 2018 12:28  
To: Elspeth McCartney  
Subject: FW: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Information on the assessments:

<https://standardisedassessment.gov.scot/teachers/>

Go down to the very bottom where it says "For more information please visit the assessment and reports page..." Click through and you will see the nature of the reporting etc.

Lindsay P's blog posting:

<https://reformscotland.com/2018/11/scottish-national-standardised-assessments-professor-lindsay-paterson/>

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

**DOCUMENT 37 email from Sue Ellis containing powerpoints from meeting 10<sup>th</sup> December**

From: Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
Sent: 07 January 2019 14:16  
To: Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
Subject: powerpoints

Just so that you have them to hand, ppts from last meeting attached.

Sue  
Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,

Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045



P1 practitioner  
forum 10 DEC (no itassessment data go



What are

**Both attachments in this email have been published on the National Improvement Hub and can be accessed via the following link:  
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>**

**Document 38 Email to Sue Ellis with profile sheets from attendees – (all redacted (38(1) (b)))**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 08 January 2019 09:59  
**To:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** [redacted] Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Profile sheets - SNSA

Hi Sue

As discussed yesterday here are the profile sheets we have received so far from attendees. We will provide plain copies for those to fill in who have yet to do so on Monday.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**  
National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext:[redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

**(Profile attachments already supplied under document 29 of this response)**

**DOCUMENT 39 Email chain to Forum members with agenda and PowerPoints**

**From:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 08 January 2019 16:56  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:**

Hi [redacted] and David,

i have re-jigged the agenda slightly (changed the questions at the end, corrected the types). See attached.

[redacted], can you send [redacted] a travel claim form?  
Ta

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045



AGENDA.docx

**(Agenda already supplied at document 35)**

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** National Improvement Framework  
**Sent:** 08 January 2019 15:09  
**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum - 2nd Meeting - 14 January 2019

**SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum – 2<sup>nd</sup> Meeting – 14 January 2019**

Dear Colleague

Happy New Year. I hope you had a well-deserved break!

We had a very successful first meeting of the forum on 10 December and we are looking forward to your participation in the second meeting on the 14 January.

Please see attached the agenda for the meeting and PowerPoints delivered by the speakers from the first meeting. We have also included a link to the SNSA National Report which was published in December for your information - <https://www2.gov.scot/Publications/2018/12/6414>

Further documents (detailed on the agenda) will be sent in the following days or tabled on the day.

Note that the forum will still take place at the University of Strathclyde but this time in the Stenhouse Building, SW/106 (on Cathedral Street, opposite the Strathclyde Sport building) - <https://www.strath.ac.uk/maps/?building=stenhousewing>

Grateful if you could let us know as soon as practically possible if you can attend.

If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact us at [nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot](mailto:nationalimprovementframework@gov.scot)

Regards

**Sue Ellis (Chair)**  
**David Leng (Scottish Government)**

**Document 40 Email from Sue Ellis to David Leng enclosing the meeting 1 recommendations**

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Sent: 08 January 2019 15:12  
To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Cc: [redacted]  
Subject:

Hi David and [redacted],  
Here are the comments post-its put into themes.  
Sue

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:13  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Subject:

Hi [redacted],  
I attach the summary of the comments that were made on the post-its. We can distribute these at the meeting, or we can distribute them to the forum members (but not speakers) in advance of the meeting. You and David decide what you think best.  
Sue

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

**The attachment in the email above has been published on National Improvement Hub, Education Scotland website and can be found at the following link :**

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

**DOCUMENT 41 Email from Sue Ellis to Lynn McNair**

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Sent: 08 January 2019 16:52  
To: MCNAIR Lynn <lynn.mcnair@ed.ac.uk>  
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted]; [redacted]  
Subject: RE: P1 Practitioner Forum

Dear Lynn,  
Happy new year.

Just a short note to say that we are looking forward to your presentation at the P1 Practitioner Forum.

I attach the draft agenda for the meeting. You will see that you have 20 mins (15 for presentation, 5 for questions).

We would very much like to video all presentations so they can go onto the ES website. I hope that this is okay with you and I attach a consent form for this.

You will be speaking to a really hot topic so we are looking forward to it!

To get to the building, if you exit from Queen Street Station and walk along Cathedral Street until you see a Gold and Black striped Building ahead of you, that is the one you want. There is a reception desk as you walk in and they will tell you where to go.

[redacted] will send you a travel claim form shortly.

Best wishes,

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

**Attachment “Master Video Consent Form” from Strathclyde University out of scope and attachment “Agenda” already provided in this response.**



Master Video  
Consent Form Extern



AGENDA.docx

## **DOCUMENT 42 Email trail SG to ES on draft information for NIH web pages**

From: Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
Sent: 11 January 2019 15:43  
To: [redacted]  
Cc: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>; [redacted]

Subject: RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi [redacted],

Can we reframe the opening sentence to: The main function of the P1 Practitioner Forum is to share experiences and offer advice to Scottish Govt, Independent bodies such as Ed Scot, and to LAs, Schools and teachers in: etc....

Take out references to 'support' because the forum is not offering support. Nor does the Forum evaluate. We could say:

Debate in the Forum is informed by the experiences of P1 practitioners, by presentations from researchers and academic knowledge brokers and by the views of key stakeholder groups.

Membership of the Forum was by invitation through local authority and stakeholder networks, with an emphasis on ensuring representation of professionals with practical experience of teaching P1, and of administering, managing and using the SNSA data. The Membership Profile reflects a range of initial views of the value of SNSA and experience in education:

[PDF file] The profile of Forum membership

The Forum will meet four times:

- \* December 10th 2018
- \* January 14th 2019
- \* February 4th 2019
- \* March 11th 2019

The Forum is committed to transparent procedures. Meeting agendas and presentations are published on this website, along with summaries of members' views gathered at the end of each meeting. The output of the Forum will be a formal report, which will be submitted in April.

Why?

Educators and some charities and professional groups have requested clarification over the implementation and design of the SNSA for children in P1 classes, its fit to CfE and to play-based approaches to teaching and learning literacy and numeracy in P1.

## Impact

The Forum is designed to offer recommendations and information to user and policy groups which may or may not make a direct impact on practice.

## How to use this exemplar....

Find out about any meeting of the P1 Practitioner Forum here:

Meeting 1: December 10th 2018: The nature and implementation of Scotland's standardised assessment in P1

[PDF file] Meeting Agenda

[Presentation ppt]: What are assessment data good for? What are they not good for? (Professor Gemma Moss) [Video link]: What are assessment data good for? What are they not good for? (Professor Gemma Moss, UCL)

[Presentation ppt]: Background to SNSA ([redacted], [redacted], ACER) [Video link]: Background to SNSA ([redacted], [redacted], ACER)

[PDF file] Forum Member responses after discussion:

Meeting 2: January 14th 2019: Can SNSA data feed an holistic, inclusive, play-based curriculum?

[PDF file] Meeting Agenda

[Presentation ppt]: Reflections and learning points.... David Leng [Video link]: Title.... Reflections and learning points David Leng...

[Presentation ppt]: Title.... Dr Lynn McNair, Edinburgh University  
[Video link]: Title.... Dr Lynn McNair, Edinburgh University

[Presentation ppt]: Title.... [redacted], ACER [Video link]: Title.... [redacted], ACER

[PDF file] Forum Member responses after discussion:

## Improvement Questions

Leave this blank, I suggest.

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

---

From: [redacted]  
Sent: 11 January 2019 14:34  
To: [redacted] [David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)  
Cc: Susan Ellis  
Subject: RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi All

Thanks for your email [redacted]. Attached is a screenshot of what the draft page currently looks like. Perhaps we can have an opportunity to discuss on Monday in order to finalise.

Have a good weekend.

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 11 January 2019 13:12  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>; [redacted]  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi [redacted]

As David mentioned below I'm happy to have a chat with you over the phone at some point but I've noted down some initial thoughts on how the web pages could be formed. Happy to take others views on this too.

I was thinking there could be an overview page – similar to the one on the gov.scot page for the SEC (<https://www.gov.scot/groups/scottish-education-council/>) – it includes the role, remit and membership with links to the minutes of various meetings. I'm thinking we could do something similar and have links to the documents from each of the individual meetings (from December – March)

At the moment we are still discussing what we will publish as a result of each of these meetings and will need to have consent from the group to publish their names and any other documents from the meetings which contain their views. I know so far we are planning on putting the presentations up as a starting point but I think we need to bottom out what we are trying to achieve from each of the meetings.

Hopefully we can chat in a bit more detail around this when we have a clearer picture.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**  
National Improvement Framework Unit

Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext: [redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 10 January 2019 15:42  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted] Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for progressing this and so for slow response but its been another hectic week!

[redacted] and I have discussed this and she will be in contact tomorrow to share some ideas based on other forums we support.

Sue – happy for you to contribute to this discussion,

Be good to present something to the group on Monday for final agreement.

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 09 January 2019 15:28  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page  
**Importance:** High

Hi David

Attached is a draft of the NIH page for the P1 Practitioners' Forum. I've p[icked up on the repetition of the words 'about the'. Apart from that, are you happy with how it looks so far?

[Redacted]

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** EdS Website Content Requests  
**Sent:** 09 January 2019 14:58  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

See screenshot of text that [redacted]has put on page (so far)(not published)

The page should appear at <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

[redacted]should be in tomorrow or I am in on Friday if materials become available to add to page.

Regards

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 09 January 2019 14:36  
**To:** EdS Website Content Requests  
<[EdSContentRequests@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:EdSContentRequests@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk)>  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi [redacted]

Thanks for your email. The agenda and related materials from the first meeting which was held in December will hopefully be with me soon. Materials from subsequent meetings (the next one is Monday 14 January) will be available soon after each has taken place.

Is it the case that a draft of the NIH page is created before being 'launched'? If this is the case, hopefully it will be possible to make a revisions to the text and provide you with materials before it goes live.

Best wishes

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** EdS Website Content Requests  
**Sent:** 09 January 2019 13:03  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** FW: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page  
**Importance:** High

Hi [redacted]

I'm just in the process of creating your Hub item 'Scottish National Standardised Assessment P1 Practitioner Forum'.

There were a few things I was hoping to check with you.

You say in your email below that: 'The idea is to include agendas, minutes of meetings, presentations used as part of discussions etc. and these will hopefully be available soon.'

However, the text you have provided for the webpage says 'The information provided here'. It also refers to 'the attached information'.

I am concerned that this text doesn't actually match what is available.

How would you like to proceed? Would it be worth tweaking the text to acknowledge that the materials will be added in due course?

Many thanks,

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 07 January 2019 12:25

**To:** EdS Website Content Requests

[<EdSContentRequests@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk>](mailto:EdSContentRequests@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk)

**Subject:** FW: SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

**Importance:** High

[redacted] [redacted]

Attached template for publication.

See email trail below – possible to prioritise and publish by end of this week?

Thanks

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 07 January 2019 11:19

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** [redacted]

**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioners' Forum NIH page

Hi [redacted]

Happy New Year to you.

I have been asked to set up a page on the NIH for the P1 Practitioners' Forum which met for the first time in December to discuss issues/concerns around the purpose and implementation of the P1 SNSAs. The forum is organised by ES and SG and is chaired by Professor Sue Ellis of Strathclyde University. It is part of agreed actions outlined in the SNSA annual review published by SG in August 2018. The idea is to include agendas, minutes of meetings, presentations used as part of discussions etc. and these will hopefully be available soon.

I have completed a draft of the (hopefully) relevant template (attached). As the next meeting will be held next Monday, 14<sup>th</sup> January, would it be possible to have a page created this week so it can be shown at the meeting?

Happy to discuss further if that would be helpful.

Best Wishes/Dùrachdan

[redacted]

[redacted] | Senior Education Officer | Education Scotland | Foghlam Alba

---

Tel: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

Address: The Optima, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU

Web: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)

## Attachment from email above [redacted] to David Leng re NIH

[Published On Date]  
09/01/2019 02:00

### [Page Content - NIH What This Is]

The main function of the P1 Practitioner Forum is to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in:

- Early level curriculum planning and assessment
- The use of standardised assessments within the context of play-based learning

The Forum discusses, evaluates and is informed by a range of evidence including the opinions of practitioners, parents, professional associations and other key stakeholders. A particular focus is to ensure the appropriate balance between assessment as part of ongoing learning, within a play-based learning environment, and the need to ensure teachers are supported in making nationally consistent judgements about children's learning and progress.

### [Page Content - NIH Who This Is For]

The information provided here is for practitioners and assessment leaders with an interest in the place of P1 Scottish National Standardised Assessments (SNSA) within the context of Curriculum for Excellence (CfE) in general and a play based learning environment in particular. It supports the administration of the assessments by sharing practical advice and suggestions on implementing the assessments in ways that are appropriate to young learners.

### [Page Content - Main Text]

[Explore this exemplar](#)

What was done?

The first meeting of the practitioner forum was held on Monday 10 December 2018. The meeting was chaired by Professor Sue Ellis of Strathclyde University and consisted of headteachers, classroom practitioners and representatives of professional associations and other bodies, Scottish Government and Education Scotland. A further three meetings of the forum will take place in the course of 2019.

Why?

Since the implementation of SNSA in August 2017, there has been some concern from parent bodies and other organisations about the use of SNSA in Primary 1. Consequently, the purpose of the P1 Practitioner Forum is to explore and reflect on these concerns and schools' experience of implementing the assessments.

What was the impact?

The first meeting set the purpose of the forum within the context of CfE assessment and provided members with an opportunity to share experiences and explore issues relating to the rationale behind the SNSAs and their role as a diagnostic tool to help inform teachers' professional judgement.

How to use this exemplar to improve practice

The attached information will provide practitioners and assessment leaders with an insight into discussions and conclusions drawn. This, in turn, will help those involved in the implementation of the P1 assessments to reflect on how SNSA is best managed.

Improvement questions

- How will schools modify their administration of the P1 SNSAs in the light of the forum's reflections?
- How are practitioners ensuring that the needs of all children are being met when delivering SNSA?
- How effectively is the diagnostic information of SNSA being used to develop targeted interventions at points of transition?
- How do practitioners ensure that SNSA is being used diagnostically, as one part of the wider assessment and moderation picture?

### [Page Content - Related Links]

Scottish National Standardised Assessments

**Document 43 Email from Sue Ellis/ David Leng to Forum members asking them to confirm their attendance at meeting 14<sup>th</sup> January**

**From:** [redacted] **On Behalf Of** National Improvement Framework  
**Sent:** 11 January 2019 11:44  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum - 2nd Meeting - 14 January 2019

Good morning

Thank you to those who have responded to this email. If you have not got back to me yet to confirm your attendance grateful if you could let me know by close of play today.

Kind regards,

**Sue Ellis (Chair)**  
**David Leng (Scottish Government)**

**DOCUMENT 44 email from [redacted] to Sue Ellis with draft note of first meeting**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 14 January 2019 08:40  
**To:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Monday - draft note and other final bits and pieces  
**Importance:** High

Hi Sue

I'm currently in the Stenhouse Building. You'll see I've attached a very brief summary of the last meeting. I didn't have a lot of notes and I think the summary of the post-its covers most of it.

Could you arrange for these to be printed off and brought across? Sorry I was working on this over the weekend so didn't have a printer available.

I've got copies of the agenda, profile sheets and the summary of post-it's so no need to bring those.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 13 January 2019 20:19  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: Monday - draft note and other final bits and pieces

Hi David

Apologies this is so late – I've had a busy weekend. I've made this very brief and my comments from the discussion are vague as I don't have a lot of notes from the first meeting and I think most of the post-it notes cover what was discussed so I didn't want to repeat what Sue has already collated separately.

Take a look and see what you think but it might be best to hold off issuing this to the group and using her sheet as this represents most of the discussion. Happy with whatever you think though.

See you early doors ☺

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 12 January 2019 14:26  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** RE: Monday - draft note and other final bits and pieces

Thanks – I'll get something over to you to look at tomorrow.  
[redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Sent:** 11 January 2019 14:28  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Monday - draft note and other final bits and pieces

Thanks [redacted]

If you can get it over to me I will look at it on Sunday

Have a nice weekend

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 11 January 2019 13:15  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** Monday - draft note and other final bits and pieces

Hi David

Hope all is good with you and your meeting went well today!

Just to let you know I'm still working on the note from the meeting which I'm going to need to have a look at tomorrow as I won't be able to finish that off today due to other bits and bobs I'm working on.

I'm printing off all the relevant documents but if there's anything else you can think of just give me a buzz.

Have a good weekend and I'll see you on Monday.

Thanks,

**[redacted]**  
National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext: [redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

**The attachment in the email above - note of the first meeting has been published on the national Improvement Hub Education Scotland Website and can be reached on the following link:**

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

**DOCUMENT 45 Email from Sue Ellis with overall profile of P1 Group – published**

**From:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Sent:** 15 January 2019 13:29  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** Participant's - overall profile

Hi David,  
I attach an analysis of the overall profile of the P1 practitioner Group . If you are happy with it it can go on the Ed Scotland website.  
Sue

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

**The attachment in this email has been published on the National Improvement Hub on Education Scotland's website. You can find the information at the following link:**

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/Documents/participation-group-profile.pdf>

**Document 46 Email from David Leng to Education Scotland asking for help with next P1 forum on 4<sup>th</sup> February**

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 08:36  
**To:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]; [redacted]  
**Subject:** P1 Practitioner Forum

Morning [redacted]

I thought that was a useful discussion at the forum I Monday. What did you and the ES staff feel?

Looking for some help with the next P1 forum on 4th February . The focus is on classroom management and we would like one or two schools to present on how they managed the P1 SNSA last session. Ideally this would be one or two of the case study schools.

[redacted] and [redacted] are already on the forum so wondered if any of the others could contribute. Thinking of [redacted] Primary in particular.

Can you or [redacted] make contact with them and or any if the other case study schools to see if they are able willing to make a 15 minute presentation. Failing that we had a reserve list who were next to be contacted.

What do you think?

Let me know

David

**Document 47 – Email from ACER with presentation attached from 14<sup>th</sup> January meeting [presentation published]**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 13:42

**To:** [redacted] Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk; [redacted]  
**Subject:** publishable presentation from P1 practitioner forum 14 January

Hi David and [redacted]

Great to see you both at Monday's forum, which I found very useful and interesting. Please find attached a version of the presentation I gave. I've removed all the secure material, but added quite a lot of notes (in the notes area under the slides) which I hope make the ppt interpretable for anyone who reads it, whether they were there or not. This version can also be passed on to the videographer since he asked to have a file that he could extract slides from to interpolate into his recording.

Best wishes

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Assessment and Reporting (Humanities and Social Sciences) Research Program  
Australian Council for Educational Research  
19 Prospect Hill Road (Private Bag 55)  
Camberwell  
Victoria 3124  
United Kingdom

t [redacted]  
m [redacted]  
e [redacted]  
[www.acer.org](http://www.acer.org)



P1 practitioner  
forum 14 January 20

**The attached presentation has been published on the National Improvement Hub, Education Scotland's website and can be found on this link : <https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>**

Document 48 - Email from Strathclyde Uni with details of Forum (20 post-it responses (x 2 attachments) (published on NIH)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 13:56

**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** FW: Practitioner Forum (2) post-it note responses (14/1/2019)

For info.  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 11:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>  
**Subject:** Practitioner Forum (2) post-it note responses (14/1/2019)

Hi [redacted]

I hope that you are well. Please find the practitioner responses attached above (x2) for your consideration, many thanks.

Kind regards  
[redacted]

**[redacted]**  
[redacted]  
School of Education  
University of Strathclyde  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT  
[redacted]  
[redacted]



Practitioner Forum  
(2) Post-it note resp



Practitioner Forum  
(2) Post-it not respo

**Both of these documents have been published on the National Improvement Hub, Education Scotland website and can be found by following this link :**  
<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

**DOCUMENT 49 Email from David Leng to Sue Palmer, Upstart Scotland**

-----Original Message-----  
From: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Sent: 23 January 2019 11:01  
To: [sue@suepalmer.co.uk](mailto:sue@suepalmer.co.uk)

Cc: Tam Baillie [redacted]; Kate Johnston [redacted]; Willie French [redacted]; Terry Wrigley [redacted]; [redacted] Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
Subject: RE: Thanks and an enquiry re the Practitioner Review

Hi Sue

It was good to meet last week and hopefully share a better understanding of the approach we are taking to the SNSA.

With regards to the P1 forum, this has been set up under the chairmanship of Professor Sue Ellis, specifically for practitioners and those directly supporting/managing practitioners. Representative groups are not included in this forum as we generally meet them in other places/groups. The focus is on improving the P1 SNSA by listening and responding to the concerns raised by practitioners. We have gathered a group based on nominations from a variety of sources and representing a broad set of views on the SNSA, including those with a strong play-based approach. We are also receiving presentations from various speakers addressing some of the areas of concern, So for example, Dr Lynn McNair from Edinburgh University presented on the Froebelian approach to play based pedagogy, which was well received.

Details of the forum are about to be published publicly on the Education Scotland Improvement Hub, including the remit and profile of the group, the topics discussed, presentations made and advice proposed by the members.

In short it would not be appropriate for a representative of Upstart to be part of the forum however if you have a nominated practitioner I would pass this to Sue Ellis for consideration.

Regards

David

David Leng  
Professional Adviser Improvement  
Product Owner  
Scottish National Standardised Assessment

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [REDACTED]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

-----Original Message-----

From: [sue@suepalmer.co.uk](mailto:sue@suepalmer.co.uk) <[sue@suepalmer.co.uk](mailto:sue@suepalmer.co.uk)>  
Sent: 18 January 2019 23:56

To: Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
Cc: Tam Baillie [redacted]; Kate Johnston [redacted]; Willie French [redacted]; Terry Wrigley [redacted]  
Subject: Thanks and an enquiry re the Practitioner Review

Dear David,

Thanks very much for the demonstration of the SNSA you arranged for Upstart Scotland last Wednesday. We found it very interesting and informative.

I believe you have also set up a Practitioner Review of the SNSA. Might it be possible for someone from Upstart Scotland to take part in this review? Or, at least, for one of us to attend as an observer?

Thank you for all your help,

Sue

#### **Document 50 Email from [redacted] to David Leng**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 16:01  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: P1 Forum 4th Feb

Hi

Attached is the most recent copy of the NIH template, incorporating Sue's suggested changes. Could you please review and make any further required changes directly on to the proforma before returning to me along with any further relevant documentation? After I've heard back from you, I'll pass it on to be uploaded onto the hub.

I've phoned [redacted] Primary a number of times to follow up on my email invitation but have been unable to get the HT. I'll try once more tomorrow morning, after which I suggest we approach someone else.

Best wishes

[redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 10:31  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>; <[redacted]>  
**Subject:** P1 Forum 4th Feb

Morning [redacted]

Can you confirm how we are getting on with a presentation on classroom management for the P1 forum. Have [redacted]Primary come back to you?

We also need to agree content for the Improvement Hub. [redacted], Sue and myself are meeting at 10.00 on Monday 28<sup>th</sup> at Strathclyde University if you are able to join us to sort this out.

Happy to discuss

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891

Mobile: [redacted]  
[redacted].cot



NIH P1 SNSA  
Practitioners' Forum

**Published on National Improvement Hub website.**

**DOCUMENT 51 – email from ACER re question asked at Forum meeting**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 11:32  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** RE: P1 practitioner forum member

Hi [redacted]

It's Elspeth McCartney from Stirling University.

Thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 10:38  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Subject:** P1 practitioner forum member

Hi [redacted]

I'm pulling together a response to a question asked at the last P1 practitioner forum, about why ACER hadn't conducted a test-retest reliability study. Can you tell me the name of the person who asked the question? I think she is an academic at University of Edinburgh.

Thanks in anticipation

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Assessment and Reporting (Humanities and Social Sciences) Research Program  
Australian Council for Educational Research  
19 Prospect Hill Road (Private Bag 55)  
Camberwell  
Victoria 3124  
United Kingdom

t [redacted]  
m [redacted]  
e [redacted]  
[www.acer.org](http://www.acer.org)

## **DOCUMENT 52 email from ACER with organisers for P1 literacy**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 13:02  
**To:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>; Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] [redacted]  
**Subject:** P1 practitioner forum agenda item

Dear Sue and David

[redacted one sentence and one table] **(s.27(1) exemption)**

[redacted 3 sentences] **(s.27(1) exemption)**

We think it would be good to raise this at the P1 Practitioner Forum as a point for discussion. Are you happy with this idea?

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

Assessment and Reporting (Humanities and Social Sciences) Research Program  
Australian Council for Educational Research  
19 Prospect Hill Road (Private Bag 55)  
Camberwell  
Victoria 3124  
United Kingdom

t [redacted]

m [redacted]

e [redacted]

[www.acer.org](http://www.acer.org)

### Document 53 Email chain re expenses for a presenter at Forum meeting

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 24 January 2019 12:29

**To:** [redacted]

**Subject:** Re: Expenses for 10th Dec event?

See below. I can make you a pdf for the edinburgh-glasgow train ticket but not today!



Booking  
Confirmation (1) hot

I will forward to you the email from Flybe detailing the flight change and charge made. [redacted 2 sentences] Hope all this helps. Thanks, [redacted]

**From:** [redacted]

**Sent:** 24 January 2019 11:37

**To:** [redacted]

**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>

**Subject:** RE: Expenses for 10th Dec event?

Thanks for sending the attached expenses [redacted]

I need to complete a form which asks me to fill in details below – could you complete the fields and send back to me and I'll make sure it gets sent off asap.

<b>*Payee Address Line 1</b>	
<b>Payee Address Line 2</b>	
<b>Payee Address Line 3</b>	
<b>*Town/City</b>	
<b>Country</b>	
<b>*Postcode</b>	

<b>BACS PAYMENTS ONLY</b>	
<b>* Bank/Building Society Name</b>	
<b>*Bank/BS Address Line 1</b>	
<b>Bank/BS Address Line 2</b>	
<b>*Bank/BS Town/City</b>	
<b>*Bank/BS Postcode</b>	
<b>*Bank/BS Sort Code</b>	
<b>* Payee's Account Number</b>	
<b>*BS Only - Payee's Roll Number</b>	
<b>* Name on Account</b>	

Give me a shout if you need anything else.

Many thanks,  
[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2019 13:00  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
**Subject:** Re: Expenses for 10th Dec event?

[redacted – 3 sentences ]

When Sue asked me to attend the Scottish National Standardised Assessment P1 Practitioner Forum at the University of Strathclyde on 10th Dec, I changed the flight details - for which I was charged an additional £40 by Flybe. I have the email showing this.

[redacted – 3 sentences]

On 10th December I paid the train fare over to Glasgow, and subsequently took the shuttle bus to the airport. I have the ticket for these journeys

Amounts as shown in the excel attached.

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 22 January 2019 12:36  
**To:** [sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk); Moss, Gemma  
**Subject:** RE: Expenses for 10th Dec event?

Hi [redacted] - I'm checking with our finance team how we best do this. Could you send me copies of your receipts/costs first please?

Many thanks,

[redacted]  
National Improvement Framework Unit  
Learning Directorate  
Area 2C North, Victoria Quay, Leith, EH6 6QQ  
Internal Ext:[redacted]  
External Ext: [redacted]

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Susan Ellis <[sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk](mailto:sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk)>  
**Sent:** 22 January 2019 10:43  
**To:** [redacted]>  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: Expenses for 10th Dec event?

Dear [redacted]

The expenses form needs to come from, and be returned to, [redacted]. I am copying her into this email.

The video consent form is attached. If you could return it to me, that would be great.

Best wishes,

Sue Ellis  
Professor of Education  
Floor 5, Lord Hope Building  
141 St James Road,  
Glasgow G4 0LT.  
0141 444 8045

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 20 January 2019 22:35  
**To:** Susan Ellis  
**Subject:** Expenses for 10th Dec event?

Hi, Sue

I don't think I've ever had an expenses form for claiming for the travel/ hotel for this event, Sue. And in looking for the form see I probably never filled in the consent form

If you can point me in the right direction I can get this sorted - finally surfacing from phonics madness

Best, [redacted]

**DOCUMENT 54 Email exchange between Education Scotland and Scottish Government about a presenter for 4<sup>th</sup> February meeting.**

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 16:49  
**To:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi

Could the DHT and HT of [redacted]Primary please be included in the emailing list for the forum to ensure they get details of the venue, agenda etc.?

Their addresses are:

DHT:  
[redacted]

HT:  
[redacted]

Many thanks

[redacted]

**From:** Leng D (David) <David.Leng@gov.scot>  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 16:05  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** Susan Ellis <sue.ellis@strath.ac.uk>; [redacted]  
**Subject:** RE: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Great – ideal!

It would be a 15 minute presentation covering the classroom management strategies used to support P1 assessments. Interested on the pupils experience! Also happy for them to share how they have used the outputs/data

Is that enough to go on?

David

**David Leng**  
**Professional Adviser Improvement**  
**Product Owner**  
**Scottish National Standardised Assessment**

Learning Directorate  
Scottish Government  
2-C North \ Victoria Quay \ EDINBURGH \ EH6 6QQ

Telephone: 0131 244 0891  
Mobile: [redacted]  
e-mail: [David.leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.leng@gov.scot)

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 14:31  
**To:** Leng D (David) <[David.Leng@gov.scot](mailto:David.Leng@gov.scot)>  
**Subject:** FW: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

Hi David – result! Are you happy with the DHT presenting instead of the HT?

[redacted]

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 24 January 2019 14:17  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Cc:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Re: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

**DATA LABEL: OFFICIAL**  
Good afternoon [redacted]

Thank you for contacting me - please accept my apologies in responding late to you. Unfortunately, I am unable to attend this date, however our Depute HT [redacted] is available and would be willing to participate. [redacted] was fully involved in the implementation of SNSA last session and can present as requested. I have shared your letter request with [redacted] too. Please let me know if this acceptable and if you require to discuss please call me. Thanks.

Kind regards

[Redacted]

**[redacted]**  
West Lothian Council  
Education Services  
Headteacher  
[redacted]Primary School

[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]  
[redacted]

**West Lothian Council - Data Labels:**

**OFFICIAL - Sensitive: Contains Personal or Business Sensitive Information for authorised personnel only**

**OFFICIAL: Contains information for council staff only**

**PUBLIC: All information has been approved for public disclosure**

**NON-COUNCIL BUSINESS: Contains no business related or sensitive information**

**Link to Information Handling**

**Procedure: <http://intranet.westlothian.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=1597&p=0>**

---

**From:** [redacted] Primary School (Office)  
**Sent:** 23 January 2019 11:55  
**To:** [redacted]  
**Subject:** Fw: SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

---

**From:** [redacted]  
**Sent:** 16 January 2019 17:15  
**To:** [redacted] Primary School (Office)  
**Subject:** SNSA P1 Practitioner Forum

FAO: Headteacher – [redacted]

Dear [redacted]

As one of the schools that contributed to the creation of the SNSA P1 case studies that are now available on the Education Scotland National Improvement Hub, I am contacting you to ask if you would be willing to talk about the experience of implementing the assessments at a forthcoming meeting of the P1 Practitioner Forum on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February.

The main function of the P1 Practitioner Forum is to share experiences and offer advice and support to teachers, schools, local authorities, Scottish Government and Education Scotland in early level curriculum planning and assessment, and the use of standardised assessments within the context of play-based learning. The forum discusses, evaluates and is informed by a range of evidence including the opinions of practitioners, parents, professional associations and other key stakeholders.

The third meeting of the forum (approximately 25 attendees) will focus on classroom management and we would therefore like you to present on how you managed the P1 SNSA last session in your particular context. The presentation would last approximately 15 minutes and would end with a discussion on the various approaches that can be adopted to ensure the efficient administration of the assessments to P1 children.

I would be happy to discuss this further with you should that be helpful and look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Best Wishes/Dùrachdan

[redacted]

[redacted] | Senior Education Officer | Education Scotland | Foghlam Alba

---

Tel: [redacted]

Mobile: [redacted]

Address: The Optima, 58 Robertson Street, Glasgow, G2 8DU

Web: [www.educationscotland.gov.uk](http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk)

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<http://www.scottisheducationawards.co.uk/categories-literacy.html>

- 4. Materials outlining the scope/remit of the forum, expected outcomes, reporting dates etc (NB I expect that this would be covered by one of the above requests as it would surely have been communicated at some point either in an email or as an attachment - if this is indeed the case no separate response to point 4 is required)**

As you have noted above the scope and remit of the Forum with expected outcomes and reporting dates are covered in documents already attached to this response. All the information has been published on the Scottish National Standardised Assessment P1 Practitioner Forum webpage on the National Improvement Hub on Education Scotland's website which can be found by following this link:

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

**5. *Materials from meetings of the forum which have already taken place, including briefing papers and minutes (NB if minutes of such meetings do not exist I would expect to be made explicitly aware of this)***

Materials from meetings which have already taken place have been published on Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub website. You can access the information at the following link :

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>

**6. *Details of any future meetings which are planned***

Dates of meeting held and future meetings planned have been published on Education Scotland's National Improvement Hub website.

<https://education.gov.scot/improvement/practice-exemplars/snsa-p1-practitioner-forum>