



# Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, September 9<sup>th</sup> 2021, via video conference

**Present:** James Bartlett (RNIB), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Emily Cross (CILIP), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Claire Robe (ACE Observer), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre), John Vincent (The Network)

**Apologies:** Alex Britton (Clearvision), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Kate Leonard (Aura Libraries, SCLW), Helen Poston (Libraries NI/Northern Ireland Observer), Zina Sabovic (British Library),

Agenda Items	Notes	Action
<b>1. Welcome, introductions &amp; apologies for absence</b>	<p>MM welcomed everyone to the meeting; said we would be joined by Victoria Dilly, Libraries Connected Project Manager later in the meeting. Also notified that Jennifer Stewart had stepped down from the board and MM and the board thanked her for her time and valuable contribution. Apologies noted above.</p> <p>No items for Any Other Business were raised.</p>	
<b>2. Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>C/F - British Library storytelling packs production – ZS still to share supplier details</u></li> <li>• <u>C/F - Regional support structure – CR and MM to have a meeting. CR suggested getting Libraries Connected involved</u></li> <li>• MM had conversation with Ben Lee (Shared Intelligence) about how to embed VPIPP moving forward to accreditation. MF said draft framework had been tested on three authorities and suggested speaking again to Libraries Connected soon to discuss getting VPIPP on the radar.</li> <li>• C/F - MM to sort out online banking, they are not dealing with anything over the phone currently</li> <li>• JB and MM meeting to speak about capacity to support STV re. Ulverscroft partnership activity plan and the production of a 'one stop'/Ways of Reading leaflet for accessible library services</li> <li>• MM attended Libraries Connected virtual seminar session on June 16<sup>th</sup> and hosted a session on VPIPP.</li> <li>• JC looked at Six Steps Promise learning module on Learning Pool and notified Helen Drakard at Libraries Connected on changes to content. Need to go through it with guidance on accessibility. MM thanked JC for looking at this.</li> <li>• Basecamp area still to be created; some concerns regarding their working practices and possibly looking at alternative means of delivering this function.</li> <li>• MM thanked those that gave feedback on the Reading Sight website. Neil from ECh has made changes in terms of accessibility and produced a performance report which previously MM circulated.</li> </ul>	<p>ZS</p> <p>CR, MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>JB, MM</p> <p>JC, MM</p>

- MM asked for feedback still on any positive marketing experiences, with a view to the prospective marketing work that we are looking to undertake as part of the Ulverscroft Foundation partnership action plan.
- Blackpool staff and MM have been sending out letters and keeping note of responses. Thanks to all who helped with that. MM thanked KL and NK for their help translating the letter. Now have a mailing list for the whole of the UK; although could probably benefit from adding named contacts for future.

Minutes of the last meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021 were reviewed and agreed.

### 3. Partner Updates

Prior to the meeting various partners had shared their updates with Board attendees (embedded below), which enabled more concise (virtual) discussion, focused on questions/matters arising – MM commented on positive digital access to members from RNIB and Calibre Audio projects. Also massive uplift in people signing up to mailing list so thanks to JV for managing that.

JC expressed interest in Clearvision's tactile books competition and wondered about promoting it to their students. MM said to contact AB for more info.

**Calibre:** Our books are now available on RealSAM Pocket and Speaker so our members who also have an In Your Pocket smart phone can use this to listen to our collection. In Your Pocket is a fully voice controlled smart phone that requires a monthly subscription to RealSAM. Members can also subscribe to RealSAM Speaker to listen to Calibre audiobooks on a Google or Alexa speaker.

As Mark Freeman mentioned, I also took part in the Vision and Print Impaired Peoples Promise Libraries Connected Award judging panel along with Clare Robe and Mark McCree. It was a real privilege to be involved and to see some of the great work happening, where staff and teams have gone above and beyond to supply services in their organisations.

We were delighted to partner with the Edinburgh International Book festival which ran from 14<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup> August so we have been working hard to get the books featured into our collection at Calibre.

Still continuing to work on breaking down barriers with publishers to obtain their audio.

**Clearvision:** We are now largely returned to our normal processes following lockdown. ClearVision is hosting the UK judging round of the international Typhlo and Tactus tactile book competition, and have therefore been putting on online workshops for book designers. The international judging round of the contest has been postponed till April (date still to be announced), which means we've put back the deadline for UK entries too: the new deadline is 28<sup>th</sup> February 2022. This means we can run more workshops!

Information on our website here:

[http://www.clearvisionproject.org/News/index.php?post\\_id=24&title=%E2%80%8Bmore-time--typhlo-and-tactus-competition-postponed](http://www.clearvisionproject.org/News/index.php?post_id=24&title=%E2%80%8Bmore-time--typhlo-and-tactus-competition-postponed) They're free and targeted at complete beginners, so please do advertise them in your networks. The competition is free to enter and has a 500Euro prize!

**HE/Scotland:** NK apologised for not sending her round up as she was on leave, only thing to report was libraries slowly opening up after Covid restrictions.

**Libraries Connected:** We've obviously all been very much concerned with getting services back up and running over recent weeks and this has entailed a regular conversation with the DCMS to check on what we can and can't do at various stages. The Toolkit has now been "archived" as we are technically back to normal! We are now looking at our extension plan to our funding for next year and starting to work on our bid for the next round of Arts Council Sector Support funding.

Major projects which continue are the Future Funding work we've been doing, our Leadership programme is coming to a close and the Accreditation work should also be coming to a conclusion this Autumn. We will be looking at the Pilot Accreditation next week to see how the system might work

MF also took part in the judging for the VIP Promise awards for Libraries Connected. This is the first time we have had awards linked to the Seminar and it was good to get together with Mark McCree, Claire Robe and Emma Scott to judge the nominations. The Libraries Connected Seminar takes place in October at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire.

**The Network:** At the time of the last Board Meeting, there were 207 people registered on the Reading Sight JISCMAIL list – today, there are **283** (including new members from Oxford GLAM – Gardens, Libraries & Museums [the Bodleian etc] – who have joined The Network, and shown a lot of interest). The uplift was largely as a result of the Universal Offers webinar that MM was part of in June.

We continue to produce the regular Ebulletins and Newsletters, as well as coordinating the other JISCMAIL lists, and I am also still writing my book (currently standing at some 39,000 words!!)

**RNIB:** RNIB Reading Services launched a Talking Book skill for Amazon Alexa on 3<sup>rd</sup> August (a month ago today, time flies). Feedback from library customers has been overwhelmingly positive. We intend to enhance and grow this service in the coming months to other smart speakers and to include other content from RNIB.

We will leave our offices in Bakewell Road in Peterborough on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September and move to the Northminster office to join other RNIB teams. The significant chapter of over thirty years operating from Bakewell Road finally reaches a conclusion.

Ebraille continues to show interest and with growing demand. We have been refining how we “devolumise” our braille files and now have over 2,400 ebraille titles available.

**SCONUL:** Disabled Students Allowance (DSA) update:  
[www.practitioners.slc.co.uk](http://www.practitioners.slc.co.uk)

The Student Loans Company is currently reviewing the supply of needs’ assessments and assistive technology provision and an announcement about which model will be implemented is imminent.

A [report](https://wonkhe.com/blogs/why-are-so-many-students-locked-out-of-their-education/) on barriers faced by disabled students during and post-pandemic: <https://wonkhe.com/blogs/why-are-so-many-students-locked-out-of-their-education/>

Frustration reported by disabled students that, suddenly, universities seem able to provide more flexible and inclusive learning when, previously, it seemed so difficult to meet the access needs of disabled students.

SCONUL has established three key groups to discuss and investigate the following:

Delivering blended learning (looking at libraries’ role in supporting their institutions as they make this transition)

Embracing disruption: emerging technologies and systems (looking at new technologies and innovative uses of existing technologies)

Organisational development (looking at roles, skills and the nature of our work post-Covid)

#### **4. Ulverscroft Foundation update**

MM welcomed Victoria Dilly to the meeting and introductions were made. VD has worked at Libraries Connected since November and is now working on the Universal Offers and the Ulverscroft Foundation Partnership Action Plan for STV. The role was initially for a year until August 2022 but extra funding means she can stay on for another seven months. Libraries Connected asked if STV can match the funds for this. Costing originally £3,000 for the year so would be extra £2,000 for the seven months where we had budgetd £6-6,500 overall. MM asked for board agreement for this spending which was **agreed**.

MM to produce six month update on plan for next meeting and will then share with Ulverscroft Foundation. To review at Dec meeting.

**MM**

MM said that good progress has been made and the outstanding/priority parts for the next six months are library on a shelf, Basecamp and marketing-related activity MM to pick these aspects up with VD in meeting next week.

**MM**

#### **5. Recent / Emerging projects**

**Hi VIS 2021** – Performance reports sent round, MM thanked Karen at the RNIB for producing them. Not as high profile performance as the year before. Didn’t reach out to key organisations to spread the word. Comment that images didn’t have alt/text description on social media – must mention in guidance next time – all good ‘lessons to learn’.

**ALL**

	JV mentioned in previous years there has been more traffic on the Jiscmail list sharing what they were doing, suggested we should make more use of that forum again next year and not just rely solely on social media.	MM, JV
	Next meeting to discuss ideas for next years Hi VIS and confirm dates.	ALL
	<b>VAT on audiobooks</b> – MM said Isobel Hunter Chief Exec of Libraries Connected emailed about this. MM said we would back this but unsure as to what the next steps were. MM to contact Isobel. Also need to check articles of association about potential ‘political’ lobbying.	MM
	<b>Libraries Connected Awards</b> – MM, MF, CR and ES met on a panel to judge VPIPP award. Strong contenders and a worth winner and runner up chosen. All announced at LC seminar in October. Have been promoting awards. Very enjoyable to be part of and see the work going on. MM thanked other panel judges for taking part.	
<b>6. Other Updates</b>	<b>Reading Friends</b> – ES fed back on meeting on 8 <sup>th</sup> June: ES mentioned to meeting for DH and team to follow up on meeting with MM.	MM, ES
	Project at almost 60,000 engagements, website had almost 60,000 page views and the training videos have been viewed over 3,000 times. DCMS roll out in England and lottery funding ended at the end of March.	
	Case studies mentioned – one from Rochdale libraries about an expectant and new mum’s project. Raised issue on safeguarding as facilitator was getting enquiries outside of the group that really needed help outside of her profession. Second case study was from Leicester libraries where they identified participants for their projects through welfare calls that were carried out through Covid.	
	Evaluation survey received 900 responses, showed an increase in feeling lonely through pandemic. 72% felt less lonely as a result of taking part in the projects and 83% said the content was meaningful.	
	ES to send latest minutes round; and next Meeting: 13 <sup>th</sup> October	ES
	<b>LACA</b> – ES fed back on meeting on 17 <sup>th</sup> June: Most of the meeting occupied discussion of ebook SOS campaign. Trying to steer CMA (competition and markets authority) to full investigation. There are publishers that won’t sell to libraries and if you make something available to the public you need to make it available to libraries on reasonable terms too. Some items only on ebook so can’t get otherwise or else too expensive. Argument is it needs government legislation to back it up.	
	New LACA website transferred from CILIP hosting.	
	Member spotlight – every meeting a member of LACA highlights their organisation. This time round it was the Wellcome Trust Collection in London which is a charitable foundation focused on health and research established in 1936 with legacies from pharmaceutical magnate Henry Wellcome to fund research to improve human and animal health.	

Matthew Greenhall of RLUK (Research libraries UK) then fed back on the development and delivery of virtual reading rooms. They had been giving remote access to collections via Zoom and internet. Staff member would place document in front of camera for researcher to look at and staff member would turn pages.

Next Meeting: TBC

## **7. Finance/ Budget report**

Contributions looking healthy.

Universal Offers Project Manager post will be coming out of budget. MM mentioned about needing to separately track the spend on the action plan separate for Ulverscroft Foundation.

**MF**

Small expenditures on bulletin, companies house and email hosting.

## **8. Adminis- tration**

As mentioned above, 50 contributions so far, some outstanding, one authority interested in consortium agreement. A few return to senders so need to check with Helen Drakard as list came from her.

**MM**

MM broadly explained contributions 'issue' and his decision not ask Board members and wider partner organisations for a contribution for 2021/22, which had been agreed at the previous meeting. The key problem was/is that we were going to be charging some and not others; that is was a flat rate contribution 'charge', and the fact that Board members give of their time for the meetings and work involved. As it stands, letters have gone to every library authority in UK only. It was agreed that this would form a substantive agenda item at next session to discuss and agree an approach for future years.

**MM, ES**

Annual returns – next one coming up in January.

**ES**

Finance documents to be sent to auditor for AGM

**MF**

MM to do annual report to go with finance report by end Oct.

**MM**

Nominations for Board positions needed pre AGM

**ALL, ES**

## **9. A.O.B / Comms.**

MM mentioned that we don't have VI representation on Board and he would like to address this, but not sure of how to proceed (re. representation rather than tokenism; who to ask; how to embed within current operating structure. Again, it was agreed that this would form a substantive agenda item at next session to discuss potential ways forward.

**ALL**

AB asked for Right to Read to be removed from the agenda.

**MM, ES**

MM said there had been a few enquiries of late. Charlotte Murphy volunteered an article for Reading Sight – archived in news section.

Contact Us feature has been sorted.

MM thanked DF for bulletins – valuable source of info.

## **10. Next Meetings**

9<sup>th</sup> December: general Board meeting plus AGM, so scheduled a longer meeting from 2 to 4pm. MM to send out Teams invite as a placeholder but will confirm if meeting in person or online.

**MM**

Dates 2022 – To be finalised at next meeting. Board to check dates to see if any clashes, they are generally held in the first week or so of the month in Feb, May, Sept and Dec.

**ALL**