



Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, February 18th 2021, via video conference

Present: James Bartlett (RNIB), Amanda Bennett (Culture and Sport/Wales Observer), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Emily Cross (CILIP), Christopher Edwards (Vale of Glamorgan, SCLW), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre), Jennifer Stewart (SLIC, Fife), John Vincent (The Network)

Apologies: Alex Britton (Clearvision), Carys Dawson (Culture and Sport/Wales Observer), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Helen Poston (Libraries NI/Northern Ireland Observer), Claire Robe (ACE Observer), Zina Sabovic (British Library)

Agenda Items	Notes	Action
1. Welcome, introductions & apologies for absence	<p>MM welcomed everyone to the meeting; especially Amanda Bennett, representing Culture and Sport Wales. Apologies noted above.</p> <p>No items for Any Other Business were raised.</p>	
2. Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Minutes of the AGM on 10th December 2020 were reviewed and agreed to be an accurate account of the meeting, without any changes.• C/F - British Library storytelling packs production – ZS still to share supplier details• C/F - Regional support structure – CR still to share contact details re. regional support structure with MM• MM sent on previous minutes but latest/AGM will need to be uploaded• MM attended workshop with Libraries Connected/Ben Lee at Shared Intelligence re. Accreditation and will follow up on this as the roll out emerges• MM wrote blog about accessible reading the VPIPP for LC website and this was shared nationally and via social network• C/F - Carry forward: MM still to sort out online banking• STV postal/formal business base at CILIP query re possible build up of post. EC to check if any post to collect <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 10th December 2020 were reviewed and agreed.</p>	<p>ZS</p> <p>CR</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>EC</p>
3. Partner Updates	<p>Prior to the meeting partners had shared their updates with Board attendees, which enabled more concise (virtual) discussion, focused on questions/matters arising – MM thanked all those who had circulated their updates and expressed appreciation for how useful they are in highlighting new initiatives and current situations in the different sectors.</p>	

ASCEL: Planning for Conference 2021 - hybrid conference to allow for physical and virtual attendance, with the option to become 100% virtual if that proves necessary. Theme agreed as Reading for Pleasure in various contexts Educational, Mental Health, Diversity, Information, Digital.

NSPCC/ASCEL Online SageguardingToolkit - First 5 documents have been shared. Positive feedback so far.

BookTrust - ASCEL working with BookTrust on developing new BookStart Programme.

Empathy Day 2021 - 10th June - Book collection launches next week 20 primary and 30 secondary titles. Supporting resources will include a toolkit and family pack. 3rd-9th June will be countdown to Empathy Day.

Summer Reading Challenge - The 2021 Summer Reading Challenge will be a celebration of reading, nature and action for the environment. Developed in partnership with WWF, the world's leading independent conservation organisation, Wild World Heroes will inspire children to stand up for the future of our planet. This will be a hybrid event of digital and physical (hopefully).

Universal Offer/Children's Promise - Working with Libraries Connected to ensure the Children's Promise is interwoven with the Universal Offers.

Workstreams for 2021/22 are being developed. Suggested streams - Diversity, Impacts of Poverty, Literacy, Children's Mental Health & Wellbeing.

Plans for re-building services post-lockdown - compiling service plans to share re. how Libraries can assist with raising educational standards and mental Health.

British Library – MM shared ZS's update: The Library has been closed since 18 December 2020 and, like everyone else, they have been focusing primarily on online services and activities, including amongst else reference enquiries, document supply (prioritising NHS users), Living Knowledge Network, Reset Restart programme through the BIPC network, Learning events and resources, training/webinars for various audience groups, cultural events, exhibitions. They have also recently published Enabling Access for Everyone: The British Library's Content Strategy [Content strategy - The British Library \(bl.uk\)](https://www.bl.uk/content-strategy) Whilst on site, they are making some changes to the main piazza area to make it more accessible.

Calibre: Due to lockdown many organisations have moved their services online including their regular meet ups where they have been looking for speakers. This has resulted in us attending an increased number of events like this where we have been able to promote Calibre Audio and our services which has worked well.

We were recently very excited to launch our new streaming and download service which has been well received by our members. Our streaming service can be accessed at play.calibreaudio.org.uk and our

downloads are now available via the Dolphin Easy Reader app all details of which can be found at our website.

We are delighted to be involved with CILIP for the second year running to be the providers of the Carnegie shortlist in audio. We are again offering to swap any titles that we can with the RNIB too.

I was asked to do an article about Calibre Audio for the insights piece of The Bookseller which is not one of my strengths but I did give Share the Vision a mention! If you want to take a look its here:
<https://www.thebookseller.com/insight/different-calibre-1233492>

MM noted great news about new download/streaming service and re. Carnegie award title audio provision.

CILIP: We are currently looking for a Disability Chair for our new network. Please share this [link](#) with anyone who would be interested in applying. I have also attached the role description.

In addition we are also looking to recruit a Chair of the CILIP BAME Network. If you know anyone who would be interested in this role please give them Yvonne Morris's email:
Yvonne.Morris@cilip.org.uk An advert will follow shortly.

The [Changing Lives position paper](#) is on our website and has been updated since it was posted initially.

We actively share EDI resources with each other and this [link](#) about names may be of interest and we shared Amanda Gorman's poem which you can view [here](#). Nick Poole, CILIP Chief Executive Officer referred to this poem in his latest introduction to our Information Professional journal.

The [resources of our LGBTQ+ Network](#) have been noted by our internal EDI staff group.

For further resources on anti-racism please visit [CILIP Scotland webpage](#) and CILIP is working on developing an anti-racism policy at Board level.

The Information Professional Journal now has a new app which you can download [here](#). You can view our Pen & inc. editions via the app too.

Clearvision: AB is back from maternity leave and noted that staff covering her have kept everything afloat in the interim.

HE/Scotland: With current lockdown restrictions still in place across Scotland, library services currently being offered are very limited. Connect and Collect services have been suspended although several authorities are still delivering to the most vulnerable readers via home delivery services. Services once again being delivered online, with authorities working hard on creating original and curated content.

A couple of Trusts are changing with libraries heading back to being council run – Falkirk and North Lanark.

On a positive note, a collaborative bid from Scottish authorities to the Public Library Improvement Fund was successful with the project entitled 'Investing in Our Digital Offer' receiving almost £89,000. The project aims to support authorities in their digital content production standards, developing skills, knowledge, confidence and capacity through training and provision of a toolkit of equipment.

JC asked JS about the libraries managed by trusts going back to being council run. JS said its due to cost and income so trusts that rely on the leisure industry are ceasing to exist so the libraries are going back to the councils.

Welsh libraries: Funding in 2020/21. The Welsh Government's draft budget for 2021/22 was published on 21 December 2020. Funding of £3.467m has been earmarked to support libraries, museums and archives to deliver our priorities. Our investment in digital library resources will continue next year and funding of £200,000 will be channelled through the National Library of Wales to deliver the National Digital Library Service that is available to Welsh library users via the all-Wales library portal and via the individual Welsh library services. We will continue to provide funding to undertake our statutory requirements in relation to libraries including monitoring the provision of public library services through the Welsh Public Library Standards.

Cultural Recovery Fund: SCL (Society of Chief Librarians) Cymru felt that it was vital that a training and development programme was put together to develop library staff skills, knowledge and confidence in delivering bilingual digital activities and promoting library offers and services. As a result Welsh Government provided funding from the Cultural Resilience Fund to offer a digital training package to library staff across Wales. The Estyn Allan project has already started with gusto, with 30 trainees attending webinars on reader development in an online context, social media skills, and attracting audiences to library activities. The 3 month project aims to deliver a varied and exciting range of online training working with key partners in the books and publishing world in Wales and beyond. The expectation is that the training programme will create a foundation for Welsh libraries to promote their library offers to existing and new audiences in the coming months, as well as into the future by delivering a project which will engage audiences and develop staff skills and confidence as a long-term legacy.

Welsh public library standards: The Welsh Public Library Standards are a management and monitoring tool used by local authorities and the Minister to ensure that a comprehensive and efficient service is provided by local authorities, as per the Public Libraries and Museums Act 1964. The current Framework of standards *Connected and Ambitious Libraries: the sixth quality framework of Welsh Public Library Standards 2017-20* has now ended. The final reporting year was 2019/20. The 2019-2020 reports are due to be published on the Welsh Government website by the end of March. The standards have provided a clear baseline against which changes to services could be considered and have been well supported by the sector. A one year

extension was granted for the 2020/21 reporting year in 2020. Due to the impact of Covid-19, the standards have been extended for another year, with the last year of reporting being 2021/22. The development of the seventh Framework of the WPLS will be undertaken in 2020, with a new set of standards in place for 2022-2025. The development of the seventh framework will be commissioned externally. This will provide much-needed stability in terms of reporting requirements and allow for clearer trends to emerge around how services will be delivered in the future in the context of the impact of Covid-19 on libraries in Wales.

Culture and Sport Transformation Fund: The [Transformation Fund](#) is a Welsh Government capital grant programme which is delivered by Culture and Sport. The Transformation Fund is open to public libraries, museums and archives for capital transformation projects, and for libraries these are particularly focused on co-location of services. Out of the 13 Stage 1 Expressions of Interests received for grant round 2020/21, 12 were successful. The deadline for submitting Stage 2 full applications was 15 January and the applications received will be assessed with a final decision to be given by April 2021.

Library Management System: Culture and Sport have provided grant funding to SCL to support an appraisal of the Library Management System in order to develop and implement a Strategy to build on the collaboration that has already taken place across Wales and to ensure the LMS is robust and functioning effectively for the future.

MM noted Wales - Culture and Sport have provided grant funding to SCL to support an appraisal of the Library Management System; are accessible formats currently included? **CE** to enquire around this.

CE

Libraries Connected: Accreditation programme is moving into the second phase with Shared Intelligence now working on a pilot accreditation scheme to test with a number of willing authorities. The initial report has been published and has been presented to both the Advisory Committee and the Board. There were some issues raised by the Libraries Connected Board in December but we have now discussed these with those members who raised them and are moving forward into Phase 2 of the project. A presentation was made to the Local Government Association who showed great support and have now formally joined the Project Board. The next meeting of the Project Board is in March and will provide us with an update on progress.

Ian Moore is now working on our Future Funding project which is running a number of different strands focused around sustaining service funding and income generation. Toolkits and support products will be developed through a number of themed groups and alongside these, a programme of webinars is taking place to provide information and support around such things as partnerships, community engagement and impact measurement.

Sarah Mears and Simon Savidge are working on a new project bid to the Arts Council around Equality, Diversity and Inclusive Practices in public libraries focused around three strands – developing a national

framework around inclusivity with the aim of ensuring services represent and involve communities, with training for library staff on unconscious bias and inclusive practices.

The Future Leaders programme is also well into the delivery phase led by the University of Birmingham Management Institute.

Library services are still in the midst of Lockdown regulations as dictated by DCMS although actual provision has been a local decision. Some services are offering Click and Collect services, some are offering very limited ICT access and some have closed and are only offering digital reading and activities. The Libraries Connected Toolkits are updated regularly to reflect the changing guidance which has been given.

The Network: the number of people registered for the Six Steps JISCMail list is **183**, one less than at the last Board meeting.

RNIB: Have launched Giant Print on Demand that has replaced the Giant Print library offer. Customers have fed back already that they are delighted that they can now specify their required font and font size and how flexible the new service is.

Separately, will be launching our Amazon Skill for RNIB Talking Books which we are very excited about. We have had customers asking us when we will RNIB provide our Talking Books via their Echo and we are very close to making that happen.

MM noted will be interesting to watch developments with the Amazon Echo/RNIB Talking Books skill which is being developed.

SCONUL: Westminster government guidance for English universities
The Government issued revised guidance for English universities following the announcement on 4 January of a further lockdown. It confirmed that university library staff could be regarded as critical workers, although many staff have found it difficult (or feel guilty) as places are limited. The guidance places heavy stress on reducing the number of students accessing university buildings and facilities. It encourages the provision of library services and allows for library buildings to be open, and places responsibility for the decision about which facilities to open with individual institutions. It recognises that there are groups of students which will be at universities in addition to those attending courses where face to face teaching is allowed. Most university libraries are offering some kind of service, particularly for any students on campus and students who find it difficult to work at home, whether because of digital poverty, mental health issues, etc. Opening hours tend to differ from normal. Some libraries remain closed.

Enhancing the disabled student experience: The recently published Disabled Students' Commission Annual Report, [Enhancing the disabled student experience](#), provides a summary of all the guidance the Commission has published for students with a disability so they can

participate fully in higher education, particularly during the Covid-19 global pandemic. The review also looks beyond Covid-19 support and sets out what the Commission will focus on in its next phase of work. Report and an introductory video by the chair: <https://www.advance-he.ac.uk/knowledge-hub/disabled-students-commission-annual-report-2020-2021-enhancing-disabled-student>.

Higher Education Commission report: [Arriving At Thriving: Learning from disabled students to ensure access for all](#) Sets out lessons for the government and university leaders from the experiences of disabled people in Higher Education.

Cost of student e-textbooks: A librarian from the University of Gloucestershire set up a petition bemoaning the fact that many publishers who have massively increased their prices for e-books. This rumbles on, as the publishers are not happy. *'Price gouging from Covid': student ebooks costing up to 500% more than in print* <https://www.theguardian.com/education/2021/jan/29/price-gouging-from-covid-student-ebooks-costing-up-to-500-more-than-in-print> SCONUL and RLUK also sent an open letter to publishers on the subject: <https://www.sconul.ac.uk/news/open-letter-to-the-publishers-association>

Research by WONKHE and Pearson: [The expectation gap II – students' hopes for learning and teaching in the next normal](#)

Some respondents said they were learning new skills as a result of learning online, such as time management, or confidence in speaking. When asked specifically about the skills students are building, most reported that they are confident or quite confident that they are building independent learning skills (75 per cent), digital learning skills (68 per cent) and information literacy skills (67 per cent). Areas students are less likely to say they are confident or quite confident are academic writing (61 per cent), project and time management (60 per cent) and confidence to engage with groups (57 per cent).

4. Ulverscroft Foundation update

MM updated that Robert Gent from Ulverscroft is pleased with the progress and also happy not to move into initiation stage until Spring 2021. MM discussed the VPIPP introductory webinar with Sarah Mears, and Libraries Connected are still keen to pursue this. Asked about possible VI users and practitioners we could include alongside an introductory overview for example libraries working with a reading group or a VI reader so they could talk about how they accessed library services/key challenges. Webinar content could include a broad introduction to the promise/HiVis/Q and A session from a user/practitioner point of view. MM asked if group could think about any individuals/contacts they could put forward.

**ALL to MM by
19th March**

Libraries Connected/Sarah Mears are also still in the process of recruiting a Project Co-ordinator to support the Universal Offers and the VPIPP work. Going to advertise for a 1 year post and will start the recruitment process in March (will be 12 hours for the Universal Offers and 2 hours for 'us' per week) and LC have asked MM to be involved in recruitment process.

MM

5. Recent / Emerging projects

JB was going to speak to RNIB colleagues re. Marketing content and capacity / re. Ways of Reading ie. 'one stop' leaflet for accessible library services. MM offered to commission RNIB to support STV in that area. **JB**

Reading Friends: ES had shared update on this prior to the meeting and outlining the expansion of the project, following funding from DCMS

MM had very positive meeting with The Reading Agency (TRA) on 4th February about Reading Friends and general support for accessible formats last week. Similar to Libraries Connected, they are particularly interested in perhaps bringing in VI people to support a possible specific RF workshop/development of the RF offer – similar to webinar idea, are looking for possible contacts to champion accessible reading/RF. Possible we could develop document on how to support people working with VI and print impaired in projects that was created for Reading Friends. Some of their new government funding will focus on accessibility. **ALL to MM by 19th March**

HiVIS 2021: Dates have been confirmed and promotional branding material preparation is underway – MM and MF spoke to designer a couple of weeks ago. As soon as these are ready we will share these with all partners. Theme this year is diversity **MM**

RNIB OK to pick up social media again '#HiVIS2021', having done such a great job in previous years.

MM asked for ideas from the group on what people can do in libraries particularly during the current restrictions to celebrate the theme particularly if it avoids doing everything digitally. Ideas to MM by early March. **ALL to MM by 6th March**

JC raised a point regarding using HiVIS 'diversity' theme to talk about intersectionality aspects; LGBTQ, BAME – JV mentioned CILIP doing masses around this area too with their libraries change lives policy and online sessions on diversity. CILIP Diversity network very active at present. JV no longer actively engaged but have routes into both these network's (Yvonne Morris key contact at CILIP) and prepared to contact them about possible collaboration around HiVIS. MM said that this was a great idea and we should share initial HiVIS briefing/follow-up materials with them. **JV**

LACA: ES unable to attend latest meeting but main correspondence from LACA has concerned HE mainly and students gaining access to resources digitally without infringing copyright during lockdown.

6. Other Updates

Marrakesh Update: The UK deposited its ratification of the Marrakesh VIP treaty at WIPO on 01/10/20. It came into force on 01/01/21 meaning exchange of resources across borders should be seamless.

IFLA/Right to Read: No Updates

7. Finance/ Budget report	MF had previously updated the report and it had been shared with Board members. Little change from last time, main payment being to the auditors; and no questions arising.	
8. Administration	<p>Contributions: Had previously agreed that we would hold on until the Spring 2021 to move this forward, when Vision and Print Impaired People’s Promise had been relaunched and so we could stipulate what people gained for their contribution.</p> <p>MM concerned that we don’t have an updated contacts list of all the new Heads of Service and wondered if Libraries Connected could help. Could use the Basecamp network and other avenues to try and make sure the letters reach the right people. MM asked JC and AB if they also had similar so that all areas could be covered. JC and AB to check and send on if so. Need to NOT fall foul of GDPR issues.</p> <p>As discussed at last meeting, will need to bring in additional administrative support to manage this process this year. MM asked group for prospective candidates as if not he may know someone. Would need to edit letters, print, send out, keep track of responses etc. Should not take more than 10 to 12 hours total. Letters to go out March/April.</p> <p>Annual Returns: Last year’s annual report and accounts have been logged with the Charity Commission, and this year’s Companies House response has been filed. MM thanked ES for sorting these out. Next return due in April.</p>	<p>MM to ask MF if LC can support this</p> <p>JC, AB</p> <p>ALL</p>
9. A.O.B / Comms.	<p>Communications: Carry forward: MM still to sort out newsletter sign-up issue/convene a small working group around this matter.</p> <p>Also spoke about amalgamating bulletin list with Six Steps champion list. MM to convene meeting with JV and MF to discuss. Name of discussion list is still ‘Six Steps’, and talked about changing name to VIPPP or Reading Sight or something else(!). JV said he knows how to change if needed. Currently have 183 people registered</p> <p>AOB: None raised</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>MM</p>
10. Next Meetings	<p>6th May – likely to be via Teams. General Consensus was for a PM start time.</p> <p>CE agreed to attend still on behalf of SCLW</p>	<p>ALL</p>