

Information for LANGS meeting on Friday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June, 2017 at University of Dundee

## UCML Scotland Update

1. 1+2 Cross-Sector Collaborative Action Plan *Looking Back Moving Forward Towards 2020 and Beyond* available here: [http://bit.ly/UCMLS\\_ActionPlan2017](http://bit.ly/UCMLS_ActionPlan2017)  
For summary of actions see tables 1-4 in document

### Looking Back: Collaborative Actions to date

- **SCILT led:** Business Brunches, Mother Tongue Other Tongue poetry competition, Word Wizard spelling competition, Language Linking, Global Thinking. increase of number of events and regional outreach<sup>1</sup>
- National cross-sector conferences at the University of Strathclyde in May 2013, 2014, 2015
- **UCMLS led:** establishment of 4 regional hubs (Central, North, East, West) with cross-sector meetings held twice annually in September and January/February respectively
- Liaison with SCDE (Scottish Council of Deans of Education – previously Scottish Teacher Education Committee aka STEC) to enable cohesion within and between university departments
- A national event was held on 9 September 2016 at the University of Dundee, where we took stock of 1+2 from a cross-sector perspective.
- On 29 November 2016 we held a further national event at Atlantic Quay, in collaboration with Education Scotland. This time we invited Associate Professor Angela Scarino to talk to us on the different language curriculum frameworks arising in Australia.
- We also conducted two consultative online surveys for teachers in 2016 and 2017. Several people/ organisations have contributed brief ‘thought pieces’ which you find in the appendices.
- There are a number of individual HE institution led initiatives (see Appendices in Action Plan for further details).

**Our actions in support of Scotland’s 1+2 Language Policy have the overall aim to help change attitudes to language learning.**

---

<sup>1</sup> See [www.scilt.org.uk/beyondschool](http://www.scilt.org.uk/beyondschool)

## Moving Forward: Proposed Actions from 2017

Table 1: UCMLS-led actions September 2017-June 2018

### We intend to...

- **Continue to support on-going SCILT-led initiatives** (Business Brunches, Mother Tongue Other Tongue, Language Linking Global Thinking, Word Wizard) but also explore the feasibility of piloting or extending additional promotional initiatives.
- **Collaborate with SCILT and Bilingualism Matters to publicise via SCILT's online journal**, the Scottish Languages Review & Digest, abstracts of research studies examining links between L2 learning ('multilingualism') and L1 literacy
- **Continue our collaboration with SALT** through participation in TeachMeets where appropriate, and presentation at the SALT Annual Conference
- Plan another **video presentation in Nov-2017** from a noted academic in an Anglophone context
- Support OU/ SCILT in piloting and evaluating a new **national language training model for primary** teachers
- Forge closer links with **SCDE languages subgroup**. Some staff from languages education are already participating in UCMLS meetings but this could be built upon. We will help publicise the SCDE language research digital tool educational tool when it goes online and will use our contacts in SALT to get feedback on its usefulness.
- Ensure there is more cohesion within and between university departments (SCDE/UCMLS)
- Support Schools of Education in our universities in implementing the new **National Teacher Education Languages Framework** due to be published in October 2017 (SCDE)
- Explore new ways of increasing links with language teachers in schools, e.g. using new technologies
- Lobby for GTCS changes to primary ITE languages requirement
- Ask for thought pieces on 1+2 from other stakeholders (e.g. BSL, Gaelic, Polish...)
- **Forge closer links AHRC-funded Open World Research Initiative**, particularly the 'Multilingualism-Empowering Individuals Transforming Society' (MEITS) strand and the research project within that which will examine language policies in the devolved administrations (Scotland, Wales and NI)
- Forge links with the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (**ACTFL**) with the aim of learning from one another
- Explore the **feasibility of financing a prolonged media campaign in 2018-19** with regard to the relevance of language and intercultural skills (possibly via links with the Creative Multilingualism strand of OWRI)
- **Hold a national review of our Action Plan in March 2018**

Table 2: Proposed short term collaborative actions (2017-18)

<p><b>Other organisations/sectors involved alongside UCMLS as appropriate</b></p> <p><b>SALT, LANGS, SCDE, University Alumni Associations, LA and school staff, cultural organisations, LinC<sup>2</sup>, SIG Education, SIG Wider Engagement, DYW, SDS</b></p>	<p><b>Priorities of 1+2 SIG Education Plan</b></p> <p><b>Communication and engagement</b></p> <p><b>Collaboration</b></p> <p><b>Curriculum</b></p> <p><b>Professional Development</b></p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Put UCMLS and SCDE contact details and university initiatives on SCILT website for teachers to explore. PTs, network leaders, lead learners, QIOs, DOs can then share with all relevant school contacts so everyone can access and have this information – not just those who are able to attend hub meetings.</li> <li>• Explore ways of increasing interaction and collaboration with cultural organisations in all educational sectors.</li> <li>• Collaborate on closer links between Education and Language Departments and other related departments in Universities.</li> <li>• Explore the use of technology so that more schools can take part in current joint initiatives, e.g. use of video conferencing at Business Brunches.</li> <li>• Explore the feasibility of developing more joint initiatives for primary schools and expanding some initiatives to FE and HE 16-25 age category, e.g. MTOT and WW</li> <li>• Set up physical regional networks (e.g. hubs, strategic working groups, action planning cross-sector) and virtual networks (online portal to share info on research, events, use hashtag).</li> <li>• Widen pool of speakers who can go into schools and talk to pupils re: benefits of languages and career possibilities. Add to SCILT database</li> <li>• Provide support/training/guidance for university careers advisors and pastoral staff on the benefits of languages, cultural and transferable skills.</li> <li>• Lobby for greater clarity on what 1+2 actually wants to achieve in the long term for Scotland as this will guide implementation, especially in L3, e.g. progression, language benchmarks, bilingual learners, mobility, mind-set, economic gain? We want to see more research-informed guidance.</li> <li>• Lobby Scottish Government to make the links between languages and literacy clearer to all stakeholders, especially within schools.</li> </ul>	

---

<sup>2</sup> Languages into Colleges: a cross-sector initiative led jointly by SCILT and UCMLS to revitalise language provision in colleges

## 2. Immediate Action Point/ Update on community led events across Scotland

<b>Languages in Scotland's Communities - Lost and Found</b> <b>Saturday 18th November 2017</b> <b>Venues:</b> Community Centres/schools across Scotland small-scale workshops organized by and provided for local communities Examples: music (instrumental, singing); dancing; crafts; calligraphy; bring and taste food stall; information stall promoting benefits of language diversity and language learning).
<b>Aim and purpose</b> The multilingual, multicultural nature of communities is normally 'lost' and hidden from the public eye. The events aim to make those languages and their cultural expressions 'visible' to their communities and the wider public so that they can 'find' them again.
<b>Commitment by Local Organisers</b> Provide venue(s) and event(s) free of charge. Involve parents and community workers to provide workshop activities
<b>Co-ordination/information</b> will be provided centrally and publicity coverage will be organized centrally for maximum media coverage.
<b>Collaborators/Supporters to date:</b> SCILT, SALT, British Council, Bilingualism Matters, Open World Research projects, Prof Bernie O'Rourke (Multilingual Identities), SIG Education, several Local Authorities.

### Background

The *Being Human Festival* (17-25 November 2017) is an annual event led by the School of Advanced Study, University of London in partnership with the Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and the British Academy. Through our involvement with the MEITS (Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals Transforming Societies) research project (<http://www.meits.org/>) we are included in a (essentially non-monetary) bid to take part in the UK wide 'Being Human' festival. (Notification of acceptance will be confirmed by end of this month) <https://beinghumanfestival.org/>

Our intention is to use the publicity of the AHRC and British Academy branding (and UK wide communication channels) to highlight the wide range of languages used in our communities in Scotland, including those learnt at school. We are also intending to use leaflets currently prepared by Bilingualism Matters/SCILT to focus on benefits of language learning aimed at parents and wider community and a film about the benefit of multilingualism in the community prepared by the NSPK (New speakers network, led by Prof Bernie O'Rourke, Heriot Watt University) <http://www.nspk.org.uk>.

### Want to get involved?

**Contact:** Marion Spöring, Chair UCMLS, University of Dundee.

**Email:** [m.m.g.sporing@dundee.ac.uk](mailto:m.m.g.sporing@dundee.ac.uk) **Tel.** 01382 384894