

Our current projects – updated 18 March 2025



Collaboration is at the heart of what we do. Much of our input and time as SAPOE committee members and officers goes into participating in projects and working groups, collaborating across the outdoor education sector to develop policy, guidance and resources. Through our involvement, we help drive and promote high quality and good practice in outdoor learning. In 2025, we are participating in:

Scottish Outdoor Learning Strategic Working Group (SOLSWG)

As part of this Scottish Government ministerial group, we're working alongside civil servants, the Association of Heads of Outdoor Education Centres (AHOEC), Education Scotland and other partners to provide a written briefing on outdoor learning for Government ministers by August 2025.

There are 6 project groups in total:

Project 1: What does "success" look like?

Project 2: Learning from the Early Years Sector

Project 3: Learning from International Examples

Project 4: Resourcing Effective Provision

Project 5: Role of Data

Project 6: Professional Learning & Leadership

SAPOE are currently involved with Projects 1 and 5. We will also be seeking the opportunity to contribute to the other projects.

Contacts: [Neil Wightwick](#) & [Ali Dreyer](#)

Residential Outdoor Education High Quality document

Working alongside AHOEC, Education Scotland and other partners, we're contributing to the creation of a framework and supporting resources which will effectively communicate what learners, educators and providers can expect from residential experiences. The document is on schedule with the first draft writing stage being completed now and the next in-person review planned for June 2025.

Contacts: [Andrew Bradshaw](#) & [Ali Dreyer](#)

Residential OE Instructors Training Resource

Together with AHOEC and Education Scotland, we are producing a training resource similar to the Supporting Learning Outdoors (SLO) and Teaching Learning Outdoors (TLO) courses, but specifically aimed at instructors and support staff at residential outdoor centres. SAPOE is leading this work alongside AHOEC and Education Scotland. Ruardhri Murphy, from Glasgow City Council, has written a draft of this resource which has been circulated to the project group for comments. Work is now being done on the presentation and resources sections. The target date for the resource to be available is March 2025. A draft of this resource has been circulated to the project group for comments, with the view to launch in March 2025.

Contact: [Neil Wightwick](#)

Curriculum Improvement Cycle

This short-term working group is collating a response to Education Scotland's Curriculum Improvement Cycle to ensure that outdoor learning is fully considered. Toward the end of January 2025, the group attended a productive online meeting with Education Scotland Strategic Director Ollie Bray, exploring how SAPOE can best influence and promote outdoor learning during the current review. The working group is now focussed on writing a guidance document to share our vision and priority areas for outdoor learning. This will be shared with local authorities to help inform their decision makers but will also be used to share information when engaging with other strategic groups such as SOLSWG.

Contact: [Liz Brookes](#) & [Willie White](#)