Northern Alliance: Collaboration for Improvement

The Northern Alliance aims to improve the outcomes for children and young people. Through the working partnerships within and across local authorities and within and across health boards, effective collaboration is core to the improvements across the Northern Alliance.

As part of the Raising Attainment in Literacy, Language and Communication workstream, face to face collaboration is promoted through Northern Alliance events and local authority networks. To enhance the ongoing collaboration to improve outcomes for children and young people, the Northern Alliance also uses digital collaboration through the use of Yammer.

Yammer

Yammer is a platform which promotes collaboration, building connections between people. The Yammer education network within Scotland is accessed through **Glow**. There is also a Yammer app which can be downloaded for smartphones and tablets. The Raising Attainment in Literacy, Language and Communication workstream aim to use Yammer across the Northern Alliance to:

- strengthen the collaboration between practitioners
- share resources
- share impact on practice and outcomes for children
- discuss queries and questions.

Section 1: Accessing the Northern Alliance: Raising Attainment in Literacy, Language and Communication Yammer group via Glow:
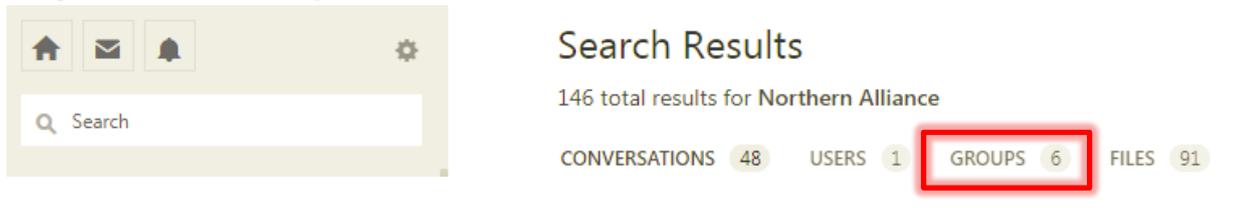
Step 1: Login to Glow and select the *'Yammer'* application from the launch page (you can also download the Yammer application to a mobile or table and access via your Glow login details):
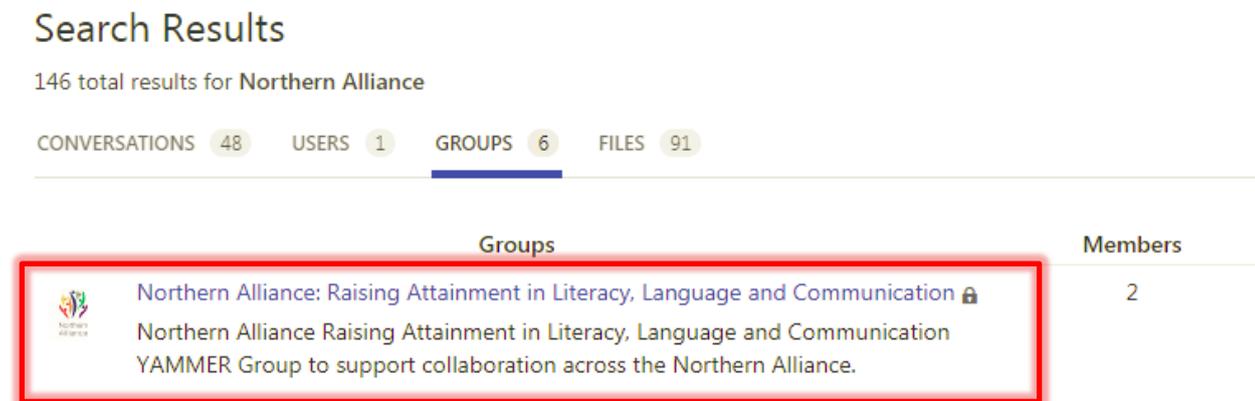
Step 2: Type *'Northern Alliance'* into the search bar at the top and press the return key
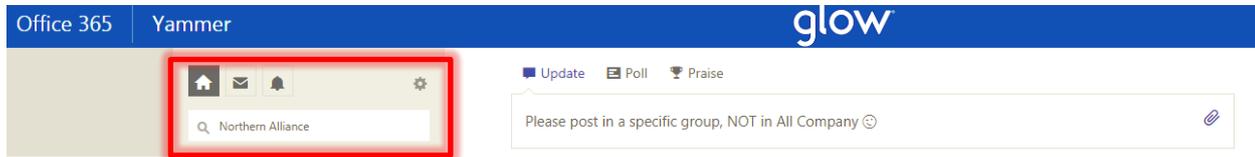
Step 3: Select 'Groups' from the Search Results

Step 4: Select *'Northern Alliance: Raising Attainment in Literacy, Language and Communication'* from the list of groups


Step 5: The first time you access the group you will need to click *'Join Group'*. Your request will be emailed to an administrator who will accept your request.

Section 2: Contributing to the Northern Alliance: Raising Attainment in Literacy, Language and Communication Yammer group via Glow:

To access the group, follow Steps 1 – 4 in Section 1. This will bring you to the homepage of the group:
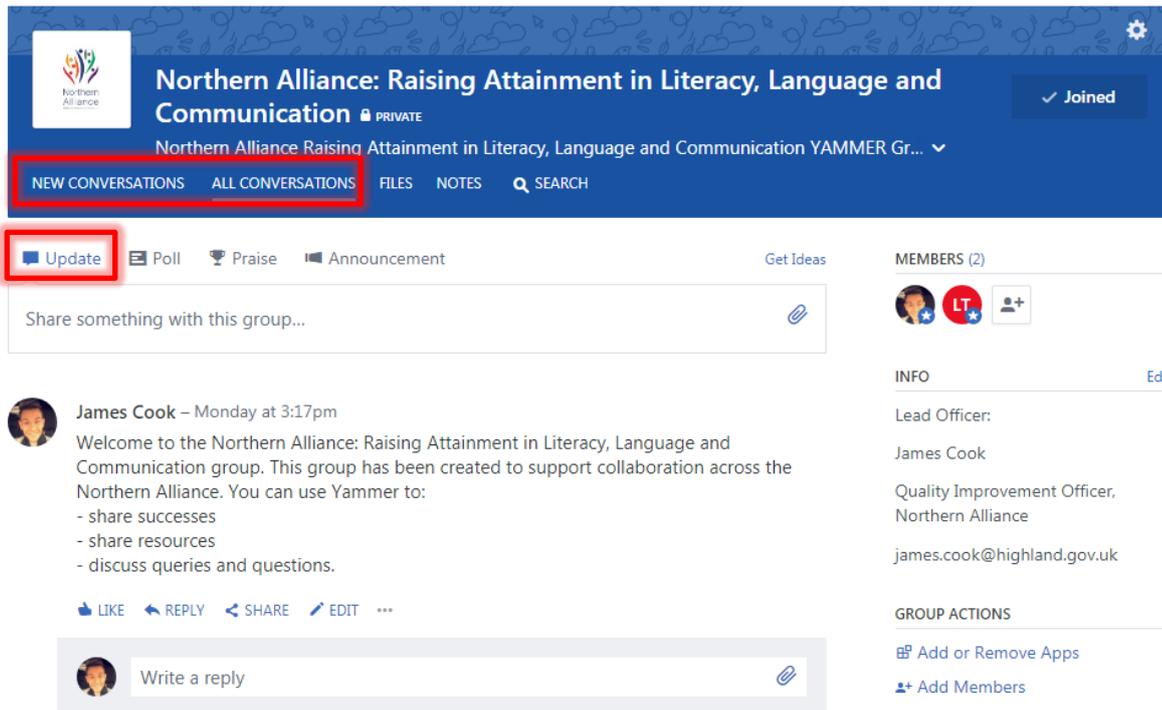

Sections:

- ❖ **New Conversations** – allows you to see the new conversations which have taken place since you've last logged on
- ❖ **All Conversations** – allows you to see all of the conversations within the group

The *'Update'* area is the place where you can create a new post or comment on the post that someone else has created. This is area has been designed to allow for threads of collaboration between people. You can share pictures and attach documents.

DISCLAIMER: Anything you share in this group should be content which you would be happy to share in a public forum, e.g. photographs with relevant permissions which have been shared on a school website or social media account; resources which are copyright free. No information about individual pupils should be shared on this group. No pupil level data, unless completely anonymised, should be shared on this group.

Section 3: Northern Alliance Emerging Literacy Contacts Database

To support the ongoing collaboration across the Northern Alliance, a database including the contact details for the practitioners who are part of the Emerging Literacy Networks has been added to the *'Pinned'* section on the right hand side of the group's homepage. This will take you to an editable Google Sheets document.
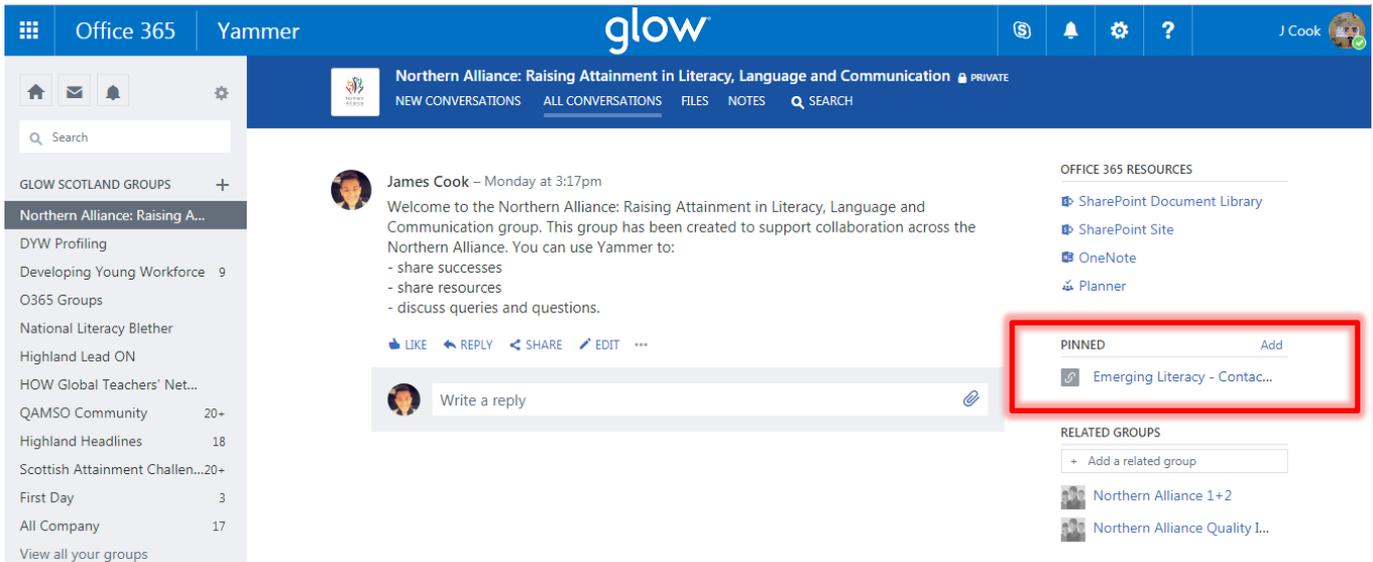
Each Local Authority has a tab with relevant information. This information has been added to allow you to communicate with other members of the Yammer group. Basic contact information has been added to the database. When first accessing you should:
- ❖ find your corresponding local authority tab at the bottom of the spreadsheet
- ❖ check if you are on the database and that your details are correct (if not, you can add your details to the bottom of your corresponding local authority)
- ❖ if you're a teacher, add the current class you teach, the number of children in your class and note whether you are English Medium or Gaelic Medium.

Once the database has been completed, as well as the contacts within your local authority, you will have access to an overview of the contacts from across the Northern Alliance, allowing you to identify others who have a specific demographic, e.g. teachers in Gaelic Medium or multi-composite classes of less than 15 pupils.