

LANGS – 10/11/2017, at University of Strathclyde

Previous minutes **read and seconded**.

DK to minute, on behalf of **DANSE**.

Attached: attendance and apologies

Salvete:

- Laurence Findlay – corporate director, Moray Council, co-chair of ADES
- Ella Leith, Qualifications Officer from SQA on secondment from Heriot-Watt University, to help develop a suite of British Sign Language Awards for use in schools
- Ann Melville – Staff Tutor, Pan Tayside 1+2
- Gabriela Seaver and Sandra Beattie attending with Robert – Development Officers, North Lanarkshire Council
- Shona Hugh, Principal Teacher of Modern Languages, Williamwood High School, attending to represent East Renfrewshire
- Nicola Seddon – DO, Renfrewshire Council, St Anthony’s Primary
- Giulia Piccionetti – European Parliament Information Office
- Stacey Arneil – seconded primary teacher in North Ayrshire on Angela’s 1+2 team
- Fiona Hopkins – Senior Education Manager, North Ayrshire
- Annette Götzkes – University of Edinburgh
- Louise Whyte – Secondary PDO at SCILT

Valete: Sue Langlands, Scottish Government (to be replaced by Barbara Morton); Louise Dunn, Renfrewshire DO has new DHT post in primary school.

Update from Chair: Bethan Owen

- Proposed new formation of a **Focus Group**: would like reps from each Strategic Improvement Partnership (Angela Noble, North Ayrshire and DANSE¹ already in position *qua* Vice Chair); Core members will be LAs, SCILT, Scottish Government, UCMLS.
- Currently working on a **Mission Statement** for LANGS to raise its profile.

Key National Messages:

- **Susan Waugh, Scottish Government:**
 - **2018 Survey** about to be issued (next week or so): building on last year’s. Government ‘appreciated the frankness’ in the replies to last year’s. Slightly longer lead time, this time, responsive to comments last time. Similar questions, but sharpened in focus. Better tech than last year, so should be easier to use. Some questions may need to be adapted. Sections on L2/L3,

¹ Dumfries & Galloway, Argyll & Bute, North, South, East Ayrshire

Primary and Secondary; BSL; Senior Phase; Transition; CLPL; Partnerships/collaboration; Successes etc. Progress tracking.

- **BSL National Plan**, launched in the last couple of weeks. 6 year plan; 10 long term goals; 70 actions, 10 of them specific to schools. Interim report 2020. Oct 2018: **Authorities have to publish** BSL plan.

- **Louise Glen, Education Scotland.**
 - **Flexibility within the L3:** 'you said, we did'. Further possibility added: L3, if it stays the same, can be delivered as a block (but must be progressive, covering all 4 skills etc) – with a view to bringing pupils to 2nd level and giving them the flexibility to swap L2/3.
 - **Scottish Education Awards:** entrants encouraged.
 - **New HMI:** John Paul Cassidy – well known to LANGS members and welcome boost to the profile of MFL.
 - **MFL Representatives' Conference** coming: 29/01/2018. Follow-up to last June's 1+2 events.
 - **FAQ section going on NIH** in the next couple of weeks.

- **Fhiona Mackay, SCILT/CISS:**
 - Introducing **Louise White:** seconded from Thomas Aquinas, Glasgow.
 - **Languages Leadership Programme:** (formerly TTT): will be running again this year: 1st week in July; some slight changes: will now be open to **individuals** (authorities no longer the gatekeepers) to apply. **Elective programmes** introduced last year to continue, following positive feedback.
 - **Flier for SCILT/CISS CLPL.** CISS is now officially a **'Model' Confucius Institute** and thus considered World leading. Congratulations to all involved. Looking particularly at teacher education (Hanban).
 - **Education Awards:** ask schools to think about the **other categories** – and make languages **part of it**.

Presentation: Lingo Flamingo in partnership with St Winning's Primary: Intergenerational Learning:

- Pupils teaching Senior Citizens in partnership with Lingo Flamingo, led by Robbie Norval. St Winning's PS **won the Scottish Education Award** (unanimous decision) for this project. (PowerPoint available on SCILT website).
- Robbie inspired to create this when he formerly worked in a care home, to address isolation, dementia etc. Was told his aunt, also in a care home, 'Can't make jam anymore; she has dementia.' **Lack of 'enabling'** of this sort is a widespread problem.

- Music therapy, art therapy etc., are known to have beneficial effects; more recently those of language learning also (see slides, video). But beware that generation and the use of German!
- **St Winnings PS** Teacher Francesca Boyle; (their 1+2 trainer) + some members of the community and pupils went in in small groups; all took it in their stride. Since been into other care homes, an **Over 60s club and a Nursery**. (Effective contributors etc) Great feedback from 'recipients', pupils and parents alike. Hugely confident pupils, both on video and here in person. Lingo Bingo demonstrated by pupils (won by Toria!)
- Noted that **other North Ayrshire S3 pupils on D of E** also did this very successfully.

Toria Fraser: Every single council chamber in Scotland should see this.

Sonia Perez-Coughlin: This happens in East Ayrshire also.

Bethan Owen: Focusses on so many skills.

Fhiona Mackay: I would love my mum to access this. Just because she's old and frail doesn't make her no longer clever. This is CfE.

Bethan Owen: There's so much brilliant practice going on in classrooms, but no-one outside the classrooms ever sees it.

(Noted that St Winnings do something similar with their partner school in Spain.)

Fhiona Mackay: SCILT, in the person of Clare Carroll, is doing a lot of work on intergenerational, community stuff. SCILT is planning a languages inter-generational family learning event on St Patrick's Day, 17/03/2018.

Lady from Over-60s club: Cannot overstate how great these kids were.

Keynote Speaker: Laurence Findlay [as co-chair of SIG]

- Keynote: **Partnership**. Think about your job 10 years ago; and 10 years in the future. Exciting but also scary. None of us will have the resources to go it alone.
- **Partnership working in a languages context**: When Fraserburgh twinned with Bressuire (79, F), Laurence, as a school pupil, got the chance to go and this stimulated a lifelong enthusiasm for Languages. The early 90s twinned a baker in Fraserburgh with one in Bressuire. To this day, you can get rowies in Bressuire and authentic croissants in Fraserburgh.
- **Brexit: 'wicked, sad'**. Resurgence of racist, homophobic etc behaviour cannot be unconnected. It is the **duty** of us as linguists to fight back against that; **promote tolerance, cultural diversity** etc. This is why **partnerships are better**: Think WW2.
- **Henry Ford** quote: *Coming together is a beginning, staying together is progress, and working together is success.*
- **Reducing resources**: Laurence's 2002/3 school MFL budget was **bigger than it is now**. Moray Council Education budget has gone from £110m to £95m in the last year. There used to be a £110k cushion for eventualities – to enable a school to

recover from an unforeseen disaster, e.g. No longer. 1+2 funding is tapering, so Partnership authorities will be key and should be used to lift everybody to the same level. Moray would be £10m/yr better off, if its funding were based on the Highland model, rather than the old Grampian one; less rurality allowed for. So: should we have one partner leading on L2; another on L3 etc?

- **Lack of MFL requirement for ITE:** We can't just lament that; what are we going to do to **grow our own**? Moray use UHI for teacher training (craft), but provide the MFL input. Could others do likewise; maybe involving linguistically competent parents?
- **Engaging secondary practitioners:** this practice varies wildly in its quality. 'The main prize has to be DYW'. Whisky, food production... Those MFL departments really **engaging with industry expand**. Some, however, are still stuck promoting Racine.
- There is more activity on Twitter re STEM than MFL. **Get out there.** '*Privacy of practice produces isolation; isolation is the enemy of improvement*' Richard Elmore (Author of *School Reform from the Inside Out*) in other words, everyone ends up thinking they're doing a bad job.

Breakouts:

1. **Orkney-Japanese partnership project (Orkney network failed)**
2. **Edinburgh Department of European Languages and Culture (DELIC) – pilot.**
 - SLICS – Student Led Individually Created Course
 - **Human element** is the most important. Success achieved over time.
 - Edinburgh schools have received German Language Ambassadors from Uni over a long period; but this has lacked structure. Evidence of the benefits is anecdotal only; it would be good to have a research element.
 - Higher pupils have been going in to the University and 'speed networking' language students. Effectively Language Ambassadors as an 'Away' fixture? Benefits of letting our pupils see University? Makes MFL cool; peer-led; not all grammar learning. Targeting **S2/S3 pupils** (cusp of options); and **2nd yr students** (about to go on year abroad). Building relationships. **20 hours' contact between the student and their partner school.** Follow up visits. Pupils and students stay in contact. Structured, so students (in particular) don't lose sight of it. Annette Götzkes: making language learning relevant and cool – and **relationship developed over time between pupils and students.** All can become involved in research into, say, Vienna (or wherever the student's going to be). When the student is actually abroad and reporting back in real time, because there are problems as well as triumphs, **it's a bit like a soap** (might need some editing; but interesting and attractive to pupils) For schools: **Encourages MFL uptake in Sen Ph; closes attainment gap; raises expectations: Uni as a real possibility.** For students: independent learning; **soft skills, employability** (think St Winnings).

- 2018-19 Edinburgh is offering German, French, Italian, Spanish. Maybe Mandarin in due course. **SLICC framework is a 20 (out of 120) credit course: personal and professional skills; work & project experience.** Project is **co-designed** between student and Secondary teacher. **Continuous self-reflection throughout. Portfolio of evidence.** See slide. City of Edinburgh covers Disclosure costs, but Uni helps with travel .
 - *Bethan Owen: We're working hard to make it non-elitist. All pupils in a given class are involved.*
- **Dialogue:** (echo of Shona Hugh): Do unis *know* what the Higher German course is...?
- Expanding it to **rural areas** is an issue. Mixed economy of visits and Skypes etc probably best. Access to **businesses that use MFL** (approach DYW personnel? British Council?) and Unis also an issue. STEM students make good ambassadors, because their primary focus isn't languages, but they **see and can demonstrate the need.** Edinburgh brought in Scandinavian Studies dept (no Scandi languages in Edinburgh schools) and presented clever stuff themed on Scandi noir, Bluetooth etc (maybe think also Meryl James and Welsh) with some of the most disadvantaged Edinburgh schools, which was hugely enjoyed and found inspirational.
- Might this be extendable to primaries/transition? Edinburgh University Students' Association have a voluntary scheme to do this.

Angela de Britos: Structure, intentionality, continuity, are all key. How good is the cooperation between Universities?

Hannah Doughty: All unis, one way and another, are cooperating through UCMLS. See 'Beyond School' tab on SCILT website.

Janette Kelso: There is also the similar Language Linking Global Thinking (individual links with students going abroad linked with both a primary and a secondary class), operated by SCILT. Anecdotal evidence really positive for pupils; but also the student abroad, who had intentionally to interpret what they were seeing and doing to the folks back home – and therefore had to marshal their thinking. LLGT is not, however, not in competition with what Edinburgh is doing.

'Just a Minute' – Updates from other organisations

Gerry McIntosh, British Council:

BC are exploring showing the *relevance* of MFL learning...not just 19th C poetry or sitting in an interpreting booth.

Fhiona MacKay: Cross sectoral partnerships are crucial to this. Get Secondary teachers to realise that Primary teachers are teaching the first seven years of their course.

*(Remember Shona Hugh's quote , 'Secondaries, do you actually **know** what your primaries are doing...?')*

Sonia Perez-Coughlin: ITE needs to get properly on board with MFL.

Laurence Findlay: There is a role for regional partnerships in this.

Toria Fraser: Do Coyle is presenting a paper to Deans of Ed today, aiming for consistency of MFL content of primary ITE. The 4 year course is not so bad; 1 year course may be more of a problem.

Angela de Britos: LENS is good resource; it's not a course. Needs people to promote/deliver it.

Sabine Schlüter, Goethe-Institut:

- German Language Adventure (now includes material on Switzerland and Austria) has been revamped and is bookable again.
- Also German Olympics. Video competition.

Jane Byers, SEET:

- World film making project can be entered; school visits can be booked;
- Euroquiz Promo material.

Jenny Carr: Scotland Russia Forum:

- Recent workshop for schools in Glasgow area; joined up with the Polish Department of Glasgow University. This resulted in more schools signing up. There is now Polish and Czech material on the Scotland Russia forum website.
- More workshops including specifically Polish coming. Possibly morphing into 'Eastern Languages'.

Gerry McIntosh, British Council:

- **Erasmus +** Call for proposals **launched**.
- Budget for schools **increased 40%**.
- **Simplified** school application.... Key Action 1 **Deadline: 01/02/2018**; KA2: 21/03/2018; School Education Gateway: helps with applications. Webinars etc coming.
- MLAs: looking for **English Langs assistants** to go abroad. It is supposed to be reciprocal, but traffic is more outward than inward.
- Budgetary problem...but looking at **ways of using PEF**; pooling knowledge. Looking for evidence of the positive impact of MLAs.

Veronica Mihai, European Commission:

- One day visit to Brussels. Not all LAs represented, but those who were there learned about how the EC works; work for translators etc. Hope to do it again, but see how Brexit goes.

Richard Tallaron, LFEE:

- LFEE (formerly *Le Français En Ecosse*) now stands for Languages For Education Europe. Immersion courses; follow ups etc.
- Courses now GTC approved; won two awards.
- ICT event end January: using animation. Bring teachers, senior pupils. Contact Ros at LFEE for more info.

Hannah Doughty, SCILT/UCMLS:

- Languages Lost & Found: various events Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Inverness, Kilbirnie, Oban; hoping to build on this next year. See LLF page on Dundee University Website.

Sylvia Warnecke, Open University:

- Offering Level 1 courses for S5/6 pupils. **Good uptake** across 27 LAs; German and Italian most popular; also **English for academic purposes** (to support Uni study); **pilot** for teaching primary languages. Assisted by SCILT, who provide the pedagogy input.

[Session this afternoon no longer a closed doors LA one. Will be about outdoor learning and John Muir Award]

Afternoon session

How North Ayrshire went about a John Muir partnership.

Both **Discovery Level** (upper primary) and **Family Award**. There's a workbook. Angela Noble can supply the whole package – planning, application form etc. Makes good IDL project, even if you don't want to apply for a JM award. Good thing to get **beyond the classroom**.

Themes for next LANGS: Closing the Gap/Raising Attainment:

- Can we bring things to share? Models for parental engagement, inclusion? "It has to be more exciting than it is now"
- Resource packs... (Virginie, Dundee will come round and talk to Auths).
- **Next time:** do a 'speed dating thing'; each Authority to bring something/someone – 'bring a teacher'? Partnerships to plan together.

- And the one after **that** will be **Languages & Heritage** – trying to exploit EAL pupils' languages etc. South Ayrshire had run a special day for EAL parents, ending in a co-operative arrangement providing interpretation for a Parents' Night.

Plenary:

- Dundee would come and present on *Dundee Film Festival*.
- Fife: *French Fun for Families*;
- North Ayrshire have *Wee Famille*.
- D&G: *John Muir? Polish GCSE etc in Annan*, thanks to Dundee?
- June meeting: marketplace for business partners – get John Muir to that.
- **DONM: Friday, 02/03/2017, venue TBC.**