

CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS & LOCAL AUTHORITIES GROUP (COALA)

Minutes of Meeting held on Friday 1st November, 10.00 – 15.00, Confucius Classroom, Lord Hope Building, Glasgow

1. Apologies

2. Minutes of previous meeting

- Approved by Mary Larkin and seconded by Fhiona Fisher.

3. Matters Arising

- Toria Fraser to respond to letter from Chair of COALA on agenda proper for discussion.
- Spelling Bee which was such a success last year to run again this session as Word Wizard, with final being held in Scottish Parliament, May 30th 2014.

4. Farewell to COALA members and introduce new members

- **Farewells**
 - Brian Templeton - TEI
 - Pam Semple – Scottish Government
 - Susan Belford – Highland
- **Introductions**
 - Fhiona Fisher – Acting Director of SCILT
 - Alice Lister – Maternity cover for Sarah Macfarlane (SCILT)
 - Louise Dunn – Development Officer, Renfrewshire
 - Jen Reid – Staff Tutor, Angus Council
 - Dianne Smith – Development Officer for 1+2, Moray
 - Anca Martin – British Council
 - Emma Sowerby – Development Officer 1 + 2, Borders

5. Government Update

- **Toria Fraser responded to letter from Chair**
 - Recognition that MLPS training is key to success of implementation with initiatives underway such as SCILT's Glow Meet community for 1 + 2 D.Os.
 - Education Scotland is producing EY guidelines and framework for P1 by December and P2 –P7 by June 2014.
 - ES has set up short life working group to create suitable contexts for learning.
 - A one-size fits all approach is not in keeping with CfE and LAs should consider sustainable training options with support from ES and SCILT.
 - It is a long term game so additional resourcing may be required.
 - It is up to LAs to decide how to spend the funding and train.
 - There is a concordat with COSLA.
 - Scottish Government is doing everything possible to assist with financial forward planning.
 - Acknowledgement that July 2013 was too late.
 - Aim to inform LAs of funding for 2014-2015 by Christmas with formal approval in February.
 - 1 + 2 Agenda has cross party support.
 - The same level of funding should be anticipated for the next 2 years.
 - LA strategies should address the advice to have a strong cluster approach.
 - LAs should provide leadership to schools.
 - Scottish Government funds British Council rather than central funding of FLAs.
 - It will remain LA decision whether to take on FLAs or not.
 - Compulsory Language qualification is not mandatory at present within GTCS recommendations.
 - MA and BA courses at TEIs allow the deep study of ML as a subject / specialism.
 - Scottish Government has a part to play in driving the policy forward and sharing with parents and pupils.

- Desire to teach more at greater depth across Scotland.
- CLPL long term opportunities can be supported by SCILT and Cultural Organisations.
- SIG met for a second time at beginning of October.
- Engagement strategy includes a link on web page to 1 + 2 FAQs.
- The Chair challenged SIG to make young people as competitive as possible so strategy must be as ambitious as possible.
- National Parent Forum to have details on website, SCILT to host engagement event, COSLA has 1 + 2 Meeting on agenda, EIS to publish in their Education Journal and GTCS to share with the Director of Communications.
- Scottish Government EERC enquiry into MLPS. Response attached by link.
- 14th November Languages Conference will have discussions and workshops.
- Audits are important as they feed into funding decisions and can act as alerts to barriers.
- Audits allow Scottish Government to see picture across the country.
- Robert Dalzell – N. Lanarkshire: Query as to whether money needed to be spent by end of financial year. **No.**
- Mary Larkin – clarification on audit issued on 3rd October to Director of Education, return date 22nd November.
- Louise Glen – ES: Blog to be created in January to share ideas on 1 + 2.
- Engage for Education to share stories and Tweet successes in language learning. Social media to be used to reach out.
- Disparity between number of FLAs received into Scotland and those we send abroad.
- Janey Mauchline: Funding will allow LAs to plan longer term. There is a need not only to communicate through social media but possibly consider use of radio or television. The publicity campaign needs to reach out beyond those interested in ML. Lessons could be learned from the Gaelic medium campaign.

6. Education Scotland Update: Fiona Pate

- From inspections and visits to schools ES is seeing that the freedom of CfE is being grasped by schools but it is not everywhere.
- **Key messages**
 - Transition between primary and secondary is important.
 - Important to build on prior attainment.
 - Use of assessment to inform next steps and levels. Assessment should be on-going and also summative.
 - Close working with science departments and primaries should be replicated with 1 +2 as there is a need to improve transitions.
 - This year ES is to focus on how assessment can be built in in a manageable way.
 - AiFL is also important.
 - S1 –S3 Modern Language is an entitlement and should be progressive.
 - Try to expand topics and be flexible in the use of contexts for learning.
 - Need to marry the development of knowledge and skills in the 4 significant aspects of learning.
 - Literacy skills are helped as a result.
 - S1 – S3 should have depth, breadth, pace and challenge by raising expectations and raising the bar.
 - Need to improve S1 and S2 experience.
 - Variety of strategies in developing the skills e.g. reading in groups and alone. Use a variety of texts for reading and encourage different forms of writing.
 - Opportunities for spontaneous dialogue should be adopted which in turn provides opportunity for Listening.
 - Move away from rote learned Talks and Writing texts.
 - S3 is not an examination year yet all that we do develop the skills to pass exams.
 - Important to ensure young people are working at the right level of challenge. They should not be constrained and can be moved onto National 5 level work if appropriate.

- Good solid examples of sustaining 2 languages in Senior Phase through master classes, short courses.
- There is increasing use of SLW Award notably from those with ASN.
- Caution should be exercised with shortening length of time available from the first ML to fit in a second as depth is compromised.
- Examples of good practice to go on SCILT website.
- At Senior Phase there are opportunities for flexibility with full courses, awards and units which may include linking with other departments.
- Mary Larkin: Introduction of L3 by not later than P5 should be meaningful but L3 doesn't need to be continued at secondary. It develops literacy skills and builds confidence and skills. Should it be agreed as a cluster? It is up to individual schools to decide L3. Polish community in a school could flourish in this case.
- Robert Dalzell: Clarification paper relating to L3 not being continued at secondary not seen. Clarification paper sent out stating that there should be an opportunity for 2nd Language but not necessary to progress with it at secondary.

7. 1 + 2 Agenda

- **EA Proforma:** Sent out to all LAs. Responses are needed to gain an idea of issues relating to funding / what support schools or LAs need.
- **Evaluation of Pilot Projects:** Evaluations are underway and will eventually go on the SCILT and Education Scotland websites.
- **L3:** Clarification regarding L3 will come.
- **P1 – P7 Guidelines:**
 - Guidelines for P1 to be available by December – this will provide a framework and emphasis on embedding language into daily routine.
 - P2 –P7 framework will be issued by June.
 - Soundfiles and PowerPoints with hyperlinks to free teaching resources will be available in French, German, Spanish, Italian and Mandarin.
 - Assessment advice will be provided
 - Overview of how LAs may wish to have a training model.

8. 1 + 2 in Action: Mary Larkin, East Dunbartonshire

- January 2013 Steering group set up to focus on three recommendations. Audit carried out February 2013 with responses collated and issued to schools and ELT in March.
- Positive provision P6-P7 and at other stages. Upper primary had been doing good IDLs and schools had the capacity to do MLPS P1 –P7.
- High number of MLPS & GLPS trained primary staff and secondary staff able to offer a range of languages.
- Challenges faced are which language to teach P1- P3 to build on curricular articulation and to enable meaningful progression.
- All School and Cluster improvement plans will include 1 + 2 from 2014.
- Funding is used to provide cover to enable meetings.
- Cluster opportunities to be extended to target Teaching and Learning and Assessment.
- Three clusters where there is existing capacity are to pilot L3 to help inform LA strategy.
- St. Ninian's: All primaries P5 – P7 taught Mandarin. At end of S1 (May 2014) to become a secondary option. 4 periods of Mandarin and 2 each of French and Spanish to be studied to the end of BGE. Will be evaluated.
- Bearsden Academy: All primaries and academy share Tianjin visiting teacher on rotational basis to enhance study of Chinese culture.
- Bishopbriggs: Working group to look at options including Gaelic, German, Mandarin or French.
- **Funding 2013 -2014**

- New temporary DO in Modern Languages post created. Will work in schools to build confidence and capacity to deliver L2 P1 – P3.
- Training in French for Infant Stages in 2 tranches of 5 day sessions with cover provided.
- Online subscription costs for Primaries, match funding of German Erasmus student and to support schools in making changes.
- **Future**
 - Central guidance on MLPS training to ensure consistency of quality desirable.
 - Central funding of FLAs desired.
 - Evaluate everything that is tried and offer advice on how it could be adapted.
 - Professional Learning Community for Dos to share ideas and strategies to be facilitated by SCILT.

9. Cultural Organisations – Supporting the 1 + 2 Agenda

- **Jenny – Scotland Russia Forum**
 - Concern on how to get Russian on the Curriculum given its decline. Hope that it could become L3 from P5.
 - Ad Hoc programme of one-off tasters offered, P2 – S6.
 - Concentrating on Primaries in light of 1 + 2 Agenda with students from Glasgow University doing tasters. Students in Edinburgh willing to do same but need interested schools.
 - Could include Russian culture and languages through masterclasses.
- **Lilo Börgmann – Goethe-Institut**
 - Took part in a Careers Fair at Bishopbriggs with 500 pupils and 26 companies. Want to continue this to link ML skills with careers paths.
 - German Language Adventure. This is fully funded through Goethe-Institut and German Government and has been piloted in October in North Lanarkshire and City of Glasgow. It is appropriate for learners P6 – S3. Hoping for further co-operation 2014. Videoclips of the activity can be accessed through website.
- **Marie-Christine Thiébaud – Institut français**
 - Scotland – France Agreement has been signed. Hope to share experience in Science, Maths and early learning MFL including regional languages.
 - Continue to support links between schools, teachers and pupils within LAs in Scotland and France. There are still 4 available.
 - Vive la Francophonie Competition March 2014
 - Rencontres Théâtrales 2014 - Edinburgh in March and also Aberdeen
- **Nathalie – Alliance Française**
 - Offering revision classes for pupils
 - CPD opportunities for Primary teachers.
- **Joaquín Moreno – Consejería española**
 - Action plan 2013-2014 contains 7 key points.
 - Online Spanish courses for teachers could assist training for 1 + 2. Working with Instituto Cervantes.
 - Two levels offered on Aula Virtual de español – 2 – 3hours every week. Video – conferences beneficial for those not in Edinburgh or Glasgow.
 - Providing opportunities for different varieties of Spanish.
 - Continuing to offer Immersion Days for Higher pupils delivered by FLAs
 - Immersion Day for Advanced Higher pupils in Edinburgh in January.
 - Workshops for teachers taking place in Dundee in November and May.
 - Will send out inspection copies of Sí, Sí, Sí.

- **Richard Tallaron – Le français en Ecosse**

- Concerns raised at UK Language Conference re state of languages and how to promote languages.
- UK only fulfils 5% of job opportunities in EU due to lack of language skills.
- Erasmus Plus will replace all other predecessors. Budget up by 40%. It should now be easier to apply.

10. SCILT Update – Fhiona Fisher

- **1 + 2**

- F. Pate working closely with SCILT to support 1 + 2. Case studies of 1 + 2 in Nursery and Primary schools available on website.
- Partnership working with 3 secondaries being undertaken.
- Menu of CLPL for this session containing 4 Primary, 4 Secondary and 4 Cross Sector options. There is also one for CISS.
- Continuation of GLOW Meets and 3 GLOW communities to support MLPS and DOs.
- Work continues with universities to get Masters Accreditation and recognition from GTC.
- Helping schools to link with business and university. Grove Academy, Dundee & Michelin, Loch Duart & Montrose High School and Kilwinning & SFA.
- Tianjin Education Commission – 12 scholarships for pupils to spend year in China, fully funded, learning Mandarin.
- British Council are keen to find creative ways to get FLAs into schools.
- Language Promotion through links with Project Trust to go into schools and help with gap years.
- Word Wizard Competition – 5 languages, S1 – S3. Final to be held in Scottish Parliament.
- FAQs on New Qualifications available on website with FAQs on 1 + 2 to follow.
- Post for new Development Officer at SCILT to be advertised.

11. FLA Projects – Eduardo Lees, British Council and Hannah Doughty, SCILT

- All FLAs have been encouraged to do project and there has been a slight increase in participation.
- Projects involved a range of year groups and covered a range of topics.
- Cultural Organisation input supported projects.
- Training day for FLAs.
- Application forms for 2014- 2015 are now open.
- Support for FLAs at Primary will look at models.
- Connecting Classrooms – Introduction to International Learning Workshop Perth, 7th November.

12. High Five French for Primary – Mark Pentleton, Radio Lingua

- Software comprising 40 video lessons. Scenario uses a genuine learner and a native speaker. Visual content to appeal to learners. Authentic content and perfect as a lesson starter. 5 minute video lesson supported by audio lesson for consolidation and printable resources and teachers' notes.
- Willing to come out to LAs to demonstrate.

Date of next meeting: 24 January, 2014 at the Institut français D'Ecosse.