**NATIONAL DIGITAL LEARNING COUNCIL**

**FRIDAY 12 MAY 2017**

**SEIONT MANOR HOTEL, LLANRUG**

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

1. **Welcome and Introductions**
	1. JH welcomed Council members to north Wales and introduced TG as the newly appointed Head of Curriculum Design within the Welsh Government.
2. **Alignment of the new Curriculum**
	1. TG detailed his new role and the timescales involved in the rollout of the Areas of Learning Experience (AoLEs).
	2. TG detailed new role within WG (Head of Curriculum Design) and timescales involved in AoLE progression, noting that reports on progess in each area will be ready for consideration by the Council at the next meeting on 22 June.
	3. Realising ‘Successful Futures’ is being treated as the framework for the AoLEs and this is open to comment if members so wish.
	4. TG requested that members split into pairs to discuss one of the areas – “what digital might look like” and to establish some key points or success criteria.
	5. Overarching themes across the six areas:
		1. Ensure strong links with the Digital Competence Framework
		2. Signposting of Hwb tools and content
		3. Use technology to bring the wider world into the classroom (use real life links and examples)
		4. Promote a ‘Find it, Use it, Make it, Share it’ approach
		5. Support the realisation of the four purposes through digital learning experiences
		6. Support the understanding of ‘how’, ‘when’ and ‘when not to’ use technology in learning.
	6. Summary of group discussions at Annex 1

**ACTION: Secretariat to add issues around local authority filtering to agenda for JH’s meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 24 May**

**ACTION: RM to share curriculum communications plan at June meeting. Secretariat to add to agenda.**

1. **Digital Competence Framework – Gwion Clarke**
	1. GC provided an update on the progress made by the Digital Pioneers to date.
	2. While it is not possible to make changes to any high level strands, some minor revisions to the DCF have been suggested and fed back, to be put to individual strand groups at the next Steering Group for sign-off.

**Classroom task ideas**

* 1. To be run by a group of Pioneer Schools, with limited engagement from the Welsh Government to limit bureaucracy.
	2. Discussions are ongoing as to how these will be published – format, language etc.
	3. There is no funding for the translation of these materials or professional designers to produce graphics – these must be designed and produced by the Pioneer Schools themselves.
	4. Templates have been developed but teachers can design their own resource if preferred.
	5. Task ideas will be generic ideas that can be applied to a specific topic for particular age groups.
	6. Newsletters providing three case studies and an accompanying five minute video will be distributed to schools by Consortia, one per half term, with plans in place through to December. These will provide teachers and all staff with ideas on how to approach the DCF, including links to webpages, resources and YouTube videos. (Pioneer Schools have decided that materials should be bilingual, with videos also subtitled).
	7. Additional ideas submitted by teachers will also be promoted via @DCFideas on twitter.
	8. These will be required to undergo a quality assurance process, including consideration by a QA group.
	9. These will also be uploaded as community resources on Hwb. (Possibility of a new Hwb Zone – currently being considered by the DCF Team).
	10. The first release is scheduled for 9 June.
	11. There is no specific format for videos part of case studies, with these expected to vary, with different views on what these should look like (talking heads/ pupils etc).

Queries

* 1. Do resources need to be fully bilingual if Pioneers have no translation resource?
	2. Members suggested that as long as there is a balance of English and Welsh medium, this may not be the case. GC stated that the Digital Pioneers would prefer not to limit use by only producing resources in a single language.

**ACTION: Secretariat to invite Huw Foster-Evans to speak at meeting on 22 June**

**ACTION: Issue to be considered further – need to establish guiding principle.**

**DCF Professional Learning Needs Tool**

* 1. CO provided a brief history of the tool – initially launched in September 2016 to allow users to assess their ability and confidence in delivering the various elements of the DCF. CO stressed that this has not been developed as a performance management tool – this is to allow teachers to rate their own skills and identify needs for development. Note on site: tool for staff improvement NOT for performance management.
	2. Since launch, various changes have been made following user and stakeholder feedback, including moving from a five star rating to four stars, to prevent any middling responses.
	3. Appropriate users will have access to a reporting tool, listing teachers anonymously, providing information to be discussed as part of staff development meetings
1. **Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) Programme – Chris Owen**

**LiDW Connectivity**

* 1. CO provided an update on LiDW connectivity, confirming that the outstanding 33 primary schools below the Ministerial target for broadband speeds have now been successfully delivered. Therefore all eligible schools are now in receipt of a minimum of 10Mbps connectivity.
	2. Scoping work for Further Investment in Broadband has been completed, with 341 eligible schools identified for an upgrade, expected to be delivered in Academic year 2017-18.

**Hwb**

* 1. CO highlighted the most successful month for Hwb to date in March, with 84per cent of schools logging onto the platform a minimum of 10 times. CO also highlighted that over 50per cent of schools logged on more than 100 times which demonstrates a greater depth of engagement. There were also 3.2 million page views and an average of 28,000 logins per day.
	2. The success of Hwb has been acknowledged by external organisations, with similar implementations taking considerably longer to embed.
	3. Around the time of the NDLE, there will be media attention and press articles to highlight the achievements of Hwb, along with a statement from the Cabinet Secretary for Education.
	4. Council members agreed the successes should be promoted to the wider public wherever possible.
	5. CO also highlighted a recent push in targeting parents, with new focussed ‘explainer’ materials being published.
	6. Engagement with external stakeholders is ongoing with feedback being used to regularly make improvements. The next update will be released on 9 June, featuring a radical change in the look and feel of the site.
	7. CO provided a demonstration of the new-look site – “My Hwb” which was well received by the council.
	8. There will also be a “My Hwb lite” interface for specific learners with a more simplified version of the interface. It is intended that Office 365 will be fully integrated to the platform.
	9. Due to the significant nature of the redesign, members noted that early warning should be provided to schools now, to make them aware of the change. A communications plan is currently being developed to include Dysg, Twitter and other social media channels and the intention is for Consortia to promote this widely to schools.

Other points of note:

* 1. Maths Zone due to launch in July, to include MathQuill functionality (ability to use variety of maths specific symbols).
	2. WJEC content review – KS4 content to be reviewed, with legacy content not in line with the current curriculum to be removed and refreshed.
	3. It will also be possible to search the WJEC website seamlessly via Hwb, with the aim of building more links with other quality content providers including People’s Collection Wales.

**NDLC Sub Group**

* 1. CO met with HM, DO, KM and CB on 2 May to discuss the next steps in the Hwb platform development.
	2. Various options will be established in the coming months, with these proposals being presented to the Council meeting in September for sign-off before putting forward to the Cabinet Secretary with a recommendation. The new requirements will be developed using expertise from across the Hwb Team and across the Welsh Government, as well as additional working groups including local authorities, SOCITM and full engagement with education stakeholders.
	3. Messages to schools will be positive and engaging to communicate to schools that the next phase of the LiDW programme is being developed with their requirements at the forefront and we want their views.
	4. A national survey will be issued to all schools with some schools identified by their consortium in order to collect additional information.

**National Digital Learning Event 2017**

* 1. There are 28 practitioners currently signed up for the marketplace session where delegates visit four 15 minute sessions providing examples of how to address the various strands of the Digital Competence Framework.
	2. The Hwb Team are also developing ‘takeaways’ – lesson plans or structures that attendees can use in future.
	3. There will be more limited AV services for this year’s event, though formal and keynote speakers will be ‘periscoped’ and uploaded to the Hwb video channel.
	4. CO provided an overview of the various planned workshops around the various strands of the DCF. Questions were raised around those based on ‘leadership’, with members proposing the title be amended to ‘embedding’ or ‘whole school approach’.

**Any Other Business**

Ministerial meeting – 24 May

Proposed items for the agenda:

* The history, membership and ongoing work of the Council
* The DCF
* The balance of quality assurance/protocols/Welsh language
* Filtering being a barrier to learning
* Digital standards – minimum requirements for infrastructure
* Publicity – promoting the work of the Council
* AoLEs
* The Cabinet Secretary’s view of the role and future of the Council

**Date of next meeting: 22 June 2017 – Penllegaer, Swansea.**

**Actions:**

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| **Ref** | **Action** |
| 2.6 | Secretariat to add issues around local authority filtering to agenda for JH’s meeting with the Cabinet Secretary on 24 May. |
| 2.6 | RM to share curriculum communications plan at June meeting. Secretariat to add to agenda. |
| 3.15 | Secretariat to invite Huw Foster-Evans to speak at meeting on 22 June. |
| 3.15 | Issue to be considered further – need to establish guiding principle. |