

Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, September 19th 2019, Judd Street London

Present: James Bartlett (RNIB), Alex Britton (Clearvision), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre Audio Library), Jennifer Stewart (SLIC, Fife)

Apologies: Jemma Francis (MALD/Wales), Helen Poston (Libraries NI), Claire Robe (ACE), Zina Sabovic (British Library), Fiona Williams (Explore York, Libraries Connected)

Agenda Items	Notes	Action
1. Welcome, introductions & apologies for absence	MM welcomed all to the Board meeting and gave apologies for those unable to attend (see above).	
2. Notification of any other business	ES asked to raise the “Axe the Reading Tax” campaign.	
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MM to contact Helen Poston the new Northern Ireland rep.• ES to invite CILIP rep Ayca Ilsen to next meeting• NK queried Lego Bricks initiative – JB explained. AB raised the point that if they were being considered for MANILF we may need to make an approach ‘now’ as their use is restricted.	MM ES
4. Minutes of last meeting	Minutes of the last meeting on 16 th May 2019 were agreed. ES to rectify spelling of Julie Gibson’s name under “succession planning”.	ES
5. Partner Updates	ASCEL <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Working with DfE and Libraries Connected on “Hungry Little Minds” initiative – trying to improve children’s language and learning before starting school. BBC are launching “Tiny, happy people” in 2020, which also ties in with the project.2. ASCEL likely to go down the route of joining with another organisation, discussions still ongoing regarding merging with Libraries Connected.3. ASCEL conference takes place 8-9th November - the themes are Diversity, Empathy and Well-being, Libraries as Places of Nurture. Already planning following conference.4. There is now a guide on ASCEL website for those who work with young people in libraries.5. Cressida Cowell is the new Children’s Laureate. Calibre <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Director Mike Lewington is retiring at the end of September after twelve years with the organisation. The STV board formally expressed their thanks to Mike for all his support over the years. New CEO has started (Anthony Kemp).2. Currently working on mailing out our Christmas catalogues.	

Clearvision

1. Work on getting the library catalogue online is still ongoing.
2. Have been involved in the UK judging of the tactile book competition. Four books have been shortlisted to go forward to Brussels in October. Lots of publicity through YLG for tactile book-making.
3. Also involved in making Kate Greenaway and Carnegie Books into accessible formats.
4. Jackie Morris the illustrator of the winner of the CILIP Kate Greenaway awards has spoken about creating a bespoke tactile version of "The Lost Words" which is her book with Robert Macfarlane. The hope is that this will raise profile of tactile books.
5. AB announced she would be off on maternity leave in January, her colleagues Fona Taylor and Hannah Travers will share attendance at STV meetings. STV board congratulated Alex and wished her well.

Libraries Connected

1. LC board meeting next week.
2. Universal Offers review has concluded, now into implementation phase. Main offers slim-lined down from six to four. The two promises (including Six Steps) remain the same. Offers are Reading, Culture and Creativity, Digital and Information, and Health and Wellbeing. Learning has been 'removed' but amalgamated into mission statement. Currently working on a handbook to accompany 're-launch'.
3. Regional support being looked at for libraries – there used to be a strong regional framework but this hasn't been in place for some years. Looking at putting something in to support people locally. Have been investigating different potential models and who might be the best organisation to operate this – it has been decided that Libraries Connected was/is best placed for this due to their connections and the fact that they are already involved with libraries. Looking to apply to Arts Council for extra funding to move this forward.
4. Money received to look at potential accreditation scheme for libraries
5. Working with Carnegie on engaging libraries.
6. BBC project coming on the 300th anniversary of the novel. There will be eight or nine projects granted £6,000 each and sixteen projects receiving £1,000 to help promote novels and literacy.
7. Discussions with ACSEL are ongoing about possible formal partnership.
8. Working with CILIP on international projects. International conference to run in UK next year. IFLA will be in Dublin. Public libraries satellite group gathering will also be in Ireland at the IFLA Conference; it will be a combined satellite conference with ASCEL, literacy groups and PLG.
9. Sue Williamson, Libraries Director at the Arts Council, will be full time from the end of the year.

RNIB

1. New CEO Matt Stringer has visited the RNIB library.
2. Moon plaque has been refurbished. This dates from Queen Victoria's reign and will now be displayed in the RNIB building.
3. New online reader services platform emerging – so far uploaded 9,000 audio titles, aiming towards 20,000. Publishers are allowing their books up on the new platform, which is good news. User testing is underway, so it is getting close to launch. Also offering Braille books on there.
4. Lego Foundation update – not planning to share commercially or outside limited release (so may not get anything for MANIL in terms of Lego bricks). They have emerging internal plans to share this resource with VI children all over the world.

5. There is an IFLA session coming up for people with disabilities – will be held in Rotterdam.

SCONUL

1. HE Libraries – work going on to make all websites/online documents accessible. By 23rd September need to have accessibility statements on websites and a plan on how to make all materials accessible. Huge task to ensure documents are accessible on VLE. Have to also train students to make all documents they post accessible. Blackbaud have software that you can load documents into and which will tell you if it is accessible or not.
2. JC has been promoting HE libraries version of Six Steps promise – JC to share documentation around this with MM/Board. Academic sector has been open and keen to adopt. JC
3. “Access for library users with disabilities” document created by SCONUL being looked at to update and refresh – again JC to share with MM/Board. JC
4. SCONUL have shortlisted the libraries for the library design awards, which happen every two years. Winners will be revealed in September.

SLIC

1. See Separate Information Sheet attached to notes of meeting
2. NK to send link to online story-telling video with sign language, produced as part of work with Little Door Publishers. NK

Wales/MALD

1. The Welsh Government are currently developing a new library plan in consultation with stakeholders; the previous Libraries Inspire strategy ended in 2016. It is expected to be complete by spring next year.
2. 6 libraries are benefitting this year from the £1 million Transformation Capital Grant Programme; the scheme provides capital funding for library/museum/archive refurbishment and modernisation. Two of the libraries benefitting from the funding in Cardiff are to be transformed into ‘community well-being’ hubs.
3. The new Transformation grant programme round has been announced for 2020/21, with expressions of interest due at the end of September.
4. The Welsh Public Library Standards current framework will end in 2020, MALD are looking to extend this until 2012-2022 reporting year. Assessment of library performance for 2018-19 is currently underway and draft reports are expected to be issued by end of November.
5. The Reading Well Books on Prescription Wales scheme has now been extended to include the mental health book list, which was launched in June this year. This is in addition to the dementia list which launched in 2018.
6. MALD has provided grant funding for a series of wellbeing campaigns in Welsh libraries to raise the profile of libraries role in supporting wellbeing in the community. These include dementia action week (which took place in May), Know your numbers week (partnering with Blood Pressure UK), National Dyslexia Week in October and Blue Monday (partners Mind, Time to Change Wales and Samaritans) in January 2020.

6. Six Steps Promise/Six Steps Update

Six Steps Promise MM stated that this document needed to be looked at and updated due to the recent review of the Universal Offers and the new Reading Sight/STV website branding etc; and, as such, the Board reviewed/discussed the current document (previously shared).

- Sarah Mears has produced a document and done some work showing how Universal Offers map across onto the promise. Promises will sit across all four offers. MM tabled this document and will share it with the Board electronically. MM
- Six Steps promise will also have to link to emerging SLIC priorities and Arts Council priorities in time. Discussion took place around whether or not to hold on reviewing the promise until Arts Council England documentation has moved forward, or just update generically for now. Decided to go for the latter approach, and put links to useful websites in at this stage too.
- Point raised by NK about Scotland needing to be represented in the document (should also reference Northern Ireland and Wales).
- Childrens Promise will be being looked at, but NF suggested that no changes are imminent, so we can keep Six Steps structure for the meantime as it correlates to the Childrens Promise.
- MM asked for agreement on updating with the new STV logo, replacing SCL wording etc. to bring document up to date. This was agreed by the Board.
- AB asked for Braille to be included in the Reading Offer under Six Steps Promise and National Priorities and Policies. MM to update.
- MM highlighted that the current document is not VI specific and asked whether this was that an issue. Consensus was that it should be left as is, as it makes it more inclusive.
- JC asked if “low-cost” at the end of page one should be changed to “cost effective”. This was agreed.
- MM asked if step number four should read “Consult/Consider” rather than “Plan”. Consensus was “Plan” should be used, as they should be planning and consulting with blind and partially sighted people.
- JS raised a project called “Walking in their Shoes” which involves Customer Experience Team in Fife going into libraries as different personas e.g VI, ESL, children etc. Checking car parks, sign posting, accessibility etc. Volunteers are also involved.
- Re. Step number six - MANIL as now sits under STV.
- Need to change “customers” to “people” and make sure that the term “blind and partially sighted people” is used throughout. Plus change the title to make it clear who the promise is for, i.e. blind and partially sighted people).
- Point raised that STV not mentioned in Six Steps Promise. First paragraph of document needs to mention STV and heading “Our Vision for this experience” should be “STV Vision”. “Our Partners” section should also mention STV.
- Delivering Six Steps Promise section – Discussion around whether we needed this. Maybe change “delivering” to “support”.
- AB raised query that there is no mention of how you use the steps and put them into action – might consider how this can be embedded.
- MM to draft and send out updated version to STV Board ASAP. MM

7. Ulverscroft Foundation Discussion

MM tabled some provisional objectives that had been sent through by Robert Gent following our discussion in May (see below), for us to agree and work forward into a workplan (keeping in mind that STV’s ‘current’ workplan is out of date). MM proposed that the Board should have a workplan in place setting out who we are, what we are doing/would like to do.

Objectives for Ulverscroft:

1. Look to increase **understanding** of needs of VI users with library staff.
2. Improve **awareness** in blind and VI community about range of library services that are available.
3. Improve **accessibility** of library services and increase their take up.

Next step is to go back to Robert Gent with agreed objectives and a draft three year workplan, covering a list of potential projects.

Potential projects raised were:

- Accessibility awards for libraries (re. awareness raising)
- Build links to international examples/services and sharing best practice, possibly fund conference for this, for example.
- Co-host a grants programme re. making library accessible, which would in itself provide case studies to share.
- Deliver training opportunities for staff on Six Steps and other sessions; cross-sector too.
- Use funding to sponsor VI people as ambassadors/sponsors to visit libraries and assess services.
- Expanding Library on a Shelf project to be in all library auths in UK.
- Create regional centres of expertise? – could have champions in each region with info packs etc.; and support for champions including a platform for them to speak to each other.
- Establishing an Accreditation award for library staff, to prove they have gone through training and put it into practice.
- Community Libraries – trying to bring them up to standard (re. providing accessible libraries/reading) and extend training to them.
- Create/re-instate 'Ways of Reading' leaflet
- Ulverscroft could also possibly fund the creation of a marketing strategy/campaigns programme, and how we can get this info. into different formats.

All ideas to be pulled together and shared with MM by 19th October and MM aiming to pull together full proposal for Robert Gent by end of October .

ALL, MM

8. Current/ emerging projects

Reading Friends – Lots of diverse projects taking place in libraries/care homes and now also working with Isle of Wight prison, training prison staff to deliver the project with inmates becoming Reading Friends volunteers. Inter-generational project in Scotland with KS3 students visiting care homes was so successful that now they are moving up to KS4.

Work being done on subscription model to generate funding after current National Lottery funding ends in August 2020.

The Reading Agency's new CEO Karen Napier has taken over from Sue Wilkinson.

A room in House of Commons has been sponsored by an MP for showcasing Reading Friends to potential funders. Planning started for 13th November at 7.30pm, hoping to get a guest speaker but may need to change date due to lack of time.

9. Other Updates

Right to Read: No Update

IFLA: See Libraries Connected section above for update.

	<p>MANIL: Comment was raised at Libraries Connected West Midlands as to why MANIL is named as such. Also need a theme for next year as will have to start planning marketing materials etc. in December. Need suggestions for theme and possible name change. Could be linked to 300th anniversary of novel next year? JC pitched name “See What Libraries Have to Offer”. Item to be tabled for agenda in December.</p>	<p>ALL</p> <p>MM / ES</p>
10. Finance/ budget report	<p>Since last update - Income £11,500, expenditure £9,405.33. Finance report needed for AGM and accountant.</p> <p>MM to write annual report and send on to MF to forward on to auditor</p> <p>MF / MM to look again at getting MM online banking access.</p>	<p>MF</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p>
11. Board Admin	<p>The Board agreed to leave registered address as CILIP for the moment.</p> <p>Additional Partners – John Vincent has expressed an interest in joining the Board (representing The Network) – Board agreed for John to be invited as an observer. Also looking to expand Board offer out to Listening Books and Seeing Ear (Part of the Right to Read Alliance). Action for future. MM to contact these organisations to discuss the possibility.</p>	<p>MM</p>
12. Comms	<p>Website feedback from John Vincent – he suggested that pale blue on white colour scheme contrast wasn’t not great. Board agreed that we would ask for contrast of blue to be deepened. Also, JC commented that there were lots of italics on the site which are harder to see and also white lettering on dark background. Plus, a couple of typos... MM to feedback to Ech. And it was agreed that we would look to ‘relaunch’ the website when we have updated the Six Steps. Praise and thanks was given to all involved in creating the new website, which all feel is a massive improvement.</p> <p>Bulletins – Praise and thanks given to David for the bulletins.</p>	<p>MM</p>
13. A.O.B	<p>ES raised campaign called “Axe the Reading Tax” calling for the removal of VAT on all digital publications: ebooks, audiobooks, research journals, textbooks and educational material, newspapers and magazines. Supporters include MPs, Society of Authors, Booktrust, National Literacy Trust and a petition can be signed online. MM to investigate to see if we can support. Website for info is www.axethereadingtax.org .</p>	<p>MM</p>
14. Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • December 5th (Plus AGM) – Note Room change of Lower Ground Room 2 • February 20th (2020) • May 14th (2020) • Sept 17th (2020) <p>All to be held at RNIB Judd Street unless otherwise informed – please check agenda for room changes.</p>	<p>ALL</p>