**NATIONAL DIGITAL LEARNING COUNCIL**

**UNIVERSITY HALL, ROATH, CARDIFF**

**13 DECEMBER 2016**

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

1. **Welcome and introductions**
   1. JH welcomed members to the third term of the Council and congratulated everyone on their appointments. JH provided an overview of the Council since it was established in 2012, following the recommendations in the report ‘[Find it, Use it, Make it, Share it: learning in digital Wales’](http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/120328digitalen.pdf).
   2. Members introduced themselves and provided a brief overview of their work.
2. **Terms of Reference**
   1. KC suggested referencing the four purposes of the Curriculum (as identified in [Professor Graham Donaldson’s independent review of the curriculum and assessment arrangements in Wales](http://gov.wales/topics/educationandskills/schoolshome/curriculum-for-wales-curriculum-for-life/why-we-are-changing/successful-futures/?lang=en)) to ensure that these are in view. It was agreed that these should be included under the ‘Performance Indicators’ section.

**Action: Secretariat to add four purposes and WG representatives to ToR**

1. **Overview of the Learning in Digital Wales (LiDW) Programme – Chris Owen, Digital Learning Unit (Presentation at doc 1)**
   1. CO provided an overview of progress made with the LiDW Programme since 2012, highlighting headline milestones including:

* over two thirds of schools now actively engaged with the Hwb platform;
* all maintained schools in Wales now having been provisioned; and
* over 2.3m page views on Hwb per month.
  1. To further develop the content repository CO highlighted that the Hwb Content team are constantly engaging with education stakeholders. If NDLC members have any other suggestions, please put them forward.

**Action: Members to provide suggestions for stakeholders the Hwb Content Team can make links with.**

**Review of Hwb Content**

* 1. A full review of the resources available on Hwb is underway, to establish their appropriateness. CO explained that a streamlined process will be established for wider groups to undertake their own content reviews in future.
  2. A number of new ‘zones’ are being developed through Hwb. This builds on the activity undertaken for the [Creative Learning zone](http://hwb.wales.gov.uk/creativity) (resulting from the Arts in Education Review).
  3. Advice has been put to and accepted by the Cabinet Secretary regarding the wider roll-out of the Hwb platform to other Higher Education (HE) Institutions. This will commence in the New Year.

**HwbMeets**

* 1. Successful HwbMeets have recently taken place in Ruthin, Cardigan and Cwmbran, with the next event scheduled for Porthmadog on 19 January. CO requested suggestions from members as to any ‘outstanding’ practitioners who could be invited to host tables at future sessions.

**Action: Members to provide any suggestions for HwbMeet table hosts to the secretariat.**

**National Digital Learning Event 2017**

* 1. CO provided an overview of the provisional plans for next year’s event, to be held at the Liberty Stadium, Swansea on Wednesday 21 June. The Cabinet Secretary for Education has confirmed her attendance, but CO invited suggestions for other keynote speakers.

**Action: Members to provide any suggestions for NDLE keynote speakers to the secretariat.**

**Learning in Digital Wales Evaluation**

* 1. The independent evaluation of the Learning in Digital Wales programme has now been completed. The evaluation report is available to view [here](http://gov.wales/statistics-and-research/evaluation-implementation-learning-digital-wales-programme/?lang=en).

**Learning in Digital Wales next steps**

* 1. CO provided an overview of the current position in terms of usage of the range of digital tools available through the Learning in Digital Wales programme. This included an overview of the core tools usage over the last twelve months.
  2. CO outlined options relating to the next steps, which considered various contract end points and possible future delivery options. HM queried the on-going use of Sharepoint, suggesting that Microsoft classroom might be a suitable alternative. CO confirmed that the viability of Microsoft Classroom will be investigated once the product is out of BETA preview.
  3. There was discussion about why some schools are still not using Hwb and what could be done to further encourage them. The Hwb Team is working extensively with the regional education consortia digital leads to continue the promotion of the tools.

1. **Digital across the new Curriculum – Karen Cornish, Curriculum Implementation (presentation at doc 2)**
   1. KC provided a summary of the development of the new Digital Competence Framework (DCF) through to publication in September 2016. To date there have been 48k hits on the DCF landing page on Learning Wales.
   2. The priority now is to identify the learning needs of young people across schools and to establish and provide appropriate support where possible.

KC asked for views on using the term “Professional Learning Approach” (rather than describing it as a ‘Deal’ or ‘Offer’)

* 1. Ongoing support will be required in order for this to be future proofed. The message needs to be strengthened and the importance of wider issues should be stressed to schools - that this is wider than “the curriculum”, not limited to “digital”.
  2. KC stressed the importance of ensuring that headteachers and school leadership teams are fully on board with the proposals, and not just ICT co-ordinators.

**Action: KC to provide list of Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) Group members**

1. **Digital Services in Education – Mike Jones**

MJo gave an overview of the Learning in Digital Wales Programme, including the evaluation report, which gave some encouraging recommendations. Overall, the LiDW Grant achieved its initial goal of installing high speed fibre broadband into schools in Wales.

* 1. A total of 29 schools have not yet achieved the desired speeds of 10Mbps for primary schools and 100Mbps for secondary schools. 12 school are expected to be completed by the end of March 2017 using the PSBA, while the remaining 17 schools will be completed within the same timeframe, but using local LA solutions.
  2. MJo also noted that the previous aspirational targets set for 2020 (broadly 100Mbps for primary schools, 1Gbps for secondary schools) have now been replaced with connectivity guidelines. The first set of guidelines provide speeds based on 300Kbps for pupil and are in place for schools and local authorities to work towards leading up until academic year 2018/19. The guidelines will also be reviewed on a bi-annual basis to ensure the guidelines do not become static.

**LiDW2**

The Welsh Government is working with BT to ensure the capability of schools broadband infrastructure is capable of supporting superfast speeds. Although no completion date has been set (learning from the lessons of the LiDW evaluation), the team are aiming to get as many schools completed in line with the beginning of the academic year 2018/19.

* 1. MJo also highlighted discovery work was underway in relation to special schools. The findings to date supported a separate category for special school connectivity due to the reliance on digital and IT within these schools.

**Jisc**

* 1. MJo gave an overview of the services provided by Jisc.
  2. There was discussion of the resilience of connections at FE institutions. MJo stated that this is not a priority for the next 18 to 24 months, but is an area being considered for the future road map.

**Standards**

* 1. Some new operating standards are currently in development, with a specific focus on technology. These will be developed under some key themes, including schools IT infrastructure, standards and digital platforms.
  2. These are currently undergoing a small-scale consultation, but will be brought to the Council at a future meeting.
  3. There was discussion of “Bring Your Own Device”. While this method can have major benefits, it can also present numerous risks. National standards are currently being explored which will help to inform this area of work.

1. **Digital in post-16 sector – Marian Jebb**
   1. MJe provided an overview of the FE sector and the FE Learning Technology Action Group Report published in March 2014.

<http://learning.gov.wales/docs/learningwales/publications/141112-feltag-paths-forward-report-en.pdf>

* 1. The recommendations set out the challenges and opportunities for the FE sector in relation to digital learning – particularly where more joined-up thinking is required.
  2. MJe also highlighted that significant effort will be needed to improve results in A-levels from A\* to C, with ICT A level performing poorly in terms of grade outcomes for such an important subject.
  3. There was discussion of whether Hwb could be provided to FE colleges and institutions. CO confirmed this could be achieved with appropriate approvals / budget.

1. **Forward Work Plan / Success Criteria**
   1. There was discussion of the impact of the Council to date and JH suggested looking back at the actions resulting from meetings over the last year.
   2. RM stated that the Council will now have a more active role in taking decisions regarding the future of the Learning in Digital Wales programme.

**Action: Secretariat to compile and circulate list of Council achievements throughout 2015-16 academic year for next meeting.**

* 1. JH asked Council members to break into groups of two or three and discuss what they wanted to see the Council achieve during this two year term before reporting back.

Highlights included:

* PW wanting to see teachers be brave and innovative with the tools available through Hwb.
* AH asked how best to disseminate innovation across Wales.
* GD asked how the Council can directly influence schools and encourage them to be more open minded to take on more best practice guidance.
* KM would like to look at qualifications and how best to deliver these across the country, to encourage and build enthusiasm.
* TG would like to establish more of a conduit between the Council and schools. .
* DO would like to encourage a more positive culture where teachers can accept any failures and move on, learning from their mistakes.
* HM would like to ensure that learners are more prepared for the world of work.
* GB would like to change people’s mindsets about technology, ensuring that teachers are driving innovation and progress, rather than allowing technology to dictate the boundaries.
* CB would like to know how else the Council can contribute to the education system in Wales’ goals, and if external presenters could attend and provide an external viewpoint.
* MJe would like a wider view of good practice, with a more over-arching vision of digital learning.
* AN – “the arrogance of success is to think that what you did yesterday will be sufficient for tomorrow. (William Pollard)
* MJo would like to make sure that the right areas are prioritised.
* RM highlighted that new communications around the DCF will be shared with the Council shortly.

**Action: RM/Secretariat to share new DCF communications.**

**Actions Table (13 December 2016)**

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| Ref | Owner | Action |
| 2.1 | CR | Secretariat to add four purposes and WG representatives to ToR. |
| 3.2 | Members | Members to provide suggestions for stakeholders the Hwb Content Team can make links with. |
| 3.7 | Members | Members to provide any suggestions for HwbMeet table hosts to the secretariat. |
| 3.8 | Members | Members to provide any suggestions for NDLE keynote speakers to the secretariat. |
| 4.4 | KC | KC to provide list of Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) Group members. |
| 7.2 | CR | Secretariat to compile and circulate list of Council achievements throughout 2015-16 academic year for next meeting. |
| 7.3 | RM/CR | RM/Secretariat to share new DCF communications. |