



# Share the Vision Board meeting

Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> December 2022, via video conference

**Attendees:** Alex Britton (Clearvision), Emily Cross (CILIP), Mark Freeman (Treasurer/Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Richard Holmes (RNIB), Alison Hoolihan (ACE Observer), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Kate Leonard (Aura Libraries, SCLW), Mark McCree (Chair/Oxford Libraries), Lara Marshall (RNIB), Sarah Mears (Libraries Connected), Zina Sabovic (British Library), Simon Savidge (Project Manager - Libraries Connected), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre Audio), Brid Steele (Libraries NI/Northern Ireland Observer)

**Apologies:** Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Nick Fuller (ASCEL), John Vincent (The Network)

Agenda	Notes	Action
<b>Items</b>		
<b>1. Welcome, introductions &amp; apologies for absence</b>	<p>MM welcomed all to the meeting, and specifically, for the first time, Alison Hoolihan from the Arts Council, Brid Steele - representing Libraries NI, Simon Savidge (Project Manager, Libraries Connected; taking over from Victoria Dilly), and guest, Sarah Mears from Libraries Connected</p> <p>Apologies noted above.</p> <p>AOB – none noted.</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 SS as the new project manager with Libraries Connected who will be overseeing the Universal Offers programme and will be continuing the work that VD implemented. SS introduced himself, and MM introduced the rest of the Board.</li> <li>• MM sent updated report to Ulverscroft Foundation on progress which was well-received, also pleased with the draft of the Reading Sight Resource Pack. All 'Ulverscroft' actions completed.</li> <li>• MF has informed Hosting UK that LM is new contact.</li> <li>• MM updated Neil at Ech for invoicing contact.</li> <li>• LM in process of sorting out online banking access</li> <li>• MM sorted out the contribution cheque from Bradford.</li> <li>• LM circulated link to Sharepoint site.</li> <li>• LM to produce social media accessibility guidelines to go on Reading site to be guide number 9.</li> <li>• Training and development on hold until the Reading Site pack is launched. RNIB resources highlighted by LM. Will have conversation around training in the new year.</li> <li>• Formal changes noted on Companies House and Charities Commission sites by ES adding LM and updating MM's contact details.</li> <li>• MF has met with LM to help with the transition of the Treasurer role.</li> <li>• <b>C/F</b> - MM to sort out online banking. In process of house-hunting, so will finalise once that transition has happened.</li> <li>• <b>C/F</b> – MF to check if we can have specific email addresses on the website e.g chair@...</li> </ul>	<p>LM</p> <p>LM/MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MF</p>

### 3. Partner Updates

Minutes of the last meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> September 2022 were reviewed and agreed.

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.

#### Feedback/Questions arising

- MM pointed out the impressive book week programme in Northern Ireland.
- MM gave another plug for JV's book in his absence
- LM asked about trustees positions for Libraries Connected as said it would be great to get someone VI on the board, SM shared details in link: <https://www.librariesconnected.org.uk/news/libraries-connected-seeks-new-trustees>
- MM highlighted Library On from British Library, rebranding and relaunching the single digital sign on – they are looking for people to help with the development of the site, would be great if we could get a VI person involved with that.

**ASCEL:** Main News is we were successful with our ACE bid to become an ISPO in April – work is moving fast on recruiting a CEO, finding an HQ. Being an IPSO will make it easier for use to initiate projects and apply for further funding. We are also recruiting for Trustees – so if anyone is interested it would be great to have someone for STV on the board.

Summer Reading Challenge – we are working with the Reading Agency on the SRC for next and future years – there has been some muttering of discontent from ASCEL members that the SRC needs a re think especially for Top Juniors and incentives. Also work on the pilot on school enrolment in SRC continues

Health & Wellbeing Board – Reading Well for Teens launched on 10th October. Virtual author events on Eventbrite

Contact has been made with Lara Marshall about how we can work with them to ensure public and school libraries can support children with VIP. Discussion to start in the new Year.

**British Library:** Coordinated drive to attract audiences back to the Library. As part of this, 6-week outdoor advertising campaign in tube stations and bus stops around London to attract new readers, delivered in tandem with campaign on our social media channels.

Delivered first national outdoor campaign for BIPC to increase awareness of business services delivered through the British Library and libraries across the UK. Also hosted our first in-person Inspiring Entrepreneurs event in over three years with Building the Black economy. This autumn saw 10th anniversary of the National Network, now with regional Centres in 21 libraries, in addition the British Library.

Single Digital Presence initiative with public libraries has been renamed and rebranded as LibraryOn

A couple of exhibitions currently on: Alexander the Great: The Making of a Myth and Chinese-Britain exhibition.

Our Learning Team delivered a number of courses for adults, autumn workshops for families, literature and history resources for the Black History Month, as well as Discovering Children's Books in partnership with Seven Stories.

BL Eccles Centre & Hay Festival Writer's Award announced on 23 November (winner announcement )

Downloading our Twitter archive in case there are future issues with the platform.

Blog post produced for the Disability History month exploring disability during the Covid-19 pandemic through oral history, with commentary from the Library's Disability and Carers Support Network. For International Disability Day on 3 December a new blog was published around poetry from the Contemporary Literature collection.

Regular review of our websites and online resources to ensure they meet current technological demands and accessibility standards. Updated accessibility information on the web site.

Holding a community Hanukkah event in December.

**Calibre:** We have recruited a new trustee who has a SEN background so we are hoping that they will help us forge some more links in that area to promote our service to those who may benefit.

We are looking to set up some book groups in different formats for our local members living in the Bucks area. We are currently planning to start an in-person book group at the Calibre offices in Aylesbury for our local members at the end of January and we have a meeting scheduled with a local special education needs school as we hope to hold a book group there for the students too. Also hoping to start some telephone book groups. We already have some telephone book groups running for our members based all over the country.

We have had some of our locally based volunteer narrators come in to use our new recording pod to record a couple of short children's books which has worked really well. We will look to utilise this space more in future and potentially hire it out.

We have taken on a new Editorial volunteer to help with cataloguing new books which is in partnership with a local project called Buckinghamshire Supported Internship who help 18 to 24 years olds with a learning disability and/or autism to gain experience in the work place. I have been busy training and settling him in over the past couple of weeks but he is already doing the job quicker and more efficiently than I can!

We have now launched our winter appeal and our Christmas cards have been selling well in the run up to Christmas.

In September we held a garden party to thank our army of volunteers for their service. Children's author Bali Rai came to speak at the event along with The Reading Agency CEO Karen Napier.

**Clearvision:** Celebrated the fact that both the first AND second prize winners of the Typhlo and Tactus competition were UK books! And are seeking funding to get these book produced in multiple copies, to be available via our library. ClearVision is preparing to host the Technical Meeting (ahead of the next competition, in Poland in 2024).

To increase the number and range of tactile image books available, we have resumed our partnership with the Embroiders' Guild, who helped set up our original tactile book collection in 2000. They've recently moved away from their regional group structure, with local Embroiders' Guild groups now becoming affiliated independent craft groups. I'm keen to make contact with any groups which meet in local libraries to offer support and guidance with this project.

Are looking to recruit a part-time fundraiser

Have partnered with Pilotlight to work on our Theory of Change Analysis, to inform our strategic plan.

Have partnered with Scottish Book Trust to make the books in their Read Write Count gifting packs available in both print and braille.

Sitting on the BookTrust (England, Wales and Northern Ireland) Special Needs Gifting Packs selection panel.

**Libraries Connected:** Were successful in bid to become an IPSO (Investment Principle Support Organisation) which gives two years funding plus an extra year subject to approval from Artc Council.

Launched three year strategy which is on the website.

Currently recruiting for trustees, both internal trustees as there are a number of vacancies as well as a couple of independent trustee vacancies. Interviews for that are towards the end of January, beginning of February

**Libraries NI:** Summer Reading Challenge 2022; 13,049 children took part, 393 events hosted, 160,264 books were borrowed, 238,817 social media reaches

Book Week NI (17-23 October 2022) - Book Week NI is an annual programme of events delivered in partnership with the BBC. This partnership is beneficial to Libraries NI as it creates a spotlight on the work that libraries do and has the potential to reach people who would not normally consider using libraries. The theme for this year was "Read all about it". Libraries across the country were encouraged to promote library services and deliver events to support the programme. A series of events featuring the work of high-profile authors was delivered in several libraries. Four of these events were live streamed and recorded to allow people to view online later. Numerous events were held across library venues.

Libraries NI hosted a special BBC concert of music and readings for Book Week 2022 on 11 October in the Ulster Hall, Belfast. The Ulster Orchestra were joined by some well-known guests and it was recorded for broadcast and a selection of performances from it featured across the BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle schedule during Book Week itself). The concert featured soundtracks with book associations, from Mary Poppins and Miss Marple to Harry Potter and Paddington Bear and readings celebrated books and libraries and all that they make possible.

Local councillors, MLAs, MPs and BBC visited libraries throughout the week. Libraries NI had over 1.2million links during this week

Library Of Sanctuary - Libraries NI is currently working with Belfast City of Sanctuary to pilot Ormeau Road library as a Library of Sanctuary.

Consultation is ongoing with refugee volunteer groups and the city of Sanctuary committee

**The Network:** Reading Sight JISMAIL list: at the time of the last meeting, we had 298 subscribers, today we have 294.

As well as continuing to provide regular newsletters, ebulletins and other information, and running more courses, both online and face-to-face, The Network's current major area of work continues to be supporting library services preparing to become Libraries of Sanctuary (including working with libraries of all kinds as part of an initiative across the SW Peninsula – the "Peninsula of Sanctuary").

JV's book published on 3 November – discount available til the end of the year.

**RNIB:** Share the Vision is very welcome to use the new RNIB London Office address. This will be RNIB, The Grimaldi Building, Pentonville Road, London, N1 9PE

LM spoken to the ECLo managers who are happy to pass on any information from Share the Vision to ECLo's - digital form is easier to begin with, then if they need it in a different format, they can request it.

There have been a few issues with the SharePoint website but now it should be working! You do have to sign up for an account with Microsoft to be able to access it though: [https://rnib.sharepoint.com/sites/external\\_shares/RNIB-Public-Library-Resources/SitePages/Homepage.aspx](https://rnib.sharepoint.com/sites/external_shares/RNIB-Public-Library-Resources/SitePages/Homepage.aspx)

Package to Libraries Connected still being finalised.

RNIB has sent an email to Baroness Sanderson to encourage the thought of Blind and Partially Sighted people as part of the new public library strategy.

RNIB Bookshare now has almost 1million titles!

Oral storytellers The Crick Crack Club have been in touch with the RNIB on a new project called Storytelling in the Dark/Stories in the Dark where they tell stories in pitch black to look at new ways to which stories, art and non-visual forms of storytelling impact on imagination.

**SLIC:** SLIC is pioneering a new Lend & Mend project which is funded by the John Lewis Partnership's £1million Circular Future fund. Lend & mend will facilitate free access to tools and everyday items with the aim of reducing waste, recycling and also saving people money in these straightened times. Five libraries are taking part Aberdeen Central Library, South West Library (Inverclyde), Gorebridge Library (Midlothian), A K Bell Library (Perth) and Girvan Library (South Ayrshire). It's really quite exciting.

The Every Child A Library Member (ECALM) relaunched in Scotland in November. It has the aim of introducing every single child (and their associated adult) to library membership. This has garnered huge publicity on radio/TV and has the backing of the Scottish Government.

Book Week Scotland 14-20 November – fantastic celebration held in just about every single Scottish library. There were author events, craft events, music events and just about everything else you could possibly think about to encourage everyone to shout about books. Mobile Libraries Day fell on the 17th of November and celebrated the 49 mobile libraires in 22 local authorities.

Bloody Scotland – Scotland's crime writing festival was held 15-17 September. A fantastic array of in person and virtual events celebrating the macabre, bloody and downright fascinating. Winner of the McIlvanney Prize was Alan Parks with May God Forgive; and winner of the Bloody Scotland Debut Prize was Tariq Ashkanani with Welcome to Cooper.

Warmbanks – the cost of living crises is continuing and people are genuinely concerned about heating their homes. Libraries have been promoted as warmbanks. STV news provided an overview of warmbanks in Scotland and resources available. <https://news.stv.tv/scotland/how-to-find-a-warm-bank-in-your-local-area-as-fuel-poverty-increases-ahead-of-winter> On the ground, this has meant provided free warm drinks, comfortable spaces and cost of living support in libraries.

**SCONUL:** SCONUL is in the process of developing its new strategy for 2023 to 2025.

The Student Loans Company is progressing with reforms to the procurement of supplies and services for Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA) following its Invitation to tender (ITT), earlier in the year. They expect to be able to inform all bidders of the outcome of the tender process this month with a public announcement on the completion of the commercial process expected in February 2023.

The new contractual framework includes four geographical lots with suppliers providing needs assessments, assistive technology, assistive technology training, and the associated support services, in each lot. A mixture of incumbent and new suppliers, including some consortium bids participated in the second stage, in which one supplier can secure a maximum of two lots. Planning has begun for a phased rollout of the new supplier framework from Q1 in 2023. The focus is on delivering an improved service for customers in receipt of DSA and better value for money for UK taxpayers. Many small assessment centres, including those within universities, are likely to close as a result (or become part of a consortium)

Lots of discussion about implications of AI on student work:

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2022/nov/28/ai-students-essays-cheat-teachers-plagiarism-tech>

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/opinion/if-machines-do-writing-students-will-stop-doing-thinking>

Wonkhe and Pearson have published a report on student belonging. This includes a discussion of access to resources (including the cost of textbooks) and the disproportionate impact of this on disadvantaged students (pgs 19-21); the need for resources to be inclusive (pgs 21-22) and the importance of staff diversity (pg 23). It also discusses accessibility of content (pg 17). The report can be found here: <https://wonkhe.com/wp-content/wonkhe-uploads/2022/10/Building-Belonging-October-2022.pdf>

E-resources - Springer/Nature ejournals - JISC is undertaking robust negotiations regarding escalation in cost of content. Universities seem prepared to walk away unless a better deal is offered. Norwegian libraries have cancelled their subscription.

MM introduced the action plan to those new to the board.

MM thanked Libraries Connected for their help in securing the role VD had and now SS has stepped into, this role has been incredibly valuable and we would not be as far along in the plan if not for this resource.

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

**Reading Sight Resource Pack:** All content signed off, draft versions shared with board and agreed and has been translated so will be in Welsh, thanks to KL for helping with this. RNIB lined up to do accessible versions and it will be in digital and hard copy. This is now with Marsha who hopes to complete by Christmas. Print numbers still to be confirmed along with distribution. £17,000 initially put aside for this project but could potentially allocate more funds to it depending on final costings. MM to email update to board on final figures to procure agreement before next meeting.

MM

Timeline and launch also needs discussion.

MM

LM suggested she could deliver a webinar or similar and launch the Reading Site Pack as part of that.

<b>5. Recent / Emerging projects</b>	<p><b>Hi VIS 2023</b> – Will now be the first two weeks in June going forward and have liaised with Libraries Connected to get it on the calendar. Last meeting we reflected on lessons learned and noted that people missed having a theme. Suggested for 2023 to focus on the cost of living – highlight freely available access to services and materials. Board agreed on theme. MF suggested strap line for theme: Hi Vis. Low or no cost</p>	
	<p>MM to contact Laura at Stockton on Tees re. design and Hi Vis 2023 resources</p>	<b>MM</b>
	<p>Karen at RNIB usually helps with social media – LM to set up a conversation about this.</p>	<b>LM</b>
	<p><b>Reading Friends</b> – MM spoke to Debbie Hicks from the Reading Agency as they are applying to the Ulverscroft Foundation for funding for the Reading Friends project for three years to expand the offer out more specifically to include VI people. They would be looking to deliver this in partnership with Share the Vision. Board agreed with this, MM to update Debbie Hicks.</p>	<b>MM</b>
	<p>ES informed that there had been no further advisory panel meetings as they had paused them for the moment and were assessing the best way forward with these.</p>	
<b>6. Other Updates</b>	<p><b>LACA:</b> ES attended meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> October. Had a presentation about the development of social media presence for LACA.</p>	
	<p>Discussed LACA’s manifesto and what LACA stands for: “fair copyright reform for libraries and archives in Europe.”</p>	
	<p>Election results announced so the new chair of LACA is Matthew Lambert, who’s head of copyright policy and assurance at the British Library and the vice chair is Christy Henshaw, and she’s digital production manager at the Wellcome collection.</p>	
	<p>LACA are compiling a letter to the chair of the Education Committee about the poorly functioning ebook market for libraries, universities and NHS and academic institutions. This is where publishers are failing to provide stable and affordable access to key titles in ebooks, which fails students and teaching staff made more apparent by COVID and the restrictions on getting access to materials. Also organisations are tied in to buying bundles and can’t buy individual titles so they are fighting for recognition of this issue.</p>	
	<p>MF suggested a link back to Libraries Connected again on this issue and getting in touch with LACA. ES to provide contact details to SM.</p>	<b>ES</b>
	<p><b>Libraries Connected Awards:</b> Some board STV members took part on the judging panel this year and the awards are happening again next year. They are now accepting applications so please highlight to libraries. MM asked board if anyone interested to volunteer to be part of the panel, then let him know.</p>	<b>ALL/MM</b>
		<b>ES</b>
	<p>Audio Magazine: MM had been contacted from an audio magazine working to try and get into libraries around the UK. MM asked board if anyone heard of them. BS had a meeting with them to see what it entailed. Concerns raised around a similarity with RNIB product. MM to continue conversation.</p>	<b>MM</b>
<b>7. Finance/ Budget report</b>	<p><b>Treasurer Role Succession-</b> MF had handover with LM.</p>	
	<p>MF talked through the Finance Report including the Ulverscroft payment that had been received, £102 paid for Bulletins, auditor paid for annual report, Marsha paid for work on leaflets, £29.49 paid to MF for Hosting UK. Balance for STV is £73,108.11</p>	

	MF claimed travelling expenses to train LM on a new form created for the purpose. ES asked if there was a blank form to have on file. LM to forward.	LM
	MM asked about contact details. MF to ask Hosting UK to change login details. Also to send details of Steve McDonald as the auditor.	MF
	MM thanked LM and MF for working through this.	
<b>8. Administration</b>	<b>2022/23 Contributions</b> - Did not ask for contributions in 2022, as waiting for Reading Sight pack to be produced so it could be mentioned in the letter to demonstrate something we were delivering for them. Discussion around contributions and the cost to pitch it at. MM highlighted amount of reserves we have and that it should be used specifically on people with VI. AB made the point that it's important to decide what budget year to send letters in, so libraries can budget for it. Suggestion to ask for contribution in 2023/2024 but reduce the ask to £150 and tie in with launch of Reading Sight pack.	MM
	<b>Annual Returns:</b> Companies House Accounts need to be filed by end of January. ES to submit.	ES
	Had communication from Charities Commission with potential changes to submitting accounts etc. MM and ES to look at in the new year.	MM/ES
	<b>Administrative Address:</b> Need to formerly change this from CILIP. LM stated that RNIB new London address can be used from mid February. ES to ask contact at CILIP for timeframe of moving date and also to collect post to send on. MF raised that Bank of Scotland would need to be informed of address change.	ES MF/LM
	<b>CILIP Representative:</b> MM announced that EC will be moving on from being the CILIP representative on STV. MM thanked EC for all her work and contribution on the board. MM to approach Nck Poole about another CILIP rep.	MM
	<b>Board Admin:</b> MM asked Richard Holmes from the RNIB if he would like to become an official STV board member. RH accepted. Proposed by AB and Seconded by MF. ES to ask RH for details to add him to Companies House and Charities Commission and to take EC and MF off of those lists.	ES
<b>9. A.O.B / Comms.</b>	Sheila Bennett from the DCMS has been in contact, they are running a workshop on libraries strategy in the new year on 27 <sup>th</sup> January so MM will attend that. MM asked board members for input ahead of that session, it is public libraries focused so MM will be discussing the roles they already play in supporting people with a visual or print impairment. Focus will be more on the future about what more is there still to do and what areas do we need to improve on. Feedback could include what could we be doing better as public libraries to support users with with a vision or print impairment? Let MM know if any ideas or input and he will collate and feedback.	ALL
<b>10. Next Meetings</b>	MM proposed dates of next years meetings which are: Thursday 9 <sup>th</sup> February / Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> May Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September / Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> December	
	All meetings are 11-1pm except the December meeting which is 10.30-1pm to include the AGM.	
	February meeting to include send off for MF so will be held in person at Oxford Library for those that can attend but will still be hybrid for those that can't. Please let MM know if you can attend February meeting in person for catering purposes.	ALL