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Sept 2025

Learning Reps News

**PRD and Health & Well-Being Success!**

We continue to focus on health and well-being and are really pleased to announce some tangible progress. Before the summer break Alison Murphy and Tom Britton led an EIS delegation to a meeting with our employers where our presentation on staff well-being was very well received. Jackie Reid has agreed that the staff wellbeing steering group should now take on the role of helping to develop practical steps so that we can embed staff wellbeing as a full part of PRD in Edinburgh. We see this as an important development and give credit to the leadership team at CEC for their receptiveness in this matter.

To capitalise on this we continue to encourage you all to think how possible it is to achieve elements of health and well-being related PL in your own PRD plans (and to share good practice were possible). As always we must seek to reflect upon the GTCS Standards as part of the PRD process. In this, it is clear that ‘*Promoting health and wellbeing of self, colleagues and the children and young people in my care’* is required(1.1 Professional Values, Social Justice, The Standard for Career Long professional Learning, GTC Scotland).

To support you in this, at past PRD / PU information events we have provided participants with an example of how to include health and well-being PL in your PRD and a worked up example, including an example of how to write up CEC’s Professional Learning Profile is available to view on the Local Association website page. See Learning Reps area – link included here: [Learning Reps | EIS](https://www.eis.org.uk/edinburgh/learningreps)



Barriers to Professional Learning

We hope you have all returned to work feeling refreshed from your summer break and ready to face the challenges of the new session. For those who remain in their current role to those that have changed things up or down the constant is the need to reflect and improve. This is often the time of year when we have a little extra energy to think hard about how to bring our PRD plans to life. As teachers it’s imperative that we plan and organise and diarise key events to prevent clashes with CAT’s and framework days and school events, and personal commitments. So…

Where do we start?

For those of us who are long enough in the tooth there used to be a book of wisdom that contained in one hard copy place almost every professional learning opportunity provided by CEC. It was called the CPD Directory. If you are newer to the profession, just imagine being able to search thematically for opportunities of interest. And this might sound even crazier, any teacher was even able to offer a learning opportunity for their city colleagues and have it included in the Directory.

Fast forward to the digital age of improvement. And it all appears a whole lot more confusing. Do I logon to myLearningHub (if I can remember my username which of course is different to my normal username), or do I try to retrieve from my inbox a month old EdinburghLearns email because I remember there was something really interesting that I wanted to check out, or hang on, was it actually in the email from EdinburghLearnsDigital?

A while ago we raised the issue of access to PL opportunities with CEC and aside from the following questions we discussed how the current fragmented approach is so confusing and disorientating for colleagues.

1. Do colleagues know what is on offer?
2. Do colleagues know how to access CEC’s PL offer?
3. Can colleagues undertake PL at a time and place of their choosing?
4. Does the PL offer provide quality learning (Yes, in our opinion)

We lamented the demise of the old ‘one stop shop’ approach to accessing PL opportunities and asked whether something like it in the form of an App or website could be possible? Currently there appears to be very little move towards this so we would very much like to hear about your experience with a view to revisiting this again with our employer.

Support for Probationers and Mentors

You are now no doubt aware that the GTCS has/is in the process of launching an updated platform for Probationer Profiles? Due to the lack of clarity, training and expectations this is causing ongoing confusion and anxiety for both probationers and mentors alike. Aside from the survey that you might have recently contributed to we are currently engaging with CEC’s Probation Manager to ascertain the answers to some key questions:

1. Have mentors been given full training for their role?
2. Have mentors been given training on how to use the new GTCS Profile?
3. Are mentors getting their full time allocated for their role?
4. Are probationers always being released for what looks like a very comprehensive probationer programme?

Ultimately we all want to work towards improvements in the way in which probationers and mentors are being supported so please get in touch with any concerns and views that you might have (Martyn is leading on this).



**Your Learning Reps**

Martyn and I are your Learning Reps. In our role as Learning Reps we seek to support and promote the learning aspirations of you the members. We met recently to discuss and plan for areas of learning that we would like to focus on in the coming year, but are there any areas of personal professional interest that you would like to develop? We are always keen to support members and offer advice where we can. Please do not hesitate to get in touch and we will always try to get back to you as soon as possible. Hopefully we will get the chance to meet and engage with some of you in the near future.

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**EIS Professional** **Learning**

Don’t forget to check out the opportunities offered by the EIS HQ and our partners. [Courses we offer](https://www.eis.org.uk/Meetings-And-Events/Courses)

Opportunities are regularly updated, so please take some time to browse the range of current and upcoming learning, organised under topic headings. If you have further ideas, please contact our Professional Learning Coordinators:

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