

# Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, December 5th 2019, Judd Street London

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**Present:** James Bartlett (RNIB), Emily Cross (CILIP), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Claire Robe (ACE Observer), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre), Jennifer Stewart (SLIC Fife).

**Apologies:** Alex Britton (Clearvision), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Naomi Kenny (SLIC Falkirk), Helen Poston (Libraries NI Observer), Zina Sabovic (British Library), Fiona Williams (Explore York, Libraries Connected).

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Agenda Items	Notes	Action
<b>1. Welcome, introductions &amp; apologies for absence</b>	MM welcomed all to the Board meeting and gave apologies for those unable to attend (see above).  Emily Cross, new representative from CILIP, was also welcomed and introduced to the Board.	
<b>2. Notification of any other business</b>	None Raised.	
<b>3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Fiona Williams has stepped down from the board. ES to update Charities Commission and Companies House details</li><li>John Vincent has agreed to join the Board as an observer. To be added to circulation lists of papers and agenda.</li><li>SCONUL documentation was shared</li><li>NK to forward on story telling link from September's meeting (C/F)</li><li>MM to organise online banking access (C/F)</li><li>Listening Books and Seeing Ear have been contacted by MM. No response as yet. MM to send a further email in the New Year inviting them to attend February meeting</li><li>Having checked Memorandum/Articles of Association, STV can support the Axe the Tax campaign.</li></ul>	<b>ES</b> <b>ES</b> <b>NK</b> <b>MM</b> <b>MM</b>
<b>4. Minutes of last meeting</b>	Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday September 19 <sup>th</sup> 2019 were agreed.	
<b>5. Partner Updates</b>	<b>Arts Council</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>Currently in purdah because of election. Were to publish new ten year strategy in December but had to be pushed back to early next year. Blueprint has been published – Libraries Connected and Arts Council England together funded by Carnegie to improve support for public libraries. There are seven strands at its core, five are already in progress.</li><li>ACE have funded 100 novels project in partnership with the BBC. Theme is “Books and Reading” and this is also CILIP’s theme for Libraries Week 2020.</li><li>Transforming Leadership fund – trying to diversify leadership in arts and culture. Libraries Connected have a project to help bring through people into these roles.</li></ol>	

### **ASCEL**

1. Reading Challenge 2020 is called "Silly Squad". The theme is funny books.

### **Calibre**

1. We are looking at our broad charitable purpose and the different groups we could target.
2. Looking to further diversify the library and also increase our content for children.
3. Attended the Booksellers Futurebook conference which was useful in terms of meeting publishers.
4. ES has managed to get reinstated on the LACA list.

### **CILIP**

1. Currently looking at funding, membership, policy and diversity.
2. Libraries Deliver – initiative between CILIP and Every Library in America. Had libraries campaign to pledge their support.
3. Just launched Public Libraries document in Parliament – looking at funding to improve library services; written with John Bird and is called "Public Libraries: The Case for Support".
4. A membership survey has been carried out looking at how CILIP can develop in future.
5. A disability network will be launched in 2020.
6. Report launched on "Libraries Change Lives" saying what CILIP will stand for.
7. EC commented on whether there should be a board member who has sight loss on STV. MM said STV was more practitioner focused but it should be something to consider for the future.

### **Clearvision (AB sent email update)**

1. Work continues to get our library catalogue online. It will include an update of our website, but all contact information will remain the same.
2. Maternity cover person will be Fiona Taylor, who will be part-time (3 days a week), so whether or not she attends STV meetings will depend on her workload when meetings come round.

**ES /MM**

### **Libraries Connected**

1. AGM took place on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019. Looking back at huge amount of work and projects completed. Also looking at what LC takes on going forward. Great links with Arts Council noted. Looking at pilot areas to go forward into second stage of Blueprint. Looking at governance arrangements. Compiling strategic plan for regions and coming together to do regional projects, which fits in with Blueprint. Universal Offers review also completed in the last year.
2. Looking at commercial projects/income generation for libraries and how you get these into libraries knowing it will never completely support the service. How can services be supported and keep things going.
3. Spoke about managing special collections and preserving things that should be preserved.
4. Lots of projects in the pipeline including the anniversary of the novel. Areas are focussing on different books or themes.

5. LC will have two vacancies on the Board in January and one trustee vacancy.
6. Board away day – useful look at responsibilities and how the board operates. Another one is scheduled to happen in January. MF also completed a Clore leadership day.

#### **RNIB**

1. Refurbished Moon Plaque is now up on display.
2. RNIB was approached to sign a letter delivered to Downing Street which asked Sajid David to Axe the Reading Tax. JB also forwarded to AB (Clearvision) and MM (STV)
3. The list of 100 titles from the BBC as part of the anniversary of the novel has been forwarded to the PR team to work with.
4. Reading Friends – Looking at how RNIB can work with and connect groups across the country.
5. New online platform getting ready to launch.
6. Looking at de-volumising electronic Braille files into smaller files to enable e-delivery.
7. Letters from Santa being processed at the moment – received more this year than ever before. Lovely stories and appreciative messages coming back.

#### **SLIC**

1. At October Health and well being day the “Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing” was launched. This involves SLIC, Alliance of Scotland and NHS who have put together a strategic plan that will work across libraries and social care. For libraries this will focus on health literacy and there will be sign posting, and promotion of reading and writing for mental health. There is funding to train frontline library staff.
2. NHS getting involved in Reading Friends and funding projects in Scotland.
3. First national mobile libraries day supported by SLIC during book week in Scotland.
4. Fife has been successful in engaging library funding for a project called “Pause Not Stop” – looking at society’s attitude to menopause.

#### **6. Six Steps Promise/Six Steps Update**

**Title** - MM explained provisional title of “Vision/Visually and Print Impaired People’s Promise” – making it about the challenge, rather than the person. Also discussed making it into a customer charter so “you” could expect to receive these services in a public library but this was decided against to make the experience more general.

**Supporting the Promise** – Comment received about including workshops, but this is mentioned generally re. what we hope to do.

EC queried that signposting for STV/Reading Sight website for library staff was not great when looking for accessible material. MM explained how the new site has progressed, and the structure of the current site; and explained that the signposting/content of the site still needs improving and this will be looked at next year.

**MM / All**

**Universal Offers** – Printed document now available. Looking to have lead officers for each offer. Then looking at having regional reps and at local level having library staff as local authority rep. Looking at having work plans for each particular strand. Idea is for each strand to meet

four time a year. In terms of dove-tailing with Six Steps Promise, MM suggested meeting with all lead people on offers once a year – Comment raised as to whether it would be beneficial to invite them to each STV meeting gradually so each strand is covered (i.e. at the four meetings across the year), or alternatively, invite all to one single meeting.

**MM** to discuss with strand leads in the New Year

Discussions will need to include conversations with SLIC, MALD and Libraries Northern Ireland.

### **7. Ulverscroft Foundation Update**

Ulverscroft are meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> December and will be considering the STV proposal. Robert Gent promised to feedback to MM. We will then have to look at getting more details and costings around proposals and ascertain when they need these by. May then invite RG back to board.

**MM**

MF raised CILIP's working internationally project as a consideration for Ulverscroft funding, and about STV doing some workshops abroad and in the UK, working with other countries library authorities.

### **8. Current/emerging projects**

**Reading Friends** – JS commented that there is a rep in Scotland and they are signing up to the annual subscription model and roll out.

**MANIL: (1<sup>st</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup> June 2020)** There was a discussion over the title and JS suggested Hi VIS re. Higher profile for visually impaired people and their access to reading. Also suggested about linking the theme to the anniversary of the novel. Strapline could be “Celebrating the word in all of its formats”.

**MM** to finalise briefing document and disseminate

Agreed fortnight format still works and allows people to plan more effectively.

MM suggested potentially contacting the BBC re. the novels that shaped the world and giving a push for accessible formats during Hi VIS fortnight – CR said BBC were advertising on local radio.

RNIB agreed to do MANIL social media.

MF said he would ask his team to produce logo, posters etc. MM to remind him via email.

**JB**  
**MF, MM**

### **9. Other Updates**

**Right to Read:** Update from AB - Right To Read has been indefinitely suspended, as previously mentioned, so no update from them.

**IFLA:** Moved congress from New Zealand to Dublin next year and in Rotterdam 2021.

There is a toolkit and guidelines on IFLAs website for the Public Libraries Manifesto which is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

Planning an international conference in September.

MF is on the public libraries standing committee as a corresponding member. Will be going to mid-term meeting in Czech Republic in March.

**MF**

**Axe the Tax** – Still ongoing.

MM dealt with a parliamentary question that came through about what public libraries are doing to help blind people access libraries and also an enquiry over someone wanting to donate their spoken word collection on cassette.

<b>10. Finance/ budget report</b>	<p>Query re Thurrock invoice checking whether they had paid or not.</p> <p>Seven contributions received from August to October from library authorities.</p>	<b>MF</b> to check and update MM
	<p>Money going out included Bulletins, Reading Sight Design and Web hosting.</p>	
	<p>MM raised a concern over comment from West Midlands libraries about subscriptions, as a number of Heads of Service queried why they would pay when they could find the information for free. Need to continue to highlight what they get e.g new website, MANIL. Subscriptions have almost halved in the last two years. Discussion around whether the subscription fee should be lowered. Concern would be that local authorities are disengaging with accessibility.</p>	<b>MM</b> to factor this in when it comes to contribution letters time
	<p>MF suggested STV on the road campaign to get Heads of Service together, and get VI people involved - letting them explain the impact of accessible library services. Also opportunity to ask Heads of Services what they know and what they need.</p>	<b>All</b> to consider
<b>11. Board Admin</b>	<p>ES to check dates for annual returns to Companies House and Charities Commission.</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p>Emily Cross from CILIP was welcomed to the board. MF nominated and JB seconded. ES to update Companies House and Charities Commission.</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p>Helen Poston to be added to circulation lists as Northern Ireland rep. (Observer)</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p>John Vincent to be added to circulation lists as representative of The Network (Observer)</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p>Jemma Francis (MALD) has notified that the new rep will be Carys Dawson (observer). Carys to be added to circulation lists.</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p>Suggestion noted about asking for a Welsh rep from libraries (part of SCL group)</p>	<b>MM</b> to pursue
	<p>Given Julie Gibson's stepping down from Board, we need to find a candidate to help out with subscription letters next year. All to think of potential candidates and sound out interest.</p>	<b>All</b>
	<p>MM to contact JG for the updated contacts list of people to send letters to</p>	<b>MM</b>
<b>12. Comms</b>	<p>Also check rates of payment David Fay etc are getting to make sure all parties receive the same remuneration.</p>	<b>MF, MM</b>
	<p><b>Website</b> – Comment that the blue colouring/contrast was too pale; MM has checked branding guidelines and liaising with Ech to make changes.</p>	<b>MM</b>
	<p>MM suggested that partner services were not visible enough/easy to find on the site, as they had to go under STV and partners rather than</p>	

being under accessibility. Proposal was to move and highlight this content more, which was agreed – MM to discuss with Ech. **MM**

MM also proposed that the logo should be consistent for STV and Reading Sight and to ask Marsha to update the brand for us accordingly. This was agreed. **MM**

MF raised the issue that the links on the STV/Learning Pool website were not working properly – Helen Drakard has said she would work through and update. **MF, HD**

**13. A.O.B** None raised.

**14. Next Meetings**

- February 13<sup>th</sup> (2020)
- May 14<sup>th</sup> (2020)
- Sept 17<sup>th</sup> (2020)
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> and AGM (2020)

All to be held at RNIB Judd Street unless otherwise informed – please check agenda for room changes.