

Programme Development Session (PDS)

Guidance note - 2020/21 Academic Year



The Programme Development Session (PDS) is a core feature of the YPI Scotland support structure, providing an opportunity to critically reflect upon programme delivery and subsequent planning. Typically, a PDS takes one period and is to be delivered in advance of your programme launch. We will work with you to explore the best time, fit and structure pending your delivery model and timeline. Delivery of this session is reflective of The Wood Foundation's commitment to school partnership working and the continuous development of YPI. We appreciate your active participating in this session.

We recognise that the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic will be far-reaching and, likely, long-lasting, and have produced an [Adaption Paper](#) which outlines our commitment to work with and alongside schools during a challenging year. We recognise that our approach to programme planning, and potentially delivery, may require us to draw upon remote / digital communications over the months ahead. Over the past 18 months, we have tested the way YPI activity can be effectively supported from afar and look forward to mobilising this learning nationally as required.

Purpose of the PDS

- For the **YPI Lead, school senior management**, and core delivery team to meet with their YPI Regional Facilitator.
- The opportunity for evaluation and discussion focused on programme successes and challenges. The Regional Facilitator can draw upon examples of good practice and support the development of peer learning networks between schools.
- Protected space for reflection and to review the strategic place and fit of YPI.
- Planning discussions regards delivery timeline and date setting. This includes planning for the YPI launch ensuring it has maximum impact.
- Early planning discussions regarding the YPI Showcase, ensuring that it has a high level of esteem.
- The Regional Facilitator to provide an update on YPI delivery resources, and support discussions regarding partnership funding.
- Training and upskilling of new delivery staff, leads or members of SLT ensuring there is a robust understanding of the programme's key outcomes.

Attendance at the PDS

Senior leadership

The involvement of school senior leadership in this session is critical as;

- They have a strategic overview of how YPI can or does contribute to students' skills development, community partnerships and interdisciplinary learning opportunities, alongside other programmes and accreditation.
- It is acknowledged that support and buy-in from the senior leadership team is essential when it comes to realising ambition and supporting programme development.

New delivery staff, leads or SLT links

We would ask that all new delivery staff, leads and SLT links familiarise themselves with the programme in advance of the PDS session to allow plenty of time for robust conversations. The following documents will support this:

- [YPI Delivery Resource](#): guides all teachers through the delivery of an impactful, structured YPI programme. It contains clear learning intentions, success criteria, links to skills and example content plans.
- [Leading YPI in your school](#): provides step-by-step guidance in delivering the programme and aligning it to a number of key drivers for your school YPI lead.
- [YPI Strategic Resource](#): supports schools to fully realise the potential of the programme by clearly identifying where the programme aligns with the priorities that the Scottish curriculum is built upon.

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Areas for discussion at the PDS

In advance of the session we ask that you consider the following questions which have been designed to support reflection, planning and programme development.

Successes and challenges

- We recognise that the coming year will not be business as usual, therefore how can The Wood Foundation support you to deliver the most impactful YPI programme possible?
- What adaptations, if any, might the school be required to make to YPI this academic year? Considering launch structure, IT access, charity engagement and YPI showcase structure?
- What opportunities does the COVID Pandemic bring to the YPI process in your school?
- Both in the 2019/20 and previous academic years: What worked well? What were the key successes of the school's approach to delivering YPI? How can these be built on in the coming year?
- Over and above the impact of school closures and COVID-19, did the school experience any challenges which had an impact on programme success and delivery? How did/was the school working to overcome these?

New resources

- How can the newly developed Delivery resource, Student workbook, Leading YPI in your School, and Launch resource support effective delivery of YPI in 2020/21?
- How can you utilise the new [YPI website](#) to best effect?

Programme improvement and partnership funding

- How can you support students to deliver robust and creative presentations or products? Have you considered using external partners to support this aspect of the programme?
- **Schools in second/third year of delivery:** How are you preparing for school partnership funding?
Schools in year 4+ of delivery: What approach has been taken to school partnership funding? What impact has school partnership funding had on the development and delivery of YPI in your school?

Alignment with strategic priorities and school-wide activity

- Why is YPI embedded in your students' timetable? What do you think are the key learning experiences?
- How does YPI align with your skills pipeline and wider educational priorities?
- Does YPI align with/complement any existing and new curricular activity?

Professional Learning

- What were your professional development goals and/or programme aims? Did you meet these?
- What are your goals for the year ahead? (*e.g. enhanced collaboration with internal colleagues/external partners, implementation of a programme evaluation framework, facilitating and empowering increased student-led learning*)

Planning and date setting

- What is your proposed timeline including estimated dates for your YPI Launch and Showcase?
- How can you get maximum impact from your school launch, given that this will not be facilitated by The Wood Foundation in the 2020/21 academic year?
- How can you deliver an outstanding YPI Showcase that has a high level of esteem within the school? What impact will COVID have on the structure of your final?
- What can The Wood Foundation do for you in terms of further support?

If you have any questions in advance of your PDS please don't hesitate to contact your Regional Facilitator, or by emailing the National Programme Coordinators at ypi@thewoodfoundation.org.uk.