**NATIONAL DIGITAL LEARNING COUNCIL**

**WEDNESDAY 7 NOVEMBER 2017**

**WELSH GOVERMENT, MERTHYR OFFICE**

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| **IN ATTENDANCE** | **WELSH GOVERNMENT** |
| Kay Morris (KM) | **APOLOGIES** | Ruth Meadows (RM) [Chair] |
| Alison Howells (AH) | Janet Hayward (JH) | Chris Owen (CO) |
| Chris Britten (CB) | Simon Billington (SBi) | Ty Golding (TG) |
| Catherine Kucia (CK) | Hannah Mathias (HM) | Mike Jones (MJo) |
| Gary Beauchamp (GB) | Dilwyn Owen (DO) | Marian Jebb (MJe) |
| Alyson Nicholson (AN) |  | Joe Walsh (JW) |
| Simon Brown (SB) |  |  |

1. **Welcome and Introductions**

1.1 RM welcomed members to the meeting and brief introductions were provided for those who had not attended before.

1.2 RM highlighted that JH has sent her apologies due to an upcoming Estyn inspection. RM confirmed that this would have been JH last meeting as chair. RM outlined the process to be considered for chair. Any Council members who wish to be considered need to submit an expression of interest against the original chair criteria

**Action – CO to circulate criteria to Council**

RM also highlighted that officials would seek to appoint a Vice-Chair to support the Chair and aid succession planning.

1. **Curriculum Reform – Ty Golding**
	1. TG gave a short update presentation around the curriculum reform programme. The presentation detailed:
* Features of the new curriculum
* TG’s role within the curriculum reform
* The new curriculum development process
* A detailed updated timeline of the reform
	1. CB raised his concerns with the AOLE group, Health & Well-being after attending the last meeting. CB highlighted there was no clear definition, and a huge debate took place around Wellbeing as a whole. CB confirmed he will be attending January’s meeting, and will continue to engage but is concerned regarding timeframe and how they are possibly behind schedule.
	2. TG confirmed that a ‘coherence group’ has been formed to include all AOLEs, with the lead of each AOLE being a member of the group. TG stated the group have met, and the purpose of the group is to explore and develop relationships across all AOLEs.
	3. TG highlighted a ‘coherence group’ is now being established. TG confirmed a chair has been appointed for the group. TG stated the group has attracted a lot of interest, noting he has received a number of emails from people expressing their interest, including people who are not part of the current reform programme. TG confirmed the Terms of Reference will be discussed towards the end of November.
	4. TG announced he will be travelling to Dublin to take part in an international forum. TG confirmed Wales had applied to be part of the Forum and have since been granted membership, which consists of 17 different countries across the globe.
	5. A discussion took place around Scotland’s Curriculum for Excellence (CfE). It was mentioned TG has been in contact with members of the Scottish CfE, including Scottish executives.
	6. RM provided detail around the action plan that has recently been published – Education in Wales: Our national mission 2017-21.

**Action:** [**Link to document to be circulated to group.**](http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/allsectorpolicies/education-in-wales/?lang=en)

1. **Digital Competence Framework update – Gerard Pitt**

3.1 GP gave an update on the progress to date following the DCF working group in September.

3.2 GP noted that the main points from the working group were the development of targeted resources for HWB. Digital Pioneers had explained that resources should look to support Year 3 and 4 pupils and secondary schools. GP noted that schools had requested further materials on LW. GP explained that schools needed to know that HWB was the main area to receive such support. Working with the HWB team, all pioneers resources would be badged and given wrapping to clear identify them as pioneer resources.

3.2 GP confirmed that he and Jane Peffers were working closely with the Curriculum reform team to plan the integration of the Digital Pioneers into the AoLE development. The next DCF working group at the end of the November would be based around planning the next steps and engagement with the AoLE groups.

3.3 **The Professional Learning Needs Tool:** GB suggested that the tool needs further development work to be fully fit for purpose, in particular around the current rating rating criteria. GB highlighted that this issue was raised in the last meeting and GP confirmed that he would pick this up directly with GB.

**Action – GP to contact GB regarding the DCF PLNT.**

1. **Digital Strategy for Further Education – Marian Jebb/Alyson Nicholson**

4.1 AN / MJe provided the group with and update on Digital Strategy progress in Further Education.

4.2 MJe confirmed the word ‘Strategy’ would need to be replaced, and a new word used.

4.2 AN highlighted a workshop was held back in March, which a number of colleges attended. The purpose of the workshop was to highlight the need and vision for a Strategy.

4.3 AN also highlighted a meeting was held with all Post-16 (FE, WBL and ACL) key stakeholders. Subsequently each college Principal, WBL Managing Director and ACL Head of Learning were contacted to ensure appropriate “buy-in” and identification of expertise. A staff perception survey was issued to over 60 organisations, including over 200 staff.

4.4 AN confirmed a group has been set up for each individual theme (six themes), and are scheduled to meet in November to develop the “strategy” objectives to help build the framework. AN highlighted a total of 85 people are attending these groups; ranging from tutors to principals. AN stated more feedback will be available in the New Year from the six groups.

4.5 AN confirmed destination figures are awaiting publication and more information will available on these at the next meeting.

1. **Learning in Digital Wales Programme – Chris Owen**
	1. CO gave a presentation covering key updates on the programme.
	2. CO confirmed that since the last meeting, Ministerial Advice outlining the next steps for the LiDW programme had been submitted. Subsequently the Cabinet Secretary for Education has reviewed all of the provided options and approved a way forward.
	3. CO confirmed that the Cabinet secretary had approved the option that Welsh Government will take ownership of the IDP service layer. The decision has been made in line with the recommendation from NDLC and other bodies such as ADEW ICT and SOCITM.
	4. A discussion around recruitment took place. CO confirmed that this was a priority. CO confirmed that work is already underway to recruit the appropriate skills into Welsh Government and that preferred partners were being considered to provide short-term contingency support.
	5. CO highlighted that the commercial contract with Learning Possibilities will end on 28th August 2018. Exit arrangements from the contract are currently being developed. A key consideration is to ensure the transition is as smooth as possible for all users, ensuring there are no interruptions and complications when the transition occurs.
	6. CO stated that communication is key and schools who are using the Hwb+ platform needed to be directly supported. Options to achieve this are now being worked up and messages will be released shortly.
	7. A question was asked if HWB will undergo a whole redesign to deliver the new curriculum. CO confirmed this is still in discussion; however engagement with stakeholders is needed before options are developed.
	8. CO asked the Council if Welsh Government should review the position on mandating the use of Hwb. The group agreed that the current approach has been very effective and that usage is increasing month on month. Therefore it does not need mandating, and with increased functionality, more schools would use it.

**NDLE 2018**

* 1. Action from the last meeting, CO confirmed that 90 survey responses out of 232 delegates were received, giving a 39% response rate to the 2017 NDLE feedback survey.
	2. CO confirmed the 2018 NDLE will be held in South East Wales. The venues being considered are the Celtic Manor, Coldra Court and the Christchurch Centre in Newport.
	3. CO highlighted a tentative date of 27th June 2018; venues are available on this date.
	4. Discussion took place around the theme of the event. CO suggested that building on last year’s theme which was ‘Creative approaches to implementing the Digital Competence Framework’ would be one option, which was agreed. It was agreed that CO would work with TG on agreeing the theme.

**Action:** **– CO / TG to develop theme for NDLE 2018**

* 1. CO highlighted the format of the day, confirming there will be around 30 Digital Marketplace speakers. CO stated you will be able to book individual slots.
	2. A maximum of 300 delegates at one time was agreed, with teas and coffees being supplied throughout the day, but no lunch for delegates.
	3. All members of the NDLC favoured the Celtic Manor for the NDLE 2018 venue. Positive comments were made on the number of breakout rooms available to use, and size of the venue.

**NDLC Vision Document**

* 1. JH had circulated the document to members of NDLC for comments after the last meeting.
	2. CB gave an update on the document confirming he had met with JH, and agreed the document will need input from the Council.
	3. GB indicated that only two outcomes were related to NDLC, and the rest relates to the ‘end product’. CB agreed, and suggested some sections need rewriting.
	4. Discussion took place around Point two – many agreed the word ‘mainstream’ should be removed and the point rewritten.

**Action: TG to send comments to CB on Point two.**

* 1. CO highlighted point five is a duplicate of point three. A suggestion was made that point five be reworded.

**Action: CB to update and re-circulate the Vision document, and requested members make track changes and send back.**

* 1. TG suggested adding a section around the ALN Bill.
	2. CO suggested including a section on ‘Safeguarding & Online Safety’
	3. RM highlighted the original plan was to send the document to the Cabinet Secretary for Education at the end November. However the meeting with the CSfE is due to be rearranged and will need to get new date from Private Office.
1. **Learning in Digital Wales programme - Mike Jones**

**Investment in broadband update -**

* 1. MJo gave a presentation on the investment in broadband to date.
	2. MJo gave an update that BT is delivering ahead of schedule. Of the 262 orders underway, fibre has been installed in 121 schools already, and confirmed the schools are already benefiting from improved connectivity.
	3. MJo confirmed the first delivery milestone (complete 105 schools by the 31 December 2017) has been achieved two months ahead of schedule.
	4. All schools in Wrexham, Rhondda Cynon Taff, and Flintshire have been completed.
	5. Vale of Glamorgan and Merthyr Tydfil have confirmed their schools will be in scope of the delivery and will be joining the PSBA network.
	6. MJo highlighted it was likely a small number of would continue to prove to be difficult to reach in terms of delivering a fibre solution. MJo advised the delivery to these schools was likely to be expensive, while it was unlikely the location of the schools would be reached before the end of the Superfast Cymru Programme (31 December 2017).
	7. MJo confirmed discussions are taking place with BT, PSBA, and Superfast Cymru to determine the best solution for resolving these problems.

**Strategic Update**

* 1. Work to establish a centralised PSBA web filtering and internet service is progressing but is slower than expected. Commercial discussions are underway, but require further work. The new service is not expected to launch until the beginning of the next financial year.
	2. MJo confirmed that an agreement has been reached with PSBA to remove speed rate limits at all remaining schools. MJo advised the implementation of this change needed to be managed to monitor and understand the implications on the PSBA core network.

**Digital Standards Update (incl. highlight report)**

* 1. MJo confirmed the first iteration is currently with the CSfE. Once approved, the guidance will go live in early November.
	2. MJo explained a technical working group is to be formed to provide advise on the technical considerations and opportunities needed to support the development of the Digital Standards.
	3. There are no fixed timescales to when the standards will be available, however MJo highlighted that contact has been made over the last 10 months with LAs to find out how they operate. Unfortunately, only 10 LAs have engaged and provided full responses. A suggestion was made about identifying the LAs who haven’t responded and reporting these LAs to the Council and CSfE.
	4. MJo stated by the next meeting in January, the analysis and findings from the responses will be available and he will report back to the Council.
1. **Minutes, actions and next steps**

**Accuracy & Actions of 22nd September 2017 minutes:**

Page 2: 2.8.3 – GB highlighted the second part reading ‘with some teachers only aiming to reach the required minimum standard’ was not said. It was agreed this would be deleted and 2.8.3 would read ‘however; it was also highlighted the spoon-feeding schools could limit innovation and ambition.’

The accuracy of the rest of the minutes was agreed.

1. **Any other business**

**Action: RM – Arrange for Cabinet Secretary to write to Janet Hayward.**

**Actions**

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| **Ref** | **Action** |
| 1.2 | CO to circulate criteria to Council |
| 2.7 | Link to document to be circulated to group |
| 3.3 | GP to contact GB regarding the DCF PLNT |
| 5.12 | CO / TG to develop theme for NDLE 2018 |
| 5.19 | TG to send comments to CB on Point two |
| 5.20 | CB to update and re-circulate the Vision document, and requested members make track changes and send back |
| 8.1 | RM – Arrange for Cabinet Secretary to write to Janet Hayward |