

Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, February 13th 2020, Judd Street London

Present: James Bartlett (RNIB), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Emily Cross (CILIP), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Naomi Kenny (SLIC Falkirk), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Zina Sabovic (British Library), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre) John Vincent (The Network Observer)

Apologies: Carys Dawson (MALD/Wales Observer) Fiona Taylor (Clearvision), Helen Poston (Libraries NI Observer), Claire Robe (ACE Observer), Jennifer Stewart (SLIC Fife),

Agenda Items	Notes	Action
1. Welcome, introductions & apologies for absence	<p>MM welcomed all to the Board meeting and gave apologies for those unable to attend (see above).</p> <p>John Vincent, new representative from The Network, was also welcomed and introduced to the Board as an observer.</p>	
2. Notification of any other business	<p>Role of the Secretary Training</p>	
3. Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual report updated and sent out along with finance accounts.• C/F – NK to send out storytelling link.• C/F – MF to speak to Helen re links on learning pool website• MM received a positive response from Listening Books and will progress to invite them to May's meeting. No response from Seeing ear as yet. MM will chase.• Partners given greater profile on website and HiVis info has been added. In response to feedback, fonts have been changed and the italics have been removed to make it more accessible.• Universal Offers - MM spoke to Catherine Mann who heads up the reading offer and Dave Lloyd who heads the digital offer. Will look to move forward with this where either all reps visit STV meetings gradually or STV rep goes to Universal Offers meeting.• HiVis document finalised and a blog is on the website. All info has been disseminated.• JC mentioned that students were keen to do something in Disability History month (18th Nov-20th Dec) as they were not about in June to acknowledge HiVis.• Finance - MF confirmed that Thurrock had paid their invoice.• MM spoke to Deb Ryan who may be able to give admin support if needed. MF to check hourly/daily rates for David Fay to make sure its consistent• MM to speak to Alan Prestcott (Wales) for Welsh rep• Website – Logos changed to STV so it all has the same brand and font	<p>NK MF</p> <p>MM</p> <p>All</p> <p>MF MM MM to share with ES to circulate</p>

4. Minutes of last meeting

Minutes of the last meeting on Thursday December 5th 2019 were agreed.

Minutes of the AGM held on Thursday December 5th 2019 were agreed. ES raised for the next AGM that Annual Report and Finance Report/Accounts need to be proposed and seconded separately.

MM/All to note

5. Partner Updates

Arts Council

1. Update from MF – Arts Council have a new strategy which gives considerable mention to public libraries. The way they deal with funding has changed so that if a project sits in with a Universal Offer you can apply for funding.

ASCEL

1. Conversations ongoing with Libraries Connected about the future. Decision hopefully to be reached in September.
2. Speaking to Arts Council to see if ASCEL could join as an independent Sector Support Organisation.
3. Looking at Universal Offers and Children's Promise to ensure the promise is interwoven into all four offers.
4. Summer Reading Challenge – The Reading Agency were going to do an evaluation this year regarding the impact the challenge has on the reading age of children but this will now be in 2021.
5. Setting up a Memorandum of Understanding with Booktrust. NF asked about where you can get Booktrust accessibility packs and who produces them. NF to check.

NF

British Library

1. Website is being updated to comply with disability legislation.
2. Assessing physical changes inside and outside of the building to meet accessibility standards.
3. New sound gallery opened in public area full of sound and moving image recordings.
4. Digital viewer has been replaced with universal viewer which wasn't working with some of the digital content. This will improve accessibility.
5. Liz White working with public libraries on single digital presence.

Calibre

1. We are pleased to be sharing titles with the RNIB as part of the Carnegie/Greenaway shadowing process. RNIB are reciprocating in swapping their titles too.
2. Interviewed author Paul Burston for LGBT+ month and created a list of book suggestions.

CILIP

1. Libraries Change Lives Awards changed to Changing Lives Awards. Focussing on best practice (not just about public libraries). The theme is Books and Reading.
2. Launched new e learning hub for members. EC has slots to promote HiVis.
3. Lord John Bird raised a question on behalf of CILIP in the House of Lords about funding for public libraries.

Libraries Connected

1. Future funding money from the Arts Council looking at income generation across public libraries which has been very popular.

2. Future leaders programme – Out of forty-two applicants, fifteen library services were successful. The team has expanded in order to cover the projects.
3. Accreditation – Have appointed Shared Intelligence to look into this and find a scheme that everyone can use.
4. Will have a meeting to look at stock and collections
5. Representation on advisory group looked at as only one person goes between the board and advisory group. MF will take a turn chairing advisory and a rep from advisory will chair the board.

The Network

1. JV gave a brief overview of The Network: The Network shares information and good practice, responds to Government and other calls for information about the social justice role of the cultural sector; and organises and takes part in courses, seminars and conferences. They receive no funding and have over one hundred members. They provide newsletters, ebulletins, co-ordinate nine jisc mail lists and answer emails – currently around two hundred emails a day.
2. JV working with Cities of Sanctuary to develop a pack for libraries considering being a sanctuary to asylum seekers and other vulnerable people.
3. Working with Birmingham Libraries to see if music would be a good way to encourage refugees to come into the library.
4. JV is co-chair of CILIP's new LGBTQ+ network steering group. Launch event is at Bishopsgate Institute on 25th February.

RNIB

1. RNIB reading services online library launch has started. Full Daisy audio and 170 ebraile books can be downloaded. Focussing on existing RNIB Overdrive audience at the moment, bigger launch in June.
Libraries around the world have seen a fifty per cent increase in use of ebraile offer
2. World Book day titles ready in Braille and audio. Not just limited to children, will also offer to VI parents with children who wish to read the books with them.

SCONUL

1. HE libraries looking into national events. To acknowledge LGBT+ month and Black History Month by members of those communities dressing up as books and offering to have conversations with people.
2. Disabled students allowance continues to change, will cease eventually. Universities will lose income and have to find finance themsekves so universities are preparing for this.
3. Looking generally at the provision of more inclusive services including how inclusive the curriculum and reading lists are and the decolonialisation of these lists.
4. Plan S – European funders saying anything funded publically should be available immediately to make things accessible more quickly.

SLIC

1. SLIC has received £40,000 funding from the Scottish Football Association to do reminiscence work in libraries titled "Memories Scotland". Twenty One libraries have signed up.

They have to be completely new reminiscence groups. It is aimed at the older generation some of whom will have sight loss so they are looking at how to accomodate this. To be launched in the Scottish Parliament on 19th February.

EC asked the purpose of doing the partner updates. MM stated it is a useful sharing of ideas and best practice across the organisations.

6. Ulverscroft Foundation Update/Discussion

The notion of a strategic partnership for STV and Ulverscroft to work together on shared outcomes was agreed at the Ulverscroft board meeting in December. It was agreed to concentrate on three aims of STV: Understanding, Awareness and Accessibility which Ulverscroft are fully supportive of.

Ulverscroft reviewed the list of projects that STV put forward. They would like a costed action plan covering the next three years. Ulverscroft said they would be committed to an annual investment of c.£15,000. The four projects they particularly liked were:

- Libraries on a shelf
- Opportunities for training – six steps etc
- Developing marketing strategy
- Ways of Reading Leaflet

Other potential projects included accreditation, sponsoring VI people to provide expert panel advice/support to libraries (ambassadors/champions).

Also looked at accessible awards for libraries idea and establishing a potential regional expertise bank.

Ulverscroft suggested regional pilots – could then be more areas that benefit if the pilots are successful. JC raised the point that this would need an evaluation process. MF said there were three regions already looking at governance so it could tie in with this.

MM

MF suggested setting up a 'Six Steps' Basecamp (or alternative method) that would be an online platform to share documents. Will also help to reassure STV contributors as to what the subscription goes towards and get them involved in asking for what they would like to see.

EC asked which one of the project ideas is key to taking barriers down to accessibility. MF suggested the awareness and regional projects would have the most impact. MM suggested having a steering group for the plan.

7. Ulverscroft Discussion with Robert Ghent

MM welcomed Robert Ghent to the meeting

RG said Ulverscroft's next grant making meeting was on April 29th with their next business meeting on 16th July.

MM asked if there was a timeline for costing the proposal. RG said preferably in April then if not July. MM asked how to reflect this in the business plan and get it signed off. RG said they just need a provisional break down based on experience.

Ulverscroft settled on three core objectives:

1. Increase library staff's awareness

2. Improve awareness amongst VI people about the services on offer
3. Increase awareness on services and their take up.

The plan needs to break down the activities and say what STV wants to achieve across the three years.

Regional idea was mentioned (funded by Arts Council) – could tap into this. Also could take this/other ideas to The Reading Agency Creative Team meeting to discuss further.

Evaluation process – Ulverscroft trustees expect to see forecasts of the reach of the programme, the organisations and staff who would participate and what STV hope to achieve in the take up of a service off the back of the project. Needs to be a yearly update on how far STV got on delivering these targets. Look at specifically measurable goals which these objectives do have. RG said yearly updates could be done via Skype. JC mentioned that CILIP use Zoom.

Discussion around doing six steps workshops again and getting libraries to sign up to the six steps promise. Also resurrecting the Ways of Reading leaflet and looking at the accessibility and format of these. RG mentioned that leaflets can get lost in libraries and that VI community are more digitally aware so this may be the way to impart the message.

MM mentioned rebrand of website and asked if Ulverscroft would need to sign off materials – RG said no as long as the Ulverscroft logos were there.

MM to draft a document to go to board

RG said there is an application form on the Ulverscroft website which gives an idea of the info the trustees are looking for but that we don't need to use that form, just can pick up elements from it

RG said STV can mention Ulverscroft in conversations going forward.

8. Current/ emerging projects

Reading Friends – Meeting held on 15th January where we met the new CEO Karen Napier

The house of Commons event for potential donors and funders has been postponed to later in the year – asked group for potential attendees to invite to event.

During the pilot phase they reached 1518 participants using 208 volunteers. Now 45 projects happening in the roll out phase from original 10 pilots.

They were one of the three charities chosen for the Times Christmas Appeal so had been focussing on that over those few months.

They want to do some research into healthy ageing so asked the panel if they would be able to help with contacts at HE institutes. ES spoke to JC who said this was something they could advertise through SCOUNL so ES fed that back.

**MM
March/April
2020**

They are still looking at subscription modelling for future sustainability. These would have session plans/evaluation resources, access to core resources and a project tool kit.

ES mentioned being contacted about a rep from STV to go to one of their creative meetings. MM to pursue - ES to send MM dates.

ES/MM

MM suggested that this could be a good platform for utilising the agreement with Ulverscroft and approaching the Reading Friends project to see if we could assist them in launching more VI groups. ES to enquire.

ES

JV mentioned he had received an enquiry about what libraries do to support people with VI such as reading groups.

EC asked if Reading Friends knew about the Get into Reading project. ES said she would raise at the meeting.

ES

HiVis 2020: (1st – 14th June 2020) Launched the name, all heads of service written to, there is a blog on the Reading Sight website and an article in public libraries news.

Marketing – MF mentioned to Laura who has the brief and will start work on posters etc. MM raised query over the name and what it stands for – all agreed they were happy with HiVis. Not linking it to a fortnight gives more flexibility for people too. NF suggested using HiVis to brand events etc so people would know it is pertinent to them.

**Laura/MF
March 2020**

9. Other Updates

IFLA: A reading focussed satellite group is to be held in Oxford in mid August.

PLG will be at IFLA in Dublin late August and there is a call out for papers

There is an opportunity to be involved in partnership with libraries abroad. Stockton libraries put in a bid for a reading peer review with the Dutch library service. There is a conference linked to this – Working Internationally Conference – which CILIP is holding at the British Library in December.

JB mentioned that he will be attending the IFLA satellite meeting of libraries serving those with disabilities at the end of March.

RG mentioned that Ulverscroft has in the past sponsored IFLA attendance.

LACA: ES attended a meeting in February.

There was a debate as to what sort of organisation LACA was or should as currently they are a meeting of like minded people but have no remit to officially train people etc.

Discussion was had about feedback from a recent survey undertaken where copyright users were asking for more guidance and training. As part of this there was a suggestion that the circulation of a newsletter may help.

	ES observed that the focus seemed to be more academic and institution based and not a lot mentioned about public libraries. There is a need for a simple guide to copyright in the public sector and MF to mention to Libraries Connected to see how this might be taken forward.	MF
10. Finance/ budget report	MM can't access Bank of Scotland account. ES to send paper trail of hers to assist.	ES/MM
	MF went through the finance report with the board.	
	MM to chase Ech to ensure that they get their invoices in on time	MM
11. Board Admin	Annual return to charities commission was completed.	
	Contributions – It was agreed to hold off until the beginning of the financial year Apr/May time.	
	EC asked what the libraries were getting for their subscription. MM listed several advantages including use of website, six steps training, guidance, signposting to relevant accessibility providers and technology.	
12. Comms	Website updates concluded.	
13. A.O.B	JB led the STV board in congratulating MM on his new year honours BEM (British Empire Medal) for services to public libraries.	
	ES asked about the possibility of STV funding Role of the Secretary training. A course was sourced costing £329 + VAT. MM put to board to agree.	
14. Next Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 14th (2020) in Lower Ground 4 • Sept 17th (2020) in Lower Ground 2 • Dec 10th and AGM (2020) in Lower Ground 2 	JB
	All to be held at RNIB Judd Street unless otherwise informed – please check agenda for any room changes.	JB/All