

LANGS Meeting, 28 October 2016, Victoria Quay, Edinburgh

Chair: Ann Robertson

Present and apologies: See attached list

Minutes: Caroline Gordon, Perth and Kinross

1. Apologies and welcome to new members

2. Minutes of previous meeting:

- a. Correct record, proposed and seconded
- b. No matters arising

3. Update from Chair, Ann Robertson

Ann announced her resignation from Edinburgh City Council but has agreed to stay on as Chair of LANGS until at least the next meeting.

Ann thanked the speakers and attendees and introduced new members.

4. Key national messages:

Susan Waugh for Scottish Government:

- BSL part of national plan as part of 1+2 (due to no national qualification, this would be as L3).
- Funding (on 29th June) decision taken to give 1 year funding outline and not 3 years as had previously been advised.

Louise Glen, Education Scotland

- Education Scotland website closes end Nov and re-opens as National Improvement Hub.
- Draft benchmarks due December.
- Post Brexit workshop in Language Show (London) highlighted language learning as being more important than ever.
- Development Officer Conference on 29 Nov – Education Scotland, UCMLS and SCILT joint conference, Atlantic Quay in Glasgow.

Fan Lin, CISS

- Formal confirmation of 12 new primary Confucius Classrooms has just been received from Hanban. The application process for final tranche of 9 is now underway and we hope to have them officially confirmed in the New Year.
- CISS has just published Self-evaluation for self-improvement in Confucius Classroom hubs in Scotland: putting quality improvement at the heart of what we do. Written by Fiona Pate,

HMI the document will help local authorities embed the work of the Confucius Classroom into the work of the school. Online version will be available.

Mandy Reeman-Clark, SCILT

- Another series of 5 Business Brunches will be offered to schools in Jan and Feb in partnership with UCMLS featuring talks and workshops led by a range of business leaders who value language skills in their workforce.
- Short Life Working Group on Languages and Inclusion has just met for the second time supported by Education Scotland, University of Glasgow and Lio Moscardini from the Strathclyde School of Education. SCILT is currently developing a “Languages for All” section of the website and will be populated by the work generated by this group. This work will be closely linked to GIRFEC (Getting it right for every child) and the National Improvement Framework.

Key diary dates and updates

Francisco Valdera-Gil, Glasgow University for UCMLS

- At the DO Conference on 29 November there will be a session from 10am – 11.30am by Professor Angela Scarino, architect of the Australian national languages strategy via Skype.

Lynsey Pilcher, British Council

- Erasmus+ updates – deadlines have been announced. 22 Feb, Keynote 1 due and 29 March Keynote 2 due. Two year applications are being encouraged, instead of one year.

Richard Tallaron, LFEE

- Dates from immersion courses available. 400 teachers have signed up to the online French course, Spanish will be available soon. A parent course will be available Feb/March 2017. New workshops now available with a literacy and numeracy focus.

Madeleine McGirk, SEET

- Euroquiz for primary by 18th Nov. Film project S3-S6 registration due Dec 2017.

European Parliament

- The European Parliament UK office provides a series of free one-day conferences on 'Teaching the European Union and Brexit with Confidence' throughout the UK. These politically neutral events are suitable for staff in schools and colleges in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland - and focusing on all stages in the 11-18 age range.
- 11th Nov 2017, Edinburgh and 2nd Dec 2017, Glasgow.
<http://www.europarl.org.uk/en/education/teacherevents.html>

AMOPA

- French speaking competition is going well. For more information:
<http://www.scilt.org.uk/Portals/24/Library/coala/2013november/AMOPA%20competition.pdf>

Veronica Mihai – European Commission

- For more information on EC's activities go to <https://ec.europa.eu/unitedkingdom/>

5. Keynote – Louise Glen, Education Scotland: Benchmarking

Findings from Delivery Plan include: the need to make CfE framework clearer and simpler, reduce number of documents and guidance, clearer guidance around progression.

- Timescale for Benchmarks

31st Oct – feedback from initial group

4th Nov – Completion of edits

9th Nov – consultation with professional organisation

21st Dec – publication for public consultation

March 2017 – final publication

- Aims of Benchmarks

Streamline existing assessment

Significant Aspects and progression frameworks will be part of Benchmarks – brought together for practitioners.

To support holistic judgements, questions given to support staff professional judgement

6. Feedback from breakout sessions:

Introduction of L3 – are we ready? Time to stop, reflect on where we are and next steps. Implications for secondary.

Discussion around progression from primary and into secondary and how to ensure consistent and high quality experience for learners.