SERA Leadership in Scottish Education Network (SERA LiSEN) Report Nov 2017

SERA LiSEN has continued to have another successful year and to grow and now has around 120 members drawn from academia, the policy community and practitioners. At the SERA Conference 2016, the network held a roundtable discussion which focussed upon the question: ‘Can schools ‘go it alone’ in ‘closing the gap’? What does the research tell us?’ After the presentation of a short starting paper by Dr Joan Mowat, questioning some of the assumptions which underlie the Scottish Government’s Attainment Challenge, Dr Geetha Marcus and Prof Margery McMahon also spoke to the issue before opening out to discussion. We also held two very successful events over the course of the year – ‘ A conversation with Emeritus Professor John MacBeath (facilitated by Emeritus Professor, Jim O’Brien); and a presentation by Professor Graham Donaldson entitled ‘Tomorrow’s Teachers and Leaders’. The latter was recorded and is hosted on the [SERA website](http://www.sera.ac.uk/networks/leadership/).

At the forthcoming SERA Conference at the University of the West, Ayr Campus, SERA LiSEN is offering two sessions. The first session is a workshop focusing upon ‘Into Headship’ at which former students on the programme will present their work through the lens of research, framed around the aims, context, methods of gathering and analyzing data, the interim outcomes to emerge from their work and how they would continue to measure impact. The second is a symposium, one paper of which focuses upon distributed leadership from the perspective of teachers (other than the headteacher); the second on ‘leadership at all levels’; and the third on addressing the attainment gap in Scottish education through an interrogation of the relationship between poverty, attainment, Additional Support Needs and children’s sense of wellbeing, and the implications arising from such for leadership. Finally, there will be a network meeting at which we will focus upon the following question:

How can SERA LiSEN build a research base which can serve both to critique Scottish policy in relation to the following policy imperatives but also to inform the direction of policy?

* The Scottish Attainment Challenge
* The Governance Review.

We are moving forward with strength and our first planned event for the forthcoming session will be a presentation by Dr Geetha Marcus on her work for the Scottish parliament which is captured within the SPICe Briefing, ‘Closing the Attainment Gap: What can schools do?’ which we hope will be hosted at the University of Edinburgh.

SERA LiSEN Co-Convenors: Dr Joan Mowat, University of Strathclyde and Professor Margery McMahon, University of Glasgow.