

## COALA MEETING: 6<sup>th</sup> November 2015

### University of Strathclyde

Chair: Ann Robertson

Present: See attached list, 25 local authorities present

Minutes: Sarah Spiller

#### **1. Apologies and welcome to new members:**

Stuart Burns – Schools and Learning Support Officer, 1+2 (PanTayside), Angus Council

Julia Preston – East Ayrshire 1+2 DO

Elena Connell and Lynsey Pilcher – British Council

Elizabeth Clingan – DO, South Lanarkshire Council

Virginie Bradbury – 1+2 Staff Tutor for Dundee

Harald Proell – representing European Parliament

Julie-Anne Mackenzie – Professional Development Officer, SCILT for secondary

Kara Nisbet – Articulate Language Camps

Marion Spöring – Chair of UCMLS, Senior Lecturer from Dundee University

**Farewell to Lilo Börgmann** – Lilo was thanked for her enormous contribution to languages in Scotland and will be very much missed. Lilo thanked the group for their support.

#### **2. Minutes of previous meeting:**

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

#### **3. Introduction by Ann Robertson**

- Minutes, continue to rotate but only to make notes on key actions. Mandy to collate summaries from speakers and contributors.
- Reshaping COALA
  - **The name:** Are you happy to keep COALA? Please consider if it is still fit for purpose considering who is represented within the group and we would welcome your alternative suggestions.
  - **The terms of reference:** What do you want to get out of COALA? E.g. sharing practice, networking, updates, professional dialogue?
  - **The format:** What would be your preferred format? E.g. updates first (who from?), market place, workshops etc. We would also welcome feedback on timings.
  - **The location:** Would you prefer the meetings to be in different locations? If so, can you host the meetings? Otherwise, are you happy for it to remain in

Glasgow/Edinburgh? Please be aware of the various constraints with moving elsewhere including budget, travel and transport links and ease of organisation for Mandy.

- **The members and chair:** Who is COALA for? Should we limit membership to particular groups and if so, how many from each organisation? Should we rotate the chair or have a fixed term for the role? If so, how long?

#### **4. Supporting the 1+2 agenda – cultural organisations**

##### **a. L'institut Français**

- Links with France very positive feedback from Scottish learning festival
- 22 out of 32 local authorities are linked
- Good feedback for Training for DOs
- Primary French P1 pour l'Ecosse, free resources on culturethèque.com
- Click Connexion to set up account
- Twilight DELF A2 course for teachers who would like to take their language learning further and get recognition for this
- Pilot DELF in primary schools
- November theatre rencontrâle, region heats and then a Scottish final
- 20<sup>th</sup> March Day of francophonie

*See PowerPoint for further information*

##### **b. Spanish Consulate**

- Pilot training teachers in Stirling and Clackmannanshire, will be replicated in Glasgow
- Laying the foundations in the primary schools
- 80% of secondaries at CLIL training course, 5 sessions of 3 hours
- Each participant will pilot CLIL approach with class of their choice
- By June comprehensive data to feed back
- 1+2 as a vehicle
- Stirling and Clackmannanshire will keep us posted

##### **c. Goethe-Institut**

- Annual and ongoing events, please contact Goethe-Institut for any further information and arrangements for coming out to you.
- Fachtag deutsch CPD for secondary teachers in co-operation with SALT: please get in touch if you would like this to come to your authority
- Resources & Website: Short films and film clips with extensive teaching materials online: [www.goethe.de/filmab](http://www.goethe.de/filmab)

- German Language Adventure took place in 15 schools from Eyemouth to Kilmarnock – in 2016 also as a project for FLAs and GETs
- Four schools have committed to introducing the *FIT in Deutsch 1* certificate and skill training
- Higher and Advanced Higher pupils participate in our Immersion Days
- **Upskilling programme** for non specialist language teaching staff to provide:
  - an understanding of and familiarity with the Goethe-Institut's Felix & Franzi resource
  - an understanding of basic vocabulary, structure and grammar of the German language
  - models of and ideas for good language teaching practice
  - the confidence to deliver German to pupils (P1 – P7) in the primary school
- **Train the Trainers Seminar:**
  - AUDIENCE: Representatives from 3 Local Authorities; language specialist from secondary schools
  - To make a start at primary level with German and get to know the Felix & Franzi scheme of work
  - Introducing German – how to combine learning the language and teach it at the same time
  - Example of a 10-session training programme from a primary school in Swindon
  - Introduction of work results and first ideas for own primary up-skilling programme
- **New initiative: the smart Choice German Network.** Aim to build language diversity within the 1+2 framework

*See PowerPoint for further information*

#### **d. British council**

- Language Assistants, new colleague Elena McConnell
- 130 assistants this year
- Increased support, face to face briefings about best practice, looking at providing more support to schools using MLAs in primary contexts
- Providing twilight sessions for MLAs
- Applications open in January for 2016/17. More information to follow
- Think about how MLAs can support 1+2 primary
- Erasmus+ key action 1 deadline February, key action 2
- Lynsey will let us know when the Erasmus+ application is available online

#### e. Scotland Russia forum

- Summer 2015: The SRF held a competition for primary school children to launch website [www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk](http://www.findoutaboutrussia.co.uk). Received entries from over 100 children, from all over Scotland as well as some entries from England and Wales. The most popular choice of entry was a picture of Baba Yaga, the Russian witch, and we held a small exhibition of winning artworks during the Edinburgh Fringe. Winners, and the main schools involved, got prizes of books thanks to a generous grant from the Scottish Government. Grants were also received from CRCEES at Glasgow University and the Russian Teachers Assn.
- Hoped to announce expansion of our Russian Tasters project, but this has (temporarily) stalled, mainly due to lack of interest from the University of Edinburgh on ideas for working with students on the tasters and other projects.
- We continue to work on plans for a Russian stand at the Language Show in March, with cooperation from the universities of Glasgow and St Andrews, supplementary schools and others
- We continue to believe it is essential for Russian to have some presence in the school curriculum. We wholeheartedly support the calls from other Cultural Organisations for diversity of linguistic provision and for CLIL – but think that in the case of Russia it is also important to take the political situation into account.

#### f. LFEE

- **PLL training**

LFEE Europe has been delivering **PLL (Primary Language Learning) training** courses to schools and Local Authorities around Scotland. We can train Primary Teachers in **French, Spanish and German** to meet the requirements of the Scottish Government 1+2 Initiative for Languages. Please contact us on [info@lfee.net](mailto:info@lfee.net) or visit our website for further details about our PLL training programme.

- **Immersion courses 2016-2017**

Our **Immersion Courses** are structured courses in **France and Spain** for primary and secondary teachers under the Erasmus+ (KA1) European programme, through which full funding is available for teachers. Our training programmes provide a balanced combination of language, methodology and cultural activities, delivered in the target language. Our one-week immersion courses are **GTCS accredited** which means that they lead to the award of Professional Recognition for teachers, and our three-week immersions course allows secondary teachers to meet **GTC Scotland's new policy requirements for language residency**. For further information including course dates, please visit [www.lfee.net](http://www.lfee.net).

- **Workshops**

At LFEE Europe, we offer a wide range of **workshops for Primary and Secondary teachers**, in line with the 1+2 approach:

- “Effective use of ICT”

- “Twitter in the Modern language Class”
- “Outdoor Learning”
- “Implementing an Immersion Approach”

We can also create workshops tailor-made to the needs of staff leading, teaching and supporting the delivery of languages in primary and secondary schools. Please contact us for further information on [info@lfee.net](mailto:info@lfee.net).

- **Online course**

Our new **PowerLanguage Learning on-line** (PLL on-line) **French course** has been created specifically for Primary teachers who are already teaching French in their class or need support before they start introducing the language. It is aimed at non-specialist teachers who have limited knowledge of French or might lack confidence in the French that they know.

The course has 12 lessons which take approximately 2.5 hours each to complete. Lessons contain a mixture of videos from our French tutors, short films shot on location in France, animations and PowerPoint documents, which all combine to help you enhance your French grammar, syntax, vocabulary, pronunciation and culture.

Should you be interested in signing up to our course or for further information, please email us at [info@powerlanguage.net](mailto:info@powerlanguage.net).

**g. Ucmls**

- Workshops
- Cross sector work to link people together
- Started regional hubs in September: Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh and Glasgow
- Overview of what each group will do (see attached document)
- Meetings are a regular feature, next meeting January next year.

*See attached document and presentation for further details*

## **5. Supporting the 1+2 agenda**

### **a. Education Scotland**

- Update on the strategy papers submitted by the local authorities on their progress with 1+2 with insight into the most popular languages being delivered and planned for as L2 and L3.
- Update on the recent publications from Education Scotland: The revised Significant Aspects of Learning; Revised principles and practice document which are part of the suite of resources including the experiences and outcomes that now incorporate aspects of the delivery of the 1+2 approach to language learning.

- A working group has been convened to produce guidance on progression from First to Second level and is due to report in March. We are hoping this will include an easily accessible resource for practitioners on the Ed Scot website.
- SALT input on 7th NOV with HMI
- Glowmeet 1 on Wed 18th Nov @4pm, giving an overview of 1+2 so far. Link can be accessed at <http://bit.ly/languagehome>

## 6. East Ayrshire

- All coordinators now in place
- How do we better involve parents?
- E Twinning, wants it for Gaelic so that Scottish schools have this experience
- Everyone started with L2 French
- Early years practitioners training
- Working on transition, supported by SCILT workshops
- Spanish tasters in all primaries for L3
- In early years they call it 1+1
- RZSS doing fantastic CPD for Mandarin
- Communication: quart fly newsletter, mentor help sheets, visits to schools. Networking opportunities for assistants

### **Workshops include:**

- Parent Workshops
- CPD – Spanish for Beginners (primary practitioners) up and running
- eTwinning is becoming more of an interest as a resource
- Early Years Practitioners for French
- MLAs were brought in from Canada, France and Spain.

### **All MLAs are placed in secondary education from September 2015 to May 2016**

- Two CLAs arrived in September: British Council led
- Placed in secondary education
- Responding to the general move towards improving / increasing the presence of Mandarin in schools.

*Please see PowerPoint presentation for further information*

## 7. SCILT update

- **Julie-Anne Mackenzie** - new Gaelic Professional Development Officer
- **CLPL menu** – just a reminder to have a look at what's available. Good to see so many promotional events and business breakfast happening across the country. We're ready to help departments and clusters develop their own promotion strategies. All workshops are free of charge

- **Word Wizard 2015/16** has been launched. 3 semi-finals this year Aberdeen, Glasgow and Dundee. Time and capacity has meant that we've been unable to include any new languages this year because of the restructuring of the heats, but we will be working towards including BSL in next year's competition.
- **SQA statistics** Hannah has completed the work and it is about to go online. Keep your eyes on the e-bulletin. Big increase in Higher in all languages. Down at national 4 and national 5.
- **Parental engagement** - SCILT is very keen to help you engage with parents and has set up a small working group to look at how we can engage the parental voice. New literacy leaflet in your packs will help bust some myths and sell the benefits of 1+2 for mother tongue literacy.

## 8. Scottish Government update

- Recognition of exciting developments in LAs – positive direction, strategies showing some really great stuff going on
- Parents of primary age may be starting to be more and more aware - as many schools are starting P1 provision this year, thus catching the eye of parents new to the system, or at least with a child newly entering schooling.
- Hope everyone is sensing that employers are starting to be more vocal about skills needs, recognise that the picture around languages skills in employment is not always well understood and articulated. SIG Employer Engagement Group beginning to grow, the draw from the top of the chimney.
- As we've said before, we are operating in strained financial times. Brings importance of creativity, innovation and joined up working more to the fore in taking implementation forward.
- Leadership continues to be important - we know that where 1+2 implementation is going well, teaching leaders are empowered at all levels from the top of the LA down.
- Lots of schools now planning their L3 provision
- Important that schools feel able to consider all of their options, there is a rich and diverse range out there to take advantage of
- Language Show Live is to be held at SECC on 11 and 12 March 2016
- Dr Allan videos – National Policy Workshop Cambridge, SALT both will be available on web shortly
- Parliamentary reception is one of series of actions to change attitudes towards language learning. What other actions can we take? Ideas on a postcard. Can there be regional events of a similar nature?
- Legacy web page with you soon, please let me have links to any sites/pages that would be of use to our wide variety of stakeholders.

## 9. AOB

- Erasmus+ perhaps not out until January. Application very similar to last year.
- SCILT using a new system, MailChimp for COALA mailings. Please let Mandy know if you are having any problems receiving these.
- Language trends will be in this week's SCILT bulletin

Next meeting: Friday, 29 January in Glasgow. Venue tbc.

COALA Focus Group to meet on December 10<sup>th</sup>. Ann will be in touch regarding representation for this.