

CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS AND LOCAL AUTHORITIES GROUP (COALA)

Minutes of meeting held on Thursday, 5th June 2014

British Council, Edinburgh

Welcome

Many thanks to British Council for hosting. Well attended COALA with 19 LAs represented.

Attendance and apologies attached.

Welcome to:

- Mary Fischer – Subject Leader Languages, Edinburgh Napier University. University Council for Modern Languages Scotland (UCMLS)
- Sophie Buxton – National Organiser, Scottish European Educational Trust (SEET)
- Joy Christie – Staff tutor for 1+2, attending for Dundee
- Jan Cannon – Development Officer for 1+2, Inverclyde
- Per Johansson from European Parliament
- Robert Sim from Shetland Islands Council
- Sandra McColgan – Acting Quality Improvement Officer in Perth & Kinross Council with responsibility for 1+2
- Kate Findlater 1+2 DO for West Lothian
- Judy Elliott – from British Council till September

Farewell to COALA members and thanks for all their dedication and hard work in the promotion and support of language learning.

Farewell to:

- Joaquín who is leaving us to go back to Spain – replacement to arrive by end June.
- Marie-Christine who is leaving her post at Institut Français. Replacement by September.
- Suzanne Milne who is retiring from her post in Angus.
- Eduardo Lees who has taken up a new post in London with British Council.

Minutes of the last meeting: accepted by Robert Dalzell, seconded by Mary Larkin.

Matters arising: all on today's agenda

Language Assistants' programme: how to redress the balance – Tim Simons

- Heartened by increased attendance at today's meeting
- 1+2 is a manifesto commitment with cross party support
- Not all LAs are using money for 1+2. This is disadvantaging young people growing up in a multicultural world.
- 7 years ago 263 MLAs, we now have 73. Drop of 75%. Ministers are keen to redress the balance.
- 9 out of 32 LAs are funding MLAs ; some are perhaps making use of other native speakers
- Scottish Government Paper for discussion with 3 options to redress the balance :
 1. A Challenge Fund approach for local authorities to bid for MLAs.
 2. Private funding of MLAs – eg, through local business sponsorship.
 3. Scottish Government direct funding of MLAs based on fixed number per LA, in proportion to numbers of Secondary schools, in proportion to numbers of pupils, or any other criteria.

Discussion points on Government paper:

- Important that it has been recognised as a priority by the Government.
- MLAs an easy target for cuts
- Bid system would be protective as there is clear rationale for them being in classroom, because a case has been made for them.
- Money needs to be ring fenced for MLAs
- Direct funding required because LAs are not always supportive of language development
- Some concerns raised about private funding
- MLAs have a massive impact on Primaries and Senior Secondaries ;ideal to use them across sectors

- Direct funding may prove difficult in some rural areas; perhaps some kind of rating system is required for geographical location.
- Overwhelming vote for direct funding of MLAs by Scottish Government
- There is the risk that our partners may have to limit the number of places for UK Assistants in their countries if we do not address the imbalance of number of MLAs coming here
- Tim Simons wants to carry on the discussion at future meetings
- Janey to collate responses and send to Toria and Tim.

Introduction to UCMLS (University Council for Modern Languages Scotland)

Mary Fischer

Scotland's universities and the 1+2 Language Policy

- Universities also have a role to play and a contribution to make to schools
- There is a need to have closer links between universities and schools
- UCML in Scotland since 1933 and is an important lobbying force but needs a higher profile in Scotland
- Dialogue between different partners is required
- Universities across Scotland are offering a wide range of languages and courses, much more than language and literature degrees.
- Universities are working together to try to find a way to support the 1+2 policy
- Some initiatives are taking place, but no joined up policy – eg, Open Days, taster sessions, workshops, universities visiting schools, Student Ambassadors
- Universities would like to be involved in 1+2 policy. It would be helpful to have discussion about what exactly universities could do to support 1+2. They have lots of ideas but discussion needed.
- Dialogue is required, as well as some kind of funding.
- How do we move the initiative forward? Perhaps a sub group to meet together; names to be forwarded to Mandy.
- Mary to contact Janey about a date of next UCMLS meeting.

Effective practice in the Senior Phase:

- Request that Fiona Pate share some good practice that she has identified.
- Education Scotland looked at schools where uptake was high and sustained
- Meeting next week in Stirling to discuss Senior Phase success
- JohnPaul Cassidy could perhaps share information from Stirling conference at next COALA meeting.
- SCILT has been running events for NAT 4, 5 and Higher and there has been excellent feedback from teachers attending these events.

Cultural Organisations.

Institut Français

- Offers PLL training for Primary teachers – French matinees and French Days at elementary level
- Free online resources with sound files: www.ifecosse.org.uk
- Erasmus + Links between schools, pupils and teachers
- Training for Primary teachers in France with European funding/ Links between schools
- Immersion days for S5 pupils; motivating pupils in the Senior Phase
- Vive la Francophonie 2014 : discovering the French speaking world via ICT
- Drama competition in French in Edinburgh, Aberdeen and Glasgow. The impact is huge.
- Via Erasmus plus continue to work and expand on links between French and Scottish LAs to support 1+2 and raise cultural awareness.
- Sets of posters free of charge, simply send an e-mail to Marie Christine @ www.ifecosse.org.uk

Goethe-Institut: Rolling out the 1+2 Language Model

- A plea for German for L3
- German is an important language for Scottish economy

- Erasmus plus allows students pupils to work/study in Germany
- German Language Adventure: further funding is through
- CPD
- Cultural events
- Lending Library
- School visits
- Lesekiste box of books
- Residential course for Primary Teachers, 12 to 18 October in Germany. Erasmus plus could support attendance
- Local Language Course for Primary teachers who are beginners. 1 Saturday morning and 5 twilight sessions. Would video conferencing be a future possibility as a means of rolling out across Scotland? The content of this course :
 1. Taking the register
 2. Greetings and feelings
 3. Numbers etc

Evaluations from teachers have been very positive. Courses will run in Edinburgh and Glasgow from September until November.

Spanish Consulate – Supporting Spanish and Primary Schools.

- Online Language Courses for Teachers; subsidised for interested teachers, feedback from tutor
- Spanish workshops for teachers in Scotland (Primary)
- Spanish workshops for Primary school teachers in London
- Materials and resources, including lesson plans, vocabulary and flash cards. Promoting Integrated Language Learning. Want to support LAs, willing to visit LAs to work through/ with materials
- Posters which can be downloaded from the website
- Pilot programme of internships at Scottish Primary schools
- First Edinburgh Spanish Film Festival from 8th-12th October
- Exploring the possibility of including an animation film for Primary School pupils(P6 / P7) at the Film house on the morning of the 8th October

- The film would be followed by a workshop at the Edinburgh School of Arts where children will learn how to make an animation film that will last 1-2 minutes

Le Français en Ecosse

- Running workshops for L3
- Working on Chinese E-books
- Involved in SCILT's Train the Trainer week

British Council - Project Participation by Education Sector

- Successful project topics
- MLAs are always finding ways of making their projects relevant
- Projects include poetry, music, Exchange letters, Festivals, Culture
- A lot of the projects came from the Primary Sector and they reached nearly 1,000 pupils
- Positive feedback from teachers and students leading to greater motivation for languages and more cross curricular collaboration
- Definitely an increased awareness of the contribution made by An MLA
- Project templates available on the British Council website
- Update: the number of MLAs for 2014-2015 has risen from 73 to 108. If you are still interested in an MLA, then get in touch with Rosanne at the British Council

Renfrewshire: progress so far – Louise Dunn and Janice Neilson

History: not great in Primary, almost like an option and was very much dependent on SMT

- Louise appointed and Audit completed: Language teaching very patchy but some great.
- Working party set up and a skills based generic framework was produced. This runs from Early to S3. Supporting materials have also been produced
- 2013-14, the framework was rolled out and 6 Pilot schools chosen

- Strategy group set up August,2013
- Train the trainers, November 2013. Strathclyde University trained 12 volunteer teachers
- Twilight sessions for teachers in French, German and Spanish
- Resources are on GLOW, as well as PowerPoint for Head teachers and P1 Framework. Opportunity on GLOW to share good practice.
- Rolling programme of training
- Concentrate on Transition this year
- Skills Progression Framework across P1-P7
- Contextualised Learning and IDL is a focus for next year; embedding the language through existing topics.

SCILT update by Fhiona Fisher

- SCILT's Outreach programme – busy sharing information about Pilot Projects for 1+2 and enjoying professional dialogue
- 1+2 newsletter produced
- Train the Trainers week in July and another in October
- DOs from SCILT will come out to LAs to deliver CLPL or to do promotional events
- Business Language Programme
- Word Wizard Final in Parliament building. This raised the bar in terms of challenge. The students were so much better across the 5 languages.
- SCILT and CISS working on Languages for Life and Work and building business links.
- There will be 3 new CISS hubs this year, and 5 next year.

Introduction to SEET (Scottish European Educational Trust)

This is a charitable trust to encourage language learning.

There are 3 main projects:

- Annual Euroquiz for P6
- Europe Film Competition for S3 – S6

- Student Ambassador scheme

There are also free resources to access and these are produced by the European Commission.

COALA meetings for 2014-2015 are as follows:

24th October 2014: Goethe-Institut

23rd January 2015: University of Strathclyde, SCILT

5th June 2015: venue required

Update from Toria Fraser

- Toria welcomed new members to the group and thanked the Cultural Organisations for all the work they do and the support given.
- Strategic Implementation Group will be producing an Interim Report in June of progress made to date.
- This report is likely to show that there is a long road ahead but a significant start has been made