**NATIONAL DIGITAL LEARNING COUNCIL**

**10:30 TO 14:30 THURSDAY 21 JANUARY 2016**

**NOVOTEL EXCEL, LONDON DOCKLANDS**

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| **In attendance** | | **Apologies** |
| Janet Hayward (JH) [Chair] | | Ty Golding (TG) |
| Iain Tweedale (IT) | Geoff Elliott (GE) | Gareth Dacey (GD) |
| Dilwyn Owen (DO) | Simon Billington (SBi) | Catherine Kucia (CK) |
| Huw Marshall (HM) | Mathew Jones (MRJ) | Jessica Jones (JJ) |
| Sian Thomas (ST) | **WELSH GOVERNMENT** | Angharad Lloyd-Williams (ALW) |
| Simon Brown (SBr) | Ruth Meadows (RM) | Darren Long (DL) |
| Mark Jones (MJ) | Chris Owen (CO) | Janice Lane (JL) |
| Robin Williams (RW) | Catrin Hughes (CH) | Chris Britten (CB) |
| Tom Crick (TC) | Chris Roderick (CR) |  |

1. **Welcome**
   1. JH welcomed members and thanked everyone for making the trip to London.
2. **Overview of the Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) Programme – Chris Owen / Catrin Hughes**

**BETT 2016**

* 1. CO provided some brief feedback from the Hwb Stand on day one of the show. This was very positive – extensive interest from a range of Welsh stakeholders, along with international interest from Russia, Estonia, Malta, Ireland and Scotland.
  2. JH stressed the importance of being seen to be leading the way in digital learning.

**National Digital Learning Event 2016**

* 1. CH announced to the Council that, further to discussions at the last meeting, the next event will take place on 15 June at [Venue Cymru, Llandudno](https://www.venuecymru.co.uk/Attending-an-Event/how-to-find-us.html).
  2. CH confirmed that there would not be any commercial exhibitors present, unless these are contracted partners of the Welsh Government.
  3. The theme for the event will be “Building Digital Confidence”. (MJ expressed concern over the Welsh translation of this, as the acronym would be ‘ADHD’).

**Action: CH to consider alternative translations of the proposed theme for the event.**

* 1. A draft programme has been prepared, though no speakers have been booked as yet.
  2. There will be three workshop sessions – each with four or five workshops being run. Two are expected to be Hwb related, with the others aiming to raise awareness of particular issues – e-Safety, Digital Citizenship, a digitally competent society etc.
  3. SBi suggested including a workshop on Office365. Local authorities will be moving to this soon, and this would be a great opportunity to promote the benefits. A session on the BBC micro:bit was also suggested. With both of these tools available to schools free of charge, this would be an ideal opportunity to demonstrate how these can be used within the classroom.
  4. The final set of workshops will be linked to each strand of the Digital Competence Framework (DCF), ensuring that this is highlighted throughout the day.
  5. There are also three keynotes planned throughout the day. The intention is to have one linked to the DCF, one related to a ‘hot topic’ (e-Safety, Digital Citizenship etc) and one big/international name.
  6. The event will be followed by a networking (HwbMeet type) event, where attendees will get to spend some time hearing from the winners of the awards.
  7. CH requested suggestions for keynote speakers. A number were suggested.

**Action: IT agreed to investigate the potential for some BBC related names including Rory Cellan-Jones (BBC Technology correspondent) and Russell T Davies.**

**Action: CH to approach Graham Donaldson as a potential keynote speaker, along with a number of other names.**

**NDLE Awards 2016**

* 1. CH summarised the difficulties experienced in judging the awards in previous years and highlighted the responses to the recent survey.
  2. The awards have been narrowed down to four categories.
  3. The categories will be as follows:
     1. Digital Project Award
     2. e-Safety Award
     3. Hwb Community Resource Award
     4. NDLC Pupil Award
  4. The Digital Project Award could potentially have a winner from each sector (primary, secondary, FE etc). There would be no fixed requirement to have an award for each, if there isn’t a suitable winning entry.
  5. IT suggested having a ‘Best Digital School of the Year’ Award. CH stated that the criteria for judging this would be difficult to establish, but suggested putting this forward to the First Minister’s Office, for his ‘St David’s Awards’, as this may sit better there.
  6. CH detailed the timetable for the awards this year. Applications can be submitted between 15 February and 18 April. Exemplar resources from previous award winners will be uploaded every Monday throughout this period.
  7. JH asked whether a Master of Ceremonies had been chosen. CH stated that enquiries were being made for a presenter potentially local to north Wales.
  8. CO stated that promotion of the event will commence shortly, with communications being issued towards the end of January.

**Action: Members to inform CR if they require a hotel for the nights before and after the event on 15 June.**

**LiDW progress update**

* 1. CO highlighted the importance of feedback received from all stakeholders. This is crucial in order for issues to be resolved and improvements to be made to the system.
  2. A number of improvements have been made in recent months, including:
* the search function;
* Hwb Communities;
* Hwb Networks;
* Playlists;
* assessment and reporting.
  1. A significant milestone was reached in November – this is the first month where Hwb has received over one million hits (1.22m).
  2. CO stated that Safer Internet Day 2016 will be taking place on 9 February. There will be events in two schools who won a competition to develop an e-Safety app.
  3. CO highlighted the recent HwbMeet events – attendance at the latest event in Pontypridd was disappointing, with only 19 of the 37 teachers booked actually attending.
  4. The next event will take place in Caerphilly on 25 February and the Minister for Education and Skills is expected to be in attendance.

**Technocamps**

* 1. CO confirmed that the contract for the hosting of these coding workshops will end on 31 March 2016. Future delivery options are being considered.
  2. There are 19 schools that are not currently engaging with the programme in any way. CO confirmed that these were spread all across the country and that it is hoped that they can be brought on board through working with their local authorities, and the Welsh Government will also write to the Headteachers involved.
  3. CO gave a brief overview of the upcoming HE pilot, where students at University of South Wales Trinity Saint David will be given access to the platform.
  4. The RES project has encountered delays due to ERA licensing issues. It is hoped that these will be resolved in the near future, providing access to thousands of hours of BBC and S4C archive content.
  5. CO highlighted the Hwb Zones which are being established for the new Arts Creativity Portal and Academi Wales. The latter provides training for other public sector bodies such as Health.
  6. The deployment of Hwb tools to local authorities offers the opportunity to create significant savings for themselves and schools, along with service improvements.
  7. There was discussion of the BBC micro:bit. While the ‘wrapper’ will be available in Welsh, the programming code itself will only be available in English. Timescales for deployment are still under review.
  8. CO provided members with an overview of the statistics the Hwb Team have been using to monitor the performance of the platform.
  9. Very detailed information is provided by all three Hwb suppliers (CDSM, Learning Possibilities and SWGfL) in relation to the usage of each area by individual schools. Elements of these figures are provided to local authorities, to assist them in targeting low usage individual schools.
  10. The Hwb Digital Leaders also use this information to focus on particular elements of the platform which individual schools are not using effectively, so can target their training appropriately.
  11. CO highlighted that the range of digital tools and resources which Hwb provides are unparalleled in terms of free national provision.

1. **British Council trip to Hong Kong – Dilwyn Owen**
   1. DO provided some background on his recent trip to Hong Kong with the British Council. This was arranged for UK teachers to see how digital technologies have been implemented in schools there.
   2. DO also provided some basic information on the area. There are around 7m people living in an area the size of Anglesey and Penllyn.
   3. Throughout the five day trip, the teachers visited as many different types of schools as possible, including the [BSD Academy](http://bsdacademy.com/), [St Paul’s Convent School](http://www.spcspr.edu.hk/), [Education City](http://www.hkedcity.net/), [English Schools Foundation](http://www.esf.edu.hk/), [Independent Schools Foundation](http://www.isf.edu.hk/en), [The Education Bureau](http://www.edb.gov.hk/en/), [King George V School](http://www.kgv.edu.hk/) and [True Light Middle School](http://www.tlmshk.edu.hk/), as well as spending some time at the British Council itself.
   4. DO stated that ICT was found to be very low on the list of popular subjects, and that the education system was more in line with that of the US. There is a very traditional mind-set and there is also a focus on more factual things to read, rather than novels. He also confirmed that all students must learn English as part of their studies.
   5. DO highlighted the similarities between Hong Kong and the UK:
      1. There is a government strategy in place (HK are currently on their fourth).
      2. A government body oversees the implementation of the strategy.
      3. There is a government portal for teachers, pupils and parents.
   6. 4G services are very good and make Wi-Fi provided by schools effectively redundant.
   7. DO also highlighted the effective use of Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) schemes. Schools specify particular compatible devices and in certain cases will buy these in bulk, offering them to students at a discounted price.
2. **Digital Competence Framework/Pioneer Schools – Dilwyn Owen and Tom Crick**
   1. DO stated that it is likely that the new Digital Competence Framework will have four categories:

* Using, Connecting and Collaborating
* Citizenship
* Researching, Making and Creating; and
* Data and Computational Thinking
  1. TC, who is Chair of the Quality Assurance (QA) group, stated that a primary focus had been to keep the four areas as balanced as possible, we well as ensuring that these are aspirational and reflect what a digitally competent young person should look like, linking back to the four purposes. Furthermore, it is crucial that the framework is embraced and embedded sufficiently into the new curriculum for it to be a success.
  2. There will be another two day workshop on 11 and 12 February, with the QA group due to meet on 29 February. At this point, the Hwb Digital Leaders and pioneer schools will be free to share the framework with their cluster schools and others within their network, in order to gain as much feedback as possible, which will be fed back to the QA group.
  3. TC also confirmed that the framework will not refer to individual tools or products. However, any exemplar materials being produced alongside this could, if needed, as well as being regularly updated.
  4. MJ highlighted issues around making the Digital Competence Framework compulsory.

1. **Minutes of last meeting – 6 October 2015**
   1. CR to investigate actions 2.15 and 2.22.
   2. SBr provided an update on the Estyn inspection consultation referred to at point 2.23.
   3. Over 2,200 responses were received, with Arad Consulting approaching harder to reach groups as to their opinions on inspection.
   4. Various issues have been raised so far, including the size and scope of inspections, and particularly the length of notice periods prior to an inspection taking place.
   5. There will be a national stakeholder meeting in Llandrindod Wells where new propositions and inspection models will be put forward for consideration.

**Hwb Communications Plan**

* 1. Feedback received at the last Council meeting has been acted upon and a Communications plan is being drafted. Focus groups will be held shortly to consider the plans, with 2 to 3 scheduled for each region.

**Digital Content Forum**

* 1. IT clarified some confusion resulting from the last meeting. Content providers (BBC, S4C etc.) are keen to develop resources and content for Hwb. As these resources are publically funded, they should be made available to all via Hwb. There is no intention for the content providers to bid for Welsh Government business, as all content would be commissioned and funded by themselves.
  2. It was agreed that more detailed conversations would be required between the content providers, Catrin Hughes and colleagues in the Curriculum Team.

**Action: RM to set up meeting between content providers, Catrin Hughes, and Curriculum colleagues.**

* 1. IT confirmed that the Shakespeare resources/season will be happening, to commemorate the 400th anniversary of the death of Shakespeare in April. This is expected to provide a taste of the RES resources that could be made available, once the issues around the ERA have been resolved.

1. **Any other Business**
   1. IT announced that there will be a mini education season on the BBC in the coming months, including radio programmes like ‘Lucy’s big school’ and ‘How to get an A\* at A-level’.
2. **Future meetings/NDLC Calendar**
   1. JH proposed that the final few meetings of the Council be rescheduled. The meetings will now be held as below:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Date** |  | **Venue** |
| 15 March 2016 | Council meeting | Cadoxton Primary |
| 13 May 2016 **(tentative)** | Digital Competence Framework workshop (to be confirmed following March meeting) | Penllegaer, Swansea  (with VC link to Llandudno Junction) |
| 15 June 2016 | National Digital Learning Event 2016 | Venue Cymru, Llandudno |
| 16 June 2016 | Council meeting | Llandudno Junction (Venue TBC) |

* 1. Please note that the meeting scheduled for 8 July has now been cancelled.

**Action: CR to circulate amended diary markers for the remaining meetings.**

**Summary of Actions**

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| --- | --- |
| **Ref** | **Action** |
| 2.5 | CH to consider alternative translations of the proposed theme for the event. |
| 2.12 | IT agreed to investigate the potential for some BBC related names including Rory Cellan-Jones (BBC Technology correspondent) and Russell T Davies. |
| 2.12 | CH to approach Graham Donaldson as a potential keynote speaker, along with a number of other names. |
| 2.23 | Members to inform CR if they require a hotel for the nights before and after the event on 15 June. |
| 5.1 | CR to investigate actions 2.15 and 2.22. *Updates as below.*  *2.15 Documentation regarding setting up a school Governors site is available* [*on Hwb.*](http://resources.hwb.wales.gov.uk/VTC/2015/05/07/governors_guide.pdf)  *2.22 There are currently no reduced rates for the 360 degree safe tool available. CO will continue to pursue this with SWGfL.* |
| 5.8 | RM to set up meeting between content providers, Catrin Hughes, and Curriculum colleagues. |
| 7.2 | CR to circulate amended diary markers for the remaining meetings. |