



# Share The Vision Board meeting

Thursday, February 10th 2022, via video conference

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**Attendees:** Alex Britton (Clearvision), James Bartlett (RNIB), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Emily Cross (CILIP), Victoria Dilly (Libraries Connected), Mark Freeman (Treasurer/Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), Richard Holmes (RNIB), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Mark McCree (Chair/Blackpool Libraries), Clancy Mason (ACE Observer), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre), John Vincent (The Network)

**Apologies:** Kate Leonard (Aura Libraries, SCLW), Zina Sabovic (British Library), Brid Steele (Libraries NI/Northern Ireland Observer)

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Agenda Items	Notes	Action
<b>1. Welcome, introductions &amp; apologies for absence</b>	<p>MM welcomed Richard Holmes from the RNIB, Victoria Dilly from Libraries Connected/STV Project Manager and Clancy Mason from Arts Council England (ACE) to the meeting.</p> <p>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>• MM introduced Richard Holmes, who is replacing James Bartlett as RNIB rep. MM thanked James for his support and commitment over recent years. Richard, has a strong background in campaigning and engagement, so will be a real asset to the Board and we look forward to working with him.</li><li>• MM introduced and welcomed Brid Steele, in her absence, who is going to be replacing Helen Poston as NI rep. MM to contact Brid ahead of the next meeting</li><li>• Victoria Dilly introduced herself to the Board. She is a Project Manager at Libraries Connected, which includes time working on the Universal Offers and VIPPP. Share the Vision are covering an element of her salary to support our wider activity programme too. MM asked for Victoria Dilly to be added to circulation lists</li><li>• HiVIS 2022 briefing was sent out and logos circulated for discussion</li><li>• C/F - All changes made on Six Steps Promise learning module (updating it to reflect 'new' VPIPP) on Learning Pool. JC will go back and recheck</li><li>• C/F - MM to sort out online banking, but is moving house so will do so when that transition has happened.</li><li>• MF paid Blackpool invoice</li><li>• Charities Commission return to be done by end of Feb. Companies House return filed.</li></ul> <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2021 were reviewed and agreed.</p>	<p>MM</p> <p>ES</p> <p>JC</p> <p>MM</p> <p>ES</p>

### 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 interested in consultant directory from SCOUNL. JC said about disability/accessibility category and whether STV might wish to make suggestions for consultants to be on that list. JB and MM recommended Sightline.

MM also commented on RNIB's positive news about the smartspeaker skill and Calibre's Book of the Month podcast.

**ASCEL:** The Summer Reading Challenge theme for 2022 is based on STEM Subject (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and The Reading Agency have extended last year's pilot of enrolling all children at maintained primary schools to the challenge.

World Books Day is on the 3rd March and Empathy Day is on the 9<sup>th</sup> June theme this year is empathy, our human superpower.

The Reading Agency is looking at Reading Well for young people, Shelf Help with a refresh.

Bookstart are moving away from a universal offer for three year olds and are developing a more targeted initiative at areas of deprivation which will start in the summer of this year

Ascel are supporting Schools Library Service develop the SLS UK brand and marketing campaign – which has a new website developed in partnership with WestCreative

And lastly, ASCEL is working towards becoming a charity before it applies to the Arts Council England to become an Int Principles Support Organisation (this is taking up a lot of our time at the moment.

**Calibre:** We are enjoying recording our new podcast feature "Book of the Month" where we pick a title each month and discuss it. This month we are talking about "Holding" by Graham Norton as both a celebrity author title and to coincide with LGBT+ history month.

We are really looking forward to being involved with World Book Day this year and having the selected titles in audio ready for the day of launch thanks to the organisers of World Book Day and the RNIB to agreeing to share the titles with us.

We have just received notification of the shortlisted titles for the Carnegie and Greenaway Awards this year so we will be working to get those into audio and again working with the RNIB to swap titles we have. Several book groups who use our book group service had been on hold through Covid as they couldn't meet in person and we are pleased to say a lot of these have restarted their meetings after Christmas so we have been working to get books out to them ready for their start dates.

**Clearvision:** We've been continuing to receive entries for the Typhlo and Tactus competition (our last online workshop ahead of this is on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb: [http://www.clearvisionproject.org/News/index.php?post\\_id=27&title=could-](http://www.clearvisionproject.org/News/index.php?post_id=27&title=could-)

[you-make-a-tactile-book](#)), and have been consulting with occupational therapists on developing books to help children with sensory integration. We're looking forward to welcoming a new Library Administrator next week.

**Libraries Connected:** Work has begun on our next Strategic Plan in preparation for the next round of bidding for Arts Council Funding to support Libraries Connected for the next three year period. The work is being assisted by Shared Intelligence who will help us to develop the Business Plan which will form the basis of the bid to the Arts Council which is due in April.

Accreditation is progressing with a workshop for those who took part in the Pilot and those in the Reference Group last month. The scheme has been approved by the Executive Board of the Arts Council and work is now under way to understand the relationship with Superintendency responsibilities at the DCMS and the capacity needed to run the scheme at the Arts Council. It's hoped to implement the scheme in the 2023-2024 financial year.

Planning for the Libraries Connected Seminar is well under way with two international speakers already in place and most of the programme at an advanced stage of planning. The event will be a face to face Seminar, once again at Wyboston Lakes in Bedfordshire in mid June.

**The Network:** At the time of the last meeting, we had 290 subscribers to the Reading Sight JISMAIL list, today we have 292.

The Network is continuing to share information (via its regular free Ebulletins, its Newsletters and JISMAIL), particularly, at the moment, around Libraries of Sanctuary and LGBTQ+ History Month. (My book is growing ... now stands at some 64,000 words!!)

**RNIB:** RNIB Talking Books Smart Speaker Skill on Amazon Echo's has just had its 6 months birthday. Our readers have made over a million utterances to Alexa while reading books using our Skill already. We will continue to enhance the features that the Skill offers.

RNIB Bookshare now has over 770,000 educational titles for learners with a print disability

And we are all set for World Book Day where titles will be available in braille and audio format from RNIB.

**SCONUL:** SCONUL produces a list of independent consultants working in the library space as a resource for members. They are in the process of updating the directory and are keen to ensure that they are drawing on as broad a range of skills as possible for their own reference and the wider SCONUL community's use with various projects. They are asking for any consultants who would be interested in being included in such a register and, if so, to e-mail [sconul@sconul.ac.uk](mailto:sconul@sconul.ac.uk).

The current version of the SCONUL Consultants Register includes the following categories, but additional recommendations are welcome: buildings and refurbishment / facilitation / information law / library systems and technologies / research services / staff training and support / strategy and service reviews.

#### Framework agreement for study needs assessment services

The Student Loans Company is seeking to establish a framework agreement with suppliers to deliver: assessment of study needs; assistive technology (AT); assistive technology (AT) training; and, the associated support services. This development has been anticipated for several years and will give cause for universities to consider whether or not they continue to run study needs assessment centres (a source of income) or join a consortium to offer such services.

There may be an initiative afoot to roll out the Reading Friends initiatives to universities (via SCONUL) which would be a useful collaboration for both sides.

NSS Student Survey changes - The Office for Students has published proposed new questions for the National Student Survey for 2023. Question 19, which is specifically on library resources, is turning into a more generic learning resources question. SCONUL has contacted the NSS team to ask for a conversation about the rationale (and supporting evidence base) for this change.

Community of interest groups - SCONUL, supported by Jisc, have launched [community of interest groups \(CIGs\)](#) addressing key Libraries after Lockdown areas: Delivering blended learning (looking at libraries' role in supporting their institutions); Embracing disruption: emerging technologies and systems (looking at new technologies and innovative uses of existing technologies); and Organisational development (looking at roles, skills and the nature of our work post-Covid).

**SLIC:** CILIPS conference - The first in person conference in two years! CILIPS has announced the two day conference will go ahead and focus on the theme Scotland's Libraries-Homes of Scotland's Stories. This will take place on the 6th and 7th June at the Apex Hotel in Dundee.

Read for Empathy Book Collection - A new Read For Empathy book collection has launched to help librarians, teachers and parents support children and instil empathy values and skills. The 2022 collection by EmpathyLab features 60 books for 4-16 year-olds selected by an expert judging panel. Each book has been chosen to help empower an empathy-education generation and includes picture books, early readers, poetry collections, novels, graphic novels and non-fiction. Many of the books help readers understand the lives of those experiencing tough situations, like becoming homeless, or a refugee. Others help children build their understanding of emotions or inspire positive action towards the climate or animals or people in their community. This is will be useful for 'Empathy Day' which is on June 9<sup>th</sup>.

Distance Aware Scheme - Scottish Public libraries are providing Distance Aware badges and lanyards as part of a new initiative designed to respect the space of others. The Distance Aware Scheme offers everyone who would feel more comfortable when they have more room, the chance to wear an easily recognisable symbol to show others they need space and care. The scheme was developed by the Bevan Commission and endorsed by the Scottish Government. The easily recognisable shield symbol can be worn by anyone who is worried about being in public places such as libraries, leisure centres and shops or in the workplace. The symbol can help those who would appreciate distance and consideration to feel more confident when going about their daily life. It is not designed to identify those who have been

shielding or who are at higher risk. Lanyards are proving to be very popular, more so than the badges.

New Seed Library for Perth & Kinross - A new seed library has been launched at Perth and Kinross. Perth & Kinross Libraries and Perthshire Organic Gardeners have launched a new community initiative which aims to increase sustainability as well as health & wellbeing. The Perthshire Seed Library enables members to share open-pollinated seeds that suit local growing conditions, access information about gardening and sustainability, and enjoy positive health & wellbeing benefits. The joint venture was the brainchild of Culture Perth & Kinross Libraries Chief Executive, Helen Smout who tasked Library Development Officer Kirsty Brown with bringing the idea to life. The Seed Library now has over 40 members with word of mouth encouraging more and more people to join. The initiative has strong ties with Forward: Scotland's Public Library Strategy 2021-2025 which is rooted in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals. There is a £5 membership fee and it is very much a local initiative.

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

**Library on a shelf** – VD went through proposal slides. LOAS needed a revamp and to reflect what library staff were feeding back. Main points were:

- Name change to Reading Sight pack to help with signposting
- Combination of physical and digital resources, to be high quality, engaging and raise awareness with up to date info.
- Pack to include guide in form of a booklet
- Staff facing printed assets to use in communal areas (i.e. posters)
- Customer facing digital assets for use in online promo and for downloading
- Printed assets to engage with library users and signpost to support (i.e. posters and postcards to cover both Reading Sight AND VPIPP)
- All collected in a card wallet with branding.

Aim to launch new pack via a webinar and hopefully to coincide with Hi VIS 2022. Information will be included on relevant organisations, Learning Pool resource, technology for users with sight loss, Reading Sight as a one-stop shop and advice on how staff can connect with VI communities.

Customer facing assets will likely include a Powerpoint presentation that can be displayed on plasma screens. Editable poster and printed posters signposting info. and support. Promotional digital assets so libraries can easily share info via social media. Also 'staff facing' assets, i.e. Reading Sight guide.

VD

STV board gave positive feedback particularly about digital and physical assets.

The production of materials in Welsh language was discussed, following previous offer from Kate and RNIB and MF suggested getting Welsh colleagues to look at it.

VD/KL

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

**Reading Friends** – VD/STV are also pursuing the idea (embedded within the Ulverscroft activity programme) of reviewing and updating Reading Friends VI resource to become a more detailed toolkit, including promotion of reading groups etc. and its benefits/impact. Toolkit would be freely available to all (STV may need to cover costs of this, but that has been factored in to our budgeting).

VD

	<p>Would be looking to share and promote via a webinar with relevant speakers to raise awareness and highlight Reading Friends/how to run a group for VIPs. Looking at producing video content too for this.</p>	VD
	<p><b>Hi VIS 2022</b> – Briefing issued to key stakeholders in January. Laura has been doing design work for it. Free assets on website will be made available in May.</p>	
	<p>Board discussed logos. Agreed the pink version with bubbles background was the best. MM to provide this feedback to Laura and liaise with Neil at Ech to enable us to get these resources out to people as soon as they are ready.</p>	MM
	<p>AB asked if something could be done to promote on TikTok – MM noted.</p>	MM
<b>6. Other Updates</b>	<p><b>VPIPP Training</b> – JC to check. MM liaising with Helen Drakard about training module. Trying to make access to learning pool more accessible to staff across the UK and working in community-supported libraries too.</p>	JC / MM
	<p><b>LACA:</b> Next meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> March which ES will not be able to attend as it clashes with another meeting.</p>	
	<p><b>Reading Friends</b> – Next meeting 9<sup>th</sup> March. ES to attend.</p>	ES
<b>7. Finance/ Budget report</b>	<p>One more contribution noted and £153 paid out. Also paid £300 to Blackpool but that will be in the next report.</p>	
	<p>MM asked MF whether Aura Wales Leisure had paid their invoice as they queried it. MF to check</p>	MF
	<p>MF said no invoice had been received as yet from Libraries Connected for VD's time. MM to discuss with VD/Sarah Mears and arrange for invoice to be processed. Will need to monitor this separately as the first aspect of our Ulverscroft Foundation spending</p>	MM MF
	<p>MF raised that he may potentially be leaving his role at the end of the year. MM asked board if anyone would like to take on Finance/Treasurer role</p>	ALL
<b>8. Administration</b>	<p>Contributions – To contact local authorities in May again. Will need someone to do the admin as Blackpool did it last year. Need to find named contacts for every authority to make it easier for contribution letters to reach the right people (probably Head of Service). Need to update contact list with this info.</p>	
	<p>Annual Returns – Companies House return complete. Charities Commission due end of Feb. ES to check date and file return.</p>	ES
<b>9. A.O.B / Comms.</b>	<p>MM has been fielding several enquiries from DCMS and others recently. DCMS approached on behalf of a student. Also contacted by Waitrose health magazine who found Reading Sight - Interested in producing their magazine in audio format. Also interested in other things they could feature in the magazine like Alexa skill and other accessibility formats. Additionally, a Theatre company wanted to publicise their production they are doing with a VI theme – adapting a childrens book.</p>	
	<p>MM commented that it was positive that people were finding their way to us.</p>	

NF asked if we were seeing an increase in the number of enquiries. MM said yes, but not sure why! – may just be people looking more and being more aware in terms of diversity/accessibility.

MF requested a laptop for DF to use for STV. Board agreed.

**MF / ES**

**10. Next Meetings**

**Dates 2022** confirmed as: 12<sup>th</sup> May; 8<sup>th</sup> September; and, 8<sup>th</sup> December at 11am. Still looking to meet virtually for the time being.

Will look to formally recognise changes in board members at next meeting.

**ES / All**