



Information Pack

National Endorsement Panel Members

Our vision for professional learning

We want all practitioners to have access to quality professional learning to enable them to deliver high standards and aspirations for all.

Our vision is that professional learning should:

- benefit and meet the needs of learners.
- support the development of the workforce within the context of schools as learning organisations.
- be a continuous and coherent experience over time.
- be collaborative.
- be evaluative in nature and involve reflection and enquiry into pedagogy.
- be enabled by leadership in learning organisations with the support of local, regional, national and international learning communities.

The following support our journey to realising our vision for professional learning.

- [Schools as learning organisations](#)
- [Professional standards and professional development review](#)
- [Creating time and space for professional learning](#)
- [The National Professional Learning Entitlement](#)
- [Access to professional learning via our professional learning repository](#)
- [Professional learning endorsement](#)

Developing a new quality assurance model for Wales

The [National Professional Learning Entitlement \(NPLE\)](#) sets out the entitlement to professional learning for all practitioners, but it does not ensure that the professional learning provision that they have access to is of a consistent high quality. We have therefore introduced a [professional learning quality assurance process](#) in Wales that is aligned to the [National approach to professional learning](#) (NAPL) as well as the NPLE.

This approach ensures that professional learning provision that has passed through the Welsh Government's quality assurance processes is high quality and meets the professional learning needs of practitioners in Wales.

The National Endorsement Panel

The National Endorsement Panel, chaired by Professor Ken Jones, was established in [December 2023](#).

The core Endorsement Panel includes school leaders and practitioners as well as representation from:

- The Education Workforce Council (EWC)
- Regional education consortia
- The National Academy for Educational Leadership
- HEIs

To ensure breadth and depth in experience and practice, a wider endorsement group has been appointed to provide the core Panel and the Chair with specific expertise when this is needed.

The Panel is responsible for setting and refining the [endorsement criteria](#) and quality assuring professional learning provision submitted for endorsement against these criteria. The key roles and responsibilities of the Panel Chair are set out in [Annex B](#) and the roles and responsibilities of the Panel are set out in [Annex C](#). Practical information for Panel members can be found at [Annex D](#).

Endorsement Panel Timeline to date (Jan – Oct 2024)

January: Panel meetings focused on developing the processes and criteria for quality assuring professional learning provision.

February: The Panel reviewed and signed off the endorsement criteria.

March: The pilot call for professional learning endorsement opened. This first call focused on the national elements of the newly qualified **teacher** (NQT) induction programme.

New pages on Hwb were developed and published to support the pilot launch. Information on [how to apply](#) for endorsement as well as the application form and endorsement criteria were included on the Hwb pages.

May: Closing date for the pilot application.

June: The first endorsement application was assessed by members of the Core National Endorsement Panel. Following the sift and interview stages, the provider was informed that the [programme](#) had received endorsed status.

July: The pilot round was evaluated by an independent practitioner panel who shared their findings at the Endorsement Panel meeting in July.

September: The Endorsement Panel met to reflect on the pilot evaluation and agreed minor updates/changes to the endorsement criteria/process required in advance of the next pilot endorsement round.

Due to changes to the panel membership, it was agreed that new Welsh-medium members should be appointed to the Core Panel to enable the endorsement process to be administered bilingually.

October: It was agreed that the second pilot call for professional learning endorsement will open in the spring term. This will provide an opportunity to launch a comprehensive pilot approach, aligned to the Cabinet Secretary's education priorities.

We propose a combined pilot, providing opportunities for a targeted call for endorsement, based on three programmes identified by the panel, together with a wider call, to gather robust feedback from a range of providers.

Annex A - National Endorsement Panel Membership

Name	Sector	Region/Local authority	Role	Organisation	Welsh speaker	Month/Year appointed
Professor Ken Jones	Consultant	Pan Wales	Chair	Self employed		Sept, 2023
Bethan Holliday-Stacey	Middle tier	Pan Wales	Core Panel Member	EWC		Oct, 2023
Mark Isherwood	Middle tier	Pan Wales	Core Panel Member	National Academy for Educational Leadership		Oct, 2023
Bethan Jones	Special	MWP - Powys	Core Panel Member	Ysgol Cedewain		Nov, 2023
Catherine Hart	Primary	MWP - Powys	Core Panel Member	Ffederasiwn Dwy Afon		Nov, 2023
Ceri Richmond	Secondary	Partneriaeth	Core Panel Member	Dŵr y Felin Comprehensive School		Nov, 2023
Frances Jordan	Primary	EAS	Core Panel Member	The Federation of Blenheim Road Community & Coed Eva Primary Schools		Nov, 2023
James Kent	Middle tier	EAS	Core Panel Member	Education consortia		Nov, 2023
Sarah Stewart	Middle tier	Pan Wales	Core Panel Member	The Open University in Wales	Y	Dec, 2023
Siân Evans	Secondary	MWP - Ceredigion	Core Panel Member	Ysgol Uwchradd Aberteifi	Y	Nov, 2023
Angella Cooze	HEI	MWP	Wider Panel Member	Swansea University		Dec, 2023
Jendy Hillier	N/A	Pan Wales	Wider Panel Member	N/A		Jan, 2024
Jo Farag	HEI	CSC	Wider Panel Member	Cardiff Met		Dec, 2023
Penny Ellwood	School	GwE	Wider Panel Member	The Maelor School		Nov, 2023
Siân Smith	School	EAS	Wider Panel Member	Education Consultant		Nov, 2023
Sue Pellew-James	Middle tier	Pan Wales	Core Panel Member	UWTSD	Y	Nov, 2024
Tomi Rowlands	Middle tier	GwE	Core Panel Member	Education consortia	Y	Nov, 2024
Aled Rumble	Middle tier	Ceredigion County Council	Core Panel Member	Ceredigion County Council	Y	Nov, 2024

Annex B - National Endorsement Chair roles and responsibilities

- Lead the development of the National Endorsement Panel ensuring that all processes and decisions that are made by the panel are robust, accountable and compliant.
- Work in collaboration with the Welsh Government to set up all endorsement processes and ensure that the model created fully meets the Minister for Education and Welsh Language's expectations.
- Lead on the appointment of the wider, specialist panel to ensure depth and breadth of experience is in place to complement the expertise of the core panel.
- Provide expert advice on professional learning provision to ensure that practitioners and school leaders can confidently access a wide range of professional learning that has been quality assured at a national level.
- Approve the endorsement criteria that is set by the core panel to ensure that only professional learning that is of the highest standard receives endorsement.
- Where providers are unsuccessful in gaining endorsement, provide feedback and advice to enable them to reapply for future endorsement if they choose to.
- Ensure propriety, regularity and independence at all times and identify immediately if any conflicts of interest emerge.
- Work collaboratively with National Academy for Educational Leadership (NAEL) colleagues to ensure that the endorsement processes for leaders and for practitioners are complementary and of a comparable high quality.
- Have a leading contribution to the wider discussions within Welsh Government on the strategic direction of professional learning policy and ensure that all professional learning provision that is endorsed contributes to the long-term vision for professional learning in Wales.

Annex C - National Endorsement panel members roles and responsibilities

- Provide expert advice on professional learning provision to ensure that practitioners and school leaders can confidently access a wide range of professional learning that has been quality assured at a national level.
- Work in collaboration with the Endorsement Panel Chair to review and refine endorsement criteria as appropriate to ensure that only professional learning that is of the highest standard receives endorsement.
- Participate in a minimum of one Panel meeting per term. This will include independent scoring of the submitted provision against the agreed criteria plus an interview with the professional learning provider(s).
- Where providers are unsuccessful in gaining endorsement, contribute to the feedback that will be provided to them by the Chair to enable them to reapply for future endorsement if they choose to.
- Ensure propriety, regularity and independence at all times and identify immediately if any conflicts of interest arise.
- Actively contribute to wider discussions with the Welsh Government on the strategic direction of professional learning policy and ensure that all professional learning provision that is endorsed contributes to the long-term vision for professional learning in Wales.
- Contribute to ongoing quality assurance of professional learning provision following endorsement to ensure adherence to the endorsement criteria.
- Identify gaps in professional learning provision and where there is evidence of a new or emerging professional learning need that should be addressed.
- Work in collaboration with the Chair to identify where additional expertise is needed as part of the wider Panel, set the criteria for these additional Panel members and participate in the recruitment process.

Annex D – Practical information for panel members

Key contacts - Welsh Government

Name	Email	Title
Claire Thomas	Claire.Thomas@gov.wales	Head of Professional Learning Branch
Lisa Clarke	Lisa.Clarke@gov.wales	Professional Learning Programme Lead
Carla Owen	Carla.Owen006@gov.wales	Professional Learning Manager
Sally Llewellyn	Sally.Llewellyn001@gov.wales	Professional Learning Advisor (secondee)
Kevin Welch	Kevin.Welch@gov.wales	Team Support

Key documents

There is a [National Endorsement Teams area](#) which includes meeting documentation including agendas, notes/actions and powerpoint slides. It also includes useful documents such as the scoring methodology for endorsement, sift templates, and background information.