

# Notes from RNLC Strategy Group Meeting – 14<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Beal High School 12:00 – 2.30 pm

**Present:** Luke Abbott, Bob Drew, Sue Snowdon, Danvir Visvanathan, Eugenia Weaver (minutes)

**Apologies:** Peter Bouldstridge, Peter Shephard

## 1. Welcome to Danvir Visvanathan and minutes of last meeting

- Danvir was welcomed and thanked for agreeing to join the group.
- SEF point in minutes of last meeting - was further clarified; as part of wider collaboration of networks, it would be useful if the Strategy Group drew up guidelines as to how schools can use membership/activity of networks for school inspections. It would be useful to have a primary and secondary perspective.
- Bob thought that although various discussions had taken place at previous meetings on criteria for RNLC funding bids, this needed to be formally drawn up so as to offer clear guidelines on how networks' bids for funding would be evaluated.

### **Action:**

- **Luke to meet with Danvir and Sue to draw up guidelines to member schools on how to use RNLC activity for SEF**
- **Luke to draw up clear guidelines on evaluation criteria for RNLC funding bids.**

## 2. Pat Ward –

Pat offered a wealth of expertise, credibility and local knowledgeable and Luke proposed she be used in an emeritus type position in RNLC. The group agreed that her contribution would be very valuable and this could be maximised by asking her to undertake specific tasks.

Possibilities included;

- Critical friend to individual networks
- Advocating/brokering RNLC activity/membership to Redbridge schools (esp. new headteachers) and SIPs
- Steering role for Mobility/New Arrivals network.
- To document impact of RNLC activity
- Central Governing Body training section

### **Action:**

- **Luke to get clarification from Madeleine Caplin re what is currently being done with headteacher induction.**
- **Luke to meet with Pat Ward to discuss her involvement in RNLC**

## 3. Luke Abbott update on networks' activity

AFL

The network planned to hold a series of collaborations with Professor Mary James to take AFL in to the next level and was on the brink of some very interesting activity.

#### Creative Curriculum

A bid had been received from the network and was handed out at the meeting. Luke asked that members give consideration to the bid in their own time and feed back to him via email.

#### Learning through the Arts

Liz Bainbridge was on board but Anupe Hanch had asked to be relieved of her duties as co-leader due to time constraints.

Danvir and Sue felt that it would be valuable to draw in Carel Buxton as she had instituted some excellent practice at Redbridge Primary. Carel had traditionally stayed away from RNLC activity and might best be approached through Pat Ward.

Sue suggested that it would also be good to involve Miriam Smith-Philipson as she had much to contribute.

It would be good for this network to tie up with work coming in through the Academies and Creative Partnerships.

#### **Action:**

- **All to feedback on Creative Curriculum network bid to Luke Abbott**
- **Luke to hold discussion with Liz Bainbridge re appointing a new co-leader and bringing in Miriam Smith-Philipson**
- **Luke to ask Pat Ward to approach Carel Buxton re the Learning through the Arts Co-leader post**

#### Levelling up

The network had declined to further the partnership with the IoE as their proposals had not been appropriate for the work envisaged to be undertaken by this network.

Network meetings would follow a format of an appropriate speaker to inform and sharing of good practice from member schools with each school undertaking a research project.

Questions were raised about the scope of the RNLC network and the narrowing of the gap for vulnerable children. Clearly students who were categorised as 'Vulnerable' were not necessarily 'disaffected' children. Bob Drew pointed out that such identified students were on the Children's Centre Agenda and Extended Schools. Further discussions related to the work that had already been done in Redbridge. A question concerning the collection of effective practice and the role of this data was raised and the likelihood of appropriate child care/education teams collaborating that don't normally work together.

Other questions arising:

- How to attract schools that are a long way down the road to share their findings to date to avoid duplication?
- How the Levelling Up agenda fits with national agendas?
- In the event of a refocused project-was it possible to widen the scope of the plan?
- Was the focus on the most vulnerable children (these were mostly looked after children)?

In view of the cancelling of the partnership with the IoE, a new bid should be forthcoming from the network.

**Action:**

- **Luke to speak to Vicky Coxon and Peter Shephard re the future work and new bid for the Levelling Up network.**

Mobility/New Arrivals

Luke had now secured a date to meet with the co-leaders. It appeared there might be some need of clarification of the exact purpose of this network. The network was currently involved in collaboration with LB of Newham in the production of a telephone information line for use by new arrival parents. Some within the network also wished to carry out pupil voice research to inform on good practice but there was uncertainty as to how to proceed at this stage.

Barbara Wright has taken the role of the LA link in the network and her focus on developing a strand concerning 'community cohesion' could enrich the network activity. However, the network co-leaders would need to discuss this further and the direction it needs to steer 2010-2011.

**Action:**

- **Luke to speak to Pat Ward about a steering/critical friend role in the Mobility/New Arrivals network**

There was agreement that all networks should display some fresh output every year to continue to justify their existence.

4. Future Events

- Inclusion Conference - 26<sup>th</sup> February 2010.
- Pete Dudley – would be presenting to the Levelling Up Network on 11<sup>th</sup> March 2010.
- Prof. Michael Fielding, IoE. Had agreed to run a 'Pupil Voice Research' training day for co-leaders and other interested parties in the latter part of the Autumn Term. A date was still to be fixed.
- Mathew Milburn (Futures Curriculum), an inspirational headteacher in a secondary school in Barnsley, had agreed to run a workshop at the secondary strategy managers' meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> June.
- Annual Conference – 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010.  
Mick Waters had agreed to be the main keynote speaker.  
Format would comprise of 1 keynote, workshops supplied by each network to showcase inform on current activities and finish with a 2<sup>nd</sup> keynote for which suggestions were sought.

Danvir had seen an excellent keynote at a recent QCDA event delivered by a minister on the future of the curriculum and also another inspirational keynote by Robin Hammerton, HMI, on curriculum, innovation and Mantle of the Expert.

A short discussion followed on attendance at conferences. It was felt that RNLC was seen in Redbridge as providing quality content at its events and headteachers felt it was worthwhile making space in their diaries to attend.

Sue thought that RNLC could play a role in bringing out inspirational speakers for one off events e.g. she suggested Bill Rogers the 'behaviour guru'. Venues and the possibility of emulating Bob's leadership conferences and levelling a charge and inviting neighbouring boroughs to help with the costs of these events were discussed.

**Action:**

- **Danvir to find out the name of the QCDA conference keynote speaker**
- **Danvir to approach Robin Hammerton, HMI, as a possible keynote for the Annual conference.**
- **Luke to follow up the possibility of booking Bill Rogers to do a day in Redbridge.**

5. EEP (Educational Evidence Portal)

Peter Shephard had forwarded information on the above for possible collaboration with RNLC (information given out to Steering Group members). Luke had contacted the organisation and they had discussed the possibility for RNLC to participate in a pilot programme of workshops on making use of tools like eep for reaching evidence, and on making sense of evidence in a specific local context.

They could offer training to co-leaders on;

- how to get evidence
- how to use the evidence.

It was agreed that Luke would sign them up for a training day on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (Redbridge was part of the initial group that helped set up the portal, hence, no cost.)

**Action:**

**Luke has booked a training day with EEP for co-leaders 17<sup>th</sup> May 2010 (completed)**

6. Professor Alma Harris

Prof Harris had spoken of a possible link between RNLC and international contacts. Luke sought the views of the group with this regard and it was agreed that he would contact her to pursue this further.

**Action:**

**Luke to contact Prof Harris to follow up the creation of international contacts.**

7. Beyond Current Horizons – Futurelab

This group looks at futures curriculum and helps schools review themselves in view of possible scenarios over the next 10 years. Luke asked that group members find out more about their work by looking at the website [www.visionmapper.org.uk](http://www.visionmapper.org.uk) and consider whether they would think it of value to network schools to ask them to come to present in Redbridge.

**Action:**

**All to look [www.visionmapper.org.uk](http://www.visionmapper.org.uk) and let Luke know if he should contact them to come to present in Redbridge.**

8. Website

Luke would like Peter Shephard present for this discussion, hence, to be included in next agenda.

**Action:**

**Eugenia to add website to next meeting agenda**

9. Finance

Balance of funds stands at £240k. The projected figure for the end of the financial year, (end of March 2010) would be in the region of £210k.

It was understood that another £75 was forecast to be received in the RNLC budget (2010-11) from LBR.

Sue S briefed on the School's Forum meeting she had attended where dedicated school funds allocation is discussed. The report showed £75k earmarked for RNLC for 2010-11. Andy Beaumont of Woodbridge High had posted a question on the current balance of RNLC funds. Sue stated that the balance was 'not inconsiderable' but had not given a specific figure. The explanatory notes to the report mentioned that RNLC funds would be transferred to Seven Kings High School; currently these are held by LA.

A short discussion followed to formulate a reasonable response for Sue to take to the next Forum meeting in March. It was agreed that the funds were there to fund a sustainable model. Furthermore the balance was such because schools had willingly given their time and seldom asked for cover.

In the future RNLC should map the use of all the funds over a certain period of time so that the funding is transparent. For example-if all the funding were to cease and the RNLC placed on a different financial footing-an interim funding arrangement using the built up funds would need to be implemented to ensure a smooth transition in school based project dissemination and staffing plans.

**Action:**

- **Sue to contact Shirley Drane in Finance re RNLC funds**
- **Luke to speak to Peter Shephard re how response should be formulated.**

10. Date of next meeting: Proposed: 14<sup>th</sup> or the 21<sup>st</sup> June 2010 11.30-2.00 venue tbc.  
This will be sorted out via email.

**Action:**

Eugenia to email possible dates for next meeting in the summer term.