



Share the Vision Board meeting

Thursday, 9th February 2023, in person and via video conference

Attendees: Alex Britton (Clearvision), Jackie Chelin (SCONUL), Mark Freeman (Stockton Libraries/Libraries Connected), Alison Hoolihan (ACE Observer), Kate Leonard (Aura Libraries, SCLW), Mark McCree (Chair/Oxford Libraries), Lara Marshall (Treasurer/RNIB), Simon Savidge (Project Manager - Libraries Connected), Emma Scott (Secretary/Calibre Audio), Brid Steele (Libraries NI/Northern Ireland Observer), John Vincent (The Network)

Apologies: Richard Holmes (RNIB), Naomi Kenny (SLIC, Falkirk), Zina Sabovic (British Library),

| Agenda Items | Notes | Action |
|---|---|--|
| 1. Welcome, introductions & apologies for absence | MM welcomed all to the meeting, and did a brief introduction of everybody. Apologies noted above. AOB – none noted. | |
| 2. Minutes of last meeting / Matters arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LM has completed form to enable access to online banking. Reading Sight Resource Pack – MM shared update and is on agenda. Laura has completed Hi Vis designs and is on agenda. Met with RNIB to discuss the the social media plans. Reading Friends – MM fed back on project bid but no response as yet. MM to contact Debbie Hicks. Libraries Connected VIPPP Award judging panel meeting next week. Audio magazine query. Possibly looking for endorsement from StV to promote in libraries. Discussion round this – MM to respond Travel expenses were paid MF to let Hosting UK know of change of contact details Agreed the approach on contributions going forward MM attended Library Strategy meeting – update to follow in meeting ES sent LACA contacts to Sarah Mears at Libraries Connected. MM updated Charities Commission account login details. To share with those that need access. C/F - MM to sort out online banking. In process of house-hunting, so will finalise once that transition has happened. C/F - Admin address needs clarification C/F – MM to approach Nick Poole for CILIP representative on StV <p>Minutes of the last meeting on 8th December 2022 were reviewed and agreed.</p> | <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MF</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM</p> <p>MM/LM/ES MM</p> |
| 3. Partner Updates | Prior to the meeting various partners had shared their updates with Board attendees (embedded below), which enabled more concise (virtual and in person) discussion, focused on questions/matters arising. | |

Feedback/Questions arising

- MM congratulated ASCEL on becoming an IPSO organisation through the Arts Council.
- MM commented on the good work of the RNIB in producing an accessible storytime guide. Happy for those to be added to the list of guidelines on the Reading Sight website. LM happy to share with board for feedback.
- MM congratulated the British Library on their 50th anniversary.
- MM commented on BS's updates that "Give it a Go month" sounds brilliant. BS fed back on project.
- JC asked about JV's next book. JV said proposals are with Facet and have gone to peer review. It will be about the libraries response to looked after children and young people.

LM

ACE: Libraries Accreditation Scheme – our new Project Manager has started in post and over the next 6 months will be working on the next phase of finalising the libraries accreditation scheme and of scoping internal resource to administer the scheme.

ACE have funded CILIP's amazing 'Welcome to libraries' pack, a welcome to public libraries for any new starters in the sector. It's also an interesting read for those of us not so new as well!

Our Director of Libraries, Luke Burton, continues to work with Baroness Sanderson on the review of Public Libraries, attending another themed session later on this week.

The third round of the Libraries Improvement Fund has been announced, with EOIs being accepted in April. This round sees a funding pot of £10.5m for library services across England to invest in a range of projects to upgrade buildings and technology so they are better placed to respond to the changing ways people are using them.

Arts Council England and the LGA would like to hear from councils who want to benefit from an online peer challenge of their library services. The LGA are able to offer a limited number of fully funded peer challenges based upon the established LGA peer challenge methodology. There are 8 library service peer challenge opportunities. The peer challenges are delivered online via Teams or Zoom platforms and last between 1.5 to 2 days. More information, including how to apply, can be found here

CILIP's ACE funded Green Libraries conference takes place on Friday 24th March at the Wellcome Trust, London. The free conference aims to connect library staff at all levels to share ideas and insights on environmental understanding and action. Places can be booked here.

We are currently planning a webinar to the sector to raise awareness of the English Public Libraries Strategic Working Group (EPL). This group is convened by the Arts Council and comprises senior stakeholders from across the public library sector, meeting every 5-6 weeks to discuss collaborative workstreams that benefit the national sector. We hope to deliver the webinar later this year.

ASCEL: Most of the time has been taken up with the changes to the organisation:

Ascel is now a charity and received IPSO funding from ACE. We have first recruited our first Chief Exec are doing through all the HR procedures before they start.

Also looking at finding a physical place to be based – which needs to be in a levelling up area, Wolverhampton is currently favourite. There are two more posts to be filled finance/admin and project manager

Drafting the workplan for the Board to submit to ACE

- a completed Activity Plan template
- a completed Investment Principles Plan template

- a completed financial template

Governance – work with lawyer to draft Articles of Assoc and set up Board.

Board recruitment with a recruitment agency

Finding support contracts for HR, accountancy, IT, legal, insurance

Work with HR expert to write HR handbook and key policies, staff contracts and T&C and template job descriptions

Trustee Recruitment Running alongside all of this we are starting to look at what needs to be in place to recruit a more diverse and inclusive Board of Trustees

Working with the Reading agency on this year's Reading Challenge – Press Release will be on the 6th March – theme, title and partnership is under embargo until then

Ascel has been approached by Baroness Sanderson – to look at the work we are doing for children and young adults.

Liaising with the Booktrust re the new Bookstart targeted offer

Reading Well for teens was launched in October

ASCEL Conference was held in person – a successful event which was well received – however less people present than before Covid – due to funding.

British Library: National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) is running from 6-12 February and the Library plans to continue supporting early careers programmes such as apprenticeships. During the week we will also be highlighting the experiences of some of our fantastic current and past apprentices.

Following sessions last summer, the Disability and Carer Support Network is funding five tutor led arts and crafts sessions at St Pancras. Each of the sessions will be approached as a 'creative taste of' introductory activity which will be suitable for beginners and all abilities including those looking to develop their skills or try something new. They will cover a range of art forms, work across different themes and consider different technical skill development.

Participating in "Time to Talk Day Run" by Mind and Rethink Mental Illness, in partnership with Co-op. It is all about bringing people and communities together to talk about mental health. To find out more follow this link to MIND Time to Talk Day

On Monday 30 January 2023, the Library's plans to extend, reorient and open up our site at St Pancras were approved, in principle, by Camden Council. This decision represents a major milestone within the St Pancras Transformed Programme.

This year British Library celebrates 50 years since the British Library began operations on 1 July 1973. Staff have been invited to share their memories and stories about working at the British Library.

The Library and the British Fashion Council held an evening Awards Ceremony in January to celebrate the results of the 2022 Fashion Design Research competition, part of an innovative collaboration between the British Library and the British Fashion Council. The Award's evening followed several months of work with fashion students from universities across the UK.

As part of BL's commitment to a better climate future, we are looking for an Environmentalist in Residence to take up a three-month residency at the British Library from March to May 2023.

This month will see the second phase of our marketing campaign (physical and digital) aimed at attracting new readers to the Library.

Exhibition Alexander the Great: The Making of a Myth continues until 19 February, with audio description tours available.

As always, a rich programme of events available for a wide range of audiences.

Calibre: We are thrilled to be part of World Book Day and the Yoto Carnegie awards again this year to provide audio versions of the books and are currently working with the RNIB to swap titles to make sure we have coverage in audio of all of the books.

After much consideration we have taken the decision to cease our CD service due to the membership for this format decreasing dramatically so that the service was no longer viable to continue. Most CD users were also using USB memory sticks so we have been working during last year to transition everyone over to either USB, streaming or download formats which has gone well.

We started our first in person book group held at the Calibre offices at the end of January which was a success and we are looking to continue this once a month.

We are reinventing our book of the month podcast from last year and instead doing quarterly “Book Bites” to discuss a book and where we are also asking our members to leave book reviews of the book up for discussion or ask questions to make it more interactive.

Clearvision: We’ve been working on our “Supportive Stories” collection (particularly pertinent as this is Children’s Mental Health Week) Preparing for the Typhlo and Tactus international tactile book competition planning meeting, the first time this has been held in the UK Will be preparing appropriate titles in the Yoto Carnegie Illustrated shortlist for those who need them in braille Continuing to work towards the launch of our online catalogue and new website

Libraries Connected: In the midst of recruiting new trustees Ed Jewell the president elect of Libraries Connected has now taken over the advisory committee.

Attending Baroness Sanderson’s workshop.

The Know Your Neighbourhood and ebooks project are now one project. SCL Cymru want to buy into the project too.

Working on new network apprenticeship

Discussions around relationship between Libraries Connected and ASCEL

Libraries NI: To date there are over 380 activities taking place in libraries during February 2023.

There are a number of initiatives taking place during February 2023, they include Give it a Go Month, Children’s Mental Health Week and Safer Internet Day.

To promote Children’s Mental Health Week 6 – 12 February, all libraries will promote the Shelf Help and Reading Well Collections as well as reading groups and other activities happening in libraries. Healthy connections to family, friends and others can support a child’s mental health and wellbeing, children will be encouraged to write welcome postcards for display in branch libraries and some of these postcards will be given to refugee children currently staying in hotel provision accommodation.

A number of events have been planned in partnership with the Ulster Orchestra in February, they will deliver Wellbeing Workshops and lunchtime recitals in six library locations. These events will bring music to library customers in a very relaxed and informal way, and allows customers to meet musicians from the orchestra in their local library.

Libraries NI is working in partnership with libraries in the Republic of Ireland to deliver a Cross Border Reading Group project involving libraries in Fermanagh, Tyrone, Leitrim and Cavan. Omagh Library will host the next event on 21 February, author Rachael English will meet the reading groups to discuss her recent book “The Letter Home”.

Libraries NI is delivering a range of events and activities for Give It a Go Month, 94 libraries are delivering over 230 events to support this initiative. Examples of activities being delivered include a Murder Mystery event in Antrim Library, a Flash Fiction Creative writing event in Armagh City Library, a demonstration of Wellbeing Techniques in Ballynahinch, Better Sleep and Stress Management Seminar in Kilkeel and a Ballroom and Sequence Dancing talk and taster session in Portstewart.

Safer Internet Day is taking place on 7 February, there are a number of events throughout February taking place in libraries to make customers more aware of scams and how to stay safe on the Internet

World Book Day will be celebrated across all 96 libraries with a range of planned events.

The Network: Reading Sight JISCMAIL list: at the time of the last meeting, we had 294 subscribers, today we have 295.

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 is still 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").

On a personal note, I've just submitted a proposal to Facet for the next book – if it gets the go-ahead, it will be on libraries' responses to looked-after children & young people.

RNIB: RNIB Bookshare - now over 1 million titles!

RNIB Library World Book Day preparations for social media and libraries to make sure all children know they can have their own accessible versions.

RNIB Connect radio happy to promote Hi-Vis 2023

RNIB Stories team created a social media video for Hi-Vis 2022 and can use a similar format to create content for Hi-Vis 2023. No one specifically who can be interviewed for it this year.

Baroness Sanderson has invited RNIB to a meeting regarding blind and partially sighted customers, following on from the Healthier and Happier Lives meeting that Mark went to.

Fingers crossed the Grimaldi will be open end of Feb.

Have changed the RNIB SharePoint website to "RNIB Information Portal for Librarians" so that there is more of a link-up and not crossover with the Reading Sight/Share the Vision website.

Also...have been working on an accessible storytime/rhymetime guide for libraries with Guidedogs, RNIB and Clearvision. We've got a first draft that I'd love feedback on.

SCONUL: There is lots of chat in HE about ChatGPT! The Quality Assurance Agency has published a brief on the threat to academic integrity:

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/news-events/news/qaa-briefs-members-on-artificial-intelligence-threat-to-academic-integrity>

However, many universities are seeing it as a positive driver to devise more authentic assessments that will prepare students better for future employment (in a world that will include AI) and to get the message across about the value of critical thinking, reading, writing, etc.

SCONUL is developing some positive action library graduate traineeships to address the underrepresentation of Black, Asian and Global Majority library staff in HE libraries.

<https://ials.sas.ac.uk/events/positive-action-library-graduate-traineeships-address-underrepresentation-black-asian-and>

The proposal for a level 7 apprenticeship for Library, information and knowledge professional has been approved by the Institute for

Apprenticeships and Technical Education. Some staff from library schools are involved as they may become training providers for these. The trailblazer group is now working on the Knowledge Skills and Behaviours required for each of the duties identified

4. Ulverscroft Foundation update

Reading Sight Resource Pack: Marsha has been sent the resource pack this week so the focus is now on Comms, working out social media plans for partners and most importantly users. Two week lead up of teasers then a lot of communication around the launch. Will be put on Instagram, focussing on giving people power and knowledge in libraries. Have produced 1,250 packs including spares – 5 per authority and digital resources available as well. Accessible versions have just arrived. Looking at Thursday 9th March as launch date. Coincides well with Universal Offers Library conference the week after on 14th March so can promote it there..

AB queried whether there would be reminders in they calendar for promoting long term. SS very keen on this and really key so looking at when to do this.

SS

AB raised idea around creating a poster – SS to look into it.

SS

MM said accessible versions file size are quite big so need to address that.

MF said he would be attending The Edge conference (public libraries conference hosted by Edinburgh libraries) at the beginning of March and could take some physical assets to promote there.

5. Recent / Emerging projects

Hi Vis 2023 – MM shared the proposed promotional material on screen with the board created by Laura.

Hi Vis wording needs amending. Board discussed the options and decided on option one – clear contrast, one colour background and bigger lettering.

KL asked if there could be a welsh version as only need to add the Welsh translation for June. KL to provide translation.

KL

Reading Friends – ES informed that there had still been no further advisory panel meetings as they had paused them for the moment and were assessing the best way forward with these.

LACA: ES attended meeting on 2nd February. Very short meeting as not a lot to discuss. First meeting with new co-chair Matthew Lambert. Some conversations on the LACA list about text and data mining and about a new government department created which is the Departemnt of Science, Innovation and Technology.

6. Other Updates

PAAG: ES introduced the Publishing Accessibility Action Group which she sits on and is a group made-up of stakeholders and decision makers from across publishing to discuss key issues around making accessibility happen. They have a ten point charter which is a commitment about making ebooks and other formats accessible and raising awareness around that. You can sign to support as a publisher or an ally and ES wondered if it was appropriate for StV to sign. You can also sign as individual organisations if you think it is relevant. ES to share details and website link with board.

ES

JC asked if any librarians were on it. ES stated mainly publishers but would check and let her know.

ES

ES happy to feedback anything relevant from this group in future and fed back that the topic of the last meeting was the use of AI and the debate over that technology.

Library Strategy Workshop: Baroness Sanderson has been tasked by the government to write a new library strategy for public libraries. MM attended the Health and Wellbeing session on behalf of StV. His briefing was well received (shared previously with the board) and there was interest around the publishing angle - accessible formats and simultaneous publications. Funding may appear later down the line but seems like this was to develop a strategic document. Time frame to deliver by October/November.

7. Finance/ Budget report

LM completed her first Finance report to be emailed to board and will send prior to meeting in future. Main points are:

- Received £160 income from Rochdale BC for subscription fee.
- Travel expenses paid out.
- Bulletin payment to David Fay.
- Welsh translation of packs total £1,585.90.
- Balance stands at £71, 682.21.

MM said resource packs coming in on budget of around £15,000

MM said he would query £160 from Rochdale as the ask was £150. ES said she could download the bank statement and send to MM.

ES

2022/23 Contributions – Suggestion still stands to ask for contribution in 2023/2024 but reduce the ask to £150 and tie in with launch of Reading Sight pack.

8. Adminis- tration

Administrative Address: Need to formerly change this from CILIP. RNIB agreed that we can use the Grimaldi building address which should be in place early March. Bank account details and Charities Commission and Companies House details need to be updated when this is confirmed.

ES

ES to check with CILIP contact about final moving date and sweeping up any StV post.

ES

Board Admin: ES has updated Charities Commission and Companies house with board trustee leavers and new additions.

ES has submitted the accounts to Companies House. Next thing is the Confirmation statement due at the end of April.

ES

MM has updated the login details on the Charities Commission website.

MM queried about logging the annual report too– ES to check.

ES

MM raised about having another rep from Libraries Connected and will speak to Helen Drakard. Also queried re other partners we may want to approach again such as Living Paintings and Listening Books.

MM

9. A.O.B / Comms.

ASCEL appointed its first CEO – Adam Tulloch. They are now looking for trustees.

MM asked if anyone had any info on Sight Loss Councils which he noticed in David's bulletin. These are regional groups seeking to represent people with a

visual impairment. MM thought they would be a good opportunity to link with, looking at next projects going forward. LM goes to local visionary meetings and happy to find contact.

LM

MF also raised about reconnecting with IFLA groups.

AB offered to get in contact with London Vision too.

AB

MM proposed that at the May meeting some thought should be given as to what will be the next projects.

ALL

JV mentioned that the series of books he is writing for are around libraries and social justice and they want to do a book about library provision and responses to people affected by sight loss. JV asked if anyone wanted to run with the idea if so let JV know.

ALL

10. Next Meetings

Next meeting is:

Thursday 18th May 11-1pm – virtual meeting via Teams.

Mark closed the meeting with a thank you speech to Mark Freeman for his services and valuable contribution to StV and a presentation.