Summary of Network Responses

What works well in your Network:

* Like-minded and supportive people
* Only opportunity for senior staff in EYto have peer conversations and support
* Pick up good ideas
* Discuss and explore issues that no-one else understands
* Honest, authentic sharing, helping each other
* Sub-group feedback helpful
* Supportive beyond meetings
* Representing the network at National meetings
* Keeping ahead of things
* #Place for innovation
* Potential in group to change policy eg Shared Inspection Framework
* National influence
* Reassurance that all facing same challenges
* If you miss something someone else in the group will always support you
* Vital support and discussion in safe environment
* Learning from others when in a small LA is really important
* Network has made EY a ‘village’ not just for networking but feels there is real purpose and outputs. Recognised and valued nationally
* Emphasise the supportive element of the network
* Really appreciate feeling connected to the group, the skill, expertise and knowledge of member
* Insight into background information – progress etc
* National messages
* Key speakers
* External lens
* Networking/ partnership/ collaboration opportunities
* Powerful body with a level if influence
* Network with others
* Protected time to think/ share/ discuss
* Sharing practice
* Hearing from other officers and influencing their thoughts eg. Scottish Government; SQA; Education Scottland
* Good scope to progress work
* Great to make connections
* PIN/CAQ crossover is helpful for linked themes
* Relationships
* Networking opportunities for colleagues across Scotland
* Sharing practice
* Scottish Government/ Education Scotland updates and opportunities to influence policy development
* Sharing good practice - case studies/ example
* Networking across other LAs
* Current thinking/ hot off the press updates
* Good to have mix of in-person / virtual meetings
* Collective expertise
* National context
* Sharing practice
* Enables a voice in policy development
* Sharing practice from other authorities
* Support from ADES network is valued
* EY Network – generally works well
* Opportunity to collaborate with colleagues nationally – value of looking inwards/ outwards
* Proactive – considered collective response to upcoming priorities
* Re-assurance – ‘everyone in together’
* Sharing best practice
* National messages, links with SG and ES
* Co-creation from start to help shape national policy (also data for development)
* Collaboration/ sharing practice
* Networking opportunities – especially important for authorities out-with central belt
* Awareness of bigger picture and sharing practice and learning across 32 LAs
* Regularity of meetings and some similar themes where appropriate but not repetition
* Good opportunities to feed into national initiatives/ guidance and influence these areas
* Networking hybrid (more engagement from rural LAs)
* Connections with SG/ ES
* Sharing practice
* Influence national practice (expertise)
* Translation of high level strategy to schools
* Sharing knowledge – links/ contracts/ shared resources
* Hybrid model – in-person and online meetings
* Good to get national updates – SG; ES; COSLA etc
* ADES should be a strong unified voice for system change and curriculum design
* Opportunity to collaborate around best practice
* Opportunity to seek advice from colleagues
* ADES have the potential to drive transformative change
* All commented on the importance of maintaining the network and have valued being able to meet again in person.  They appreciate the increased number of network meetings from 4 to 6 this year.  2 being in person.
* Great source of support for members.  Members feel that they are well informed on the work of the Exec and their views are taken into account.
* Relationships and sharing of practice from authorities across the country welcomed by members.
* Balance between in person and online meetings a strength.
* Opportunities for members to hear from Scottish Government, COSLA and Education Scotland are appreciated by group members.

Anything you would Change about the specific Network:

* Very little at ADES Conference on Eys
* We often feel like the poor relation
* How do others know the worth of our network
* EY separated too much from rest of education system especially in policy terms
* Network had a loud voice to Sg during 1140 hours, is that still there?
* Not enough EY influence on policy issues
* Concerns regarding the SSSC changes going forward
* As an action, we agreed that we would liaise with the Personnel chairs and share our agendas and if there is a crossover we can join the groups, or the chairs can attend either meeting to update.
* Further work around curriculum - specifically CAQ focus
* Where do current 4 networks link? Opportunities for this?
* Identification of key areas ADES can support with
* Directory of members – who does what eg. profile of members that others can contact for more information
* Sub-groups to focus on key areas eg. SQA
* Professional learning opportunities
* Briefing from ADES on issues - similar to Government update
* We are repeating the same pieces of work around the real challenges
* Overlap with agenda context
* Diminishing central teams make it difficult to attend/ commit
* Some members across different groups
* Broad topics in alignment with reform policies/ guidance/ partners? eg. DYW; SDS;SQA; Withers; Muir; OECD etc.
* Current groups are broad and overlap.. It would be helpful if they were more explicit as to what areas were covered under each group eg. curriculum could be a wide range of areas??
* Face-to-face – zoom for updates rather than discussion time
* Regular opportunities to discuss key developments/ national updates
* Consider if sub-groups are needed to ensure that range of priorities are appropriately addressed
* Duplication/ cross-over between CAQ/ PIN
* Input to national policy – greater evidence that the networks are being listened to and views taken into consideration
* Being mindful of cross-over themes although we are aware this is not totally possible as all aspects of the system are inter-linked in some way
* How you get the balance of meetings (F2F and Teams) whilst still giving opportunity to build relationships with colleagues
* L/TA missing
* Personnel/ Resources duplication
* CAQ/ PIN crossover
* Better mapping of all networks with a view to understanding crossover
* Amalgamate PIN/ CAQ networks
* Moved day/ time od planned meetings ie. not always a Friday morning at 10am!
* How can you get an invite to the ADES collaborative process?
* Better collaboration with wider stakeholder involvement (university, college, business)
* How does this group inform the ADES Executive priorities? How does the Executive report back to networks?
* Joined up
* How does the Executive take forward conclusion of working?
* We already have sub-groups through RICs – how will this resource gap be filled?
* Ways of moving from policy to progress
* in- person meeting at least once a session would be useful
* Many find the Teams site helpful
* Members of ASN don't like the name of the network as not encompassing enough
* Need to look at developing systems to share information electronically more effectively.  We have a Microsoft Teams site set up by Staff College but it isn't the easiest to access or receive updates from.  Members are keen to develop this and increasingly share resources etc.

Comments Wider than this Network:

* CAQ – L and T missing
* HGIOEA has a focus on outcomes for C and YP, EY needs to be included
* Linking across networks is important, particularly EY and Resources for us
* A general discussion re holding a minimum of one ADES Resources network in person to help build the network, the relationships and such, Friday was viewed as being very positive from those in attendance.   Similar to the PIN and CAC we would likely propose this is not a hybrid meeting to encourage attendance.
* Sub-groups could be helpful – clear purpose for these
* Short life working groups – on specific areas – share then with wider group – more specific focus eg. ASN
* Understanding of function of all networks
* More influence over agendas for networks meetings
* Like model with online and in-person meetings
* Online events
* Flexibility to access agendas depending on local authority priorities
* Some natural overlap between CAQ/ PIN – is there an opportunity to streamline in alignment with direction of national reform agenda?
* Create new groups aligned to the NIF drivers which can then feed into ADES
* Officers/ managers given opportunities to get together to discuss eg. curriculum development – those leading developments get together
* Opportunities for quads to work together
* Opportunity for ADES to work with LAs on particular aspects for improvement
* Merging networks/ agendas
* Continue with hybrid approach
* Ensuring that workshops take place at the face to face meetings and ensure that workshop/ discussion tasks are consistently meaningful
* ‘How Good is our Local Authority’ will present further opportunities for collaboration
* Possible option to create short-life groups based on context and need
* Focus on LT&A? Experiences?
* Reactive to priorities
* Development of sub-groups
* Project focussed – 3 year IP for ADES
* More outcome/ output focussed
* Yes to potential sub-groups!
* Share resources from all ADES Networks – presentations etc
* Working groups
* Professional learning (leadership, learning, teaching, assessment)
* AI – work-based learning, FAs and partnerships
* National resource allocation – curriculum design and education reform
* DYW, Career Ready, MCR
* Look at developing opportunities for sub group activity or themed events/meetings to consider specific challenges or work underway across authorities.  The theme of continued sharing of approaches, resources and expertise came up time and time again.  One specific example was in relation to the work underway in each area to service the demands placed on us by the ASN Tribunal.
* Explore developing greater links with other networks.  For example, the PIN Network is working on attendance whilst the ASN Network members are likely to be the leads for attendance in their LAs or certainly the officers responsible for supporting non-attenders.
* Members were keen to see learning and teaching have a more prominent role in a network although recognise that there is likely to be overlaps with the work of other networks.
* Explore ways to improve online systems i.e. Microsoft Teams in sharing information.