

**Languages Strategic Implementation Group Education
Meeting No 17, 18 September 2018
Education Scotland, Endeavour House, Dundee**

Item 1. Welcome and apologies

Attendees:

Louise Glen, Education Scotland (Chair)
Barbara Morton, Scottish Government
Fhiona MacKay, SCILT
Robert Quinn, SQA
Jim McDonald, SQA
Torla Fraser, Scottish Government
Do Coyle, Chair of SCDE Languages Group
Bethan Owen, Chair of LANGS
Margaret Aitken, College Development Network Scotland
Eddie Follan, COSLA
Jacqueline Gallagher, Education Scotland
Graeme Hutton, School Leaders Scotland
Clare Mouat, National Parent Forum Scotland

Apologies were received: Gillian Campbell-Thow, SALT; Joe Carson, UCMLS; Ellen Docherty, GTCS; Susan Quinn, EIS; Mel McGill, NPFS; and Laurence Findlay, ADES.

New members Margaret Aitken and Robert Quinn were welcomed.

Outgoing members: Jack Simpson as Headteacher rep, Marion Spöring as chair of UCMLS

Item 2. Approval of Minutes from previous meeting

The minutes of the 16th meeting of the Languages Strategic Implementation Group, held on 15 May 2018, were approved as accurate.

Item 3. Matters Arising from minutes and actions outstanding

Actions complete

SIG Secretariat to write to SQA to invite them to discuss with SIG future developments in provision of qualifications to account for diversity of languages spoken – Chairs met with Janet Brown on 15 May 2018. A robust and positive discussion on various issues was held, SQA now represented on SIG as a result.

SIG Chairs to invite representative of Maths group to present on Maths Week Scotland at LANGs – Numeracy policy officer presented to Edinburgh local officer who are now discussing next steps. No big event anticipated this year, provisional date for Languages Week Scotland February 2019.

Actions underway

SG secretariat to keep SIG Education members updated on LA survey process and results: – re-examination of data shows a more positive picture. Appears that at least 62% secondary schools meeting S1-S3 entitlement, however, the nature of the data collection means that we can't be more accurate. Secretariat will work with SG Analysts to ensure that the questions are appropriately phrased so that robust data is gathered, particularly with renewed parliamentary interest in implementation. It was noted that LA leads experienced difficulty in gathering data from schools, there is a need to highlight the importance of the survey to Directors, it was agreed that this message should be reiterated via ADES.

SIG members to agree a new programme of engagement with secondary which will include amongst other things a focus on entitlement to end S3 – taken under item 5.

Do to bring a short paper to the next meeting drawing on discussion in May setting out the potential research proposal and a short discussion of actions necessary will follow – a good discussion was held at the May meeting. Do gave an update of this work since the last meeting.

ACTION: Short Life Working Group consisting of SCILT, RIC leads, Do, SG and ES to meet.

Chairs to seek to meet with individual members of Strategic Board of Teacher Education to have further discussion. SIG Secretariat to seek a meeting initially with Chair of SCDE – meetings have been arranged: Chairs will meet SCDE on 24 Oct, Louise and Barbara will meet VPASSH on 29 November.

ACTION: Chairs will report back on meetings with SCDE and VPASSH at next SIG.

Actions outstanding

GTCS to report back to SIG Education with an update from the SBTE sub group on CLPL in primary and secondary. Meeting took place on afternoon of 18 May, GTCS will provide feedback for next meeting.

ACTION: seek written update from Ellen to circulate.

SIG Secretariat to request that Edinburgh City Council and Moray House share their research into learning and teaching in the classroom with this Group – the group heard that arrangements were being finalised, schools from across the South East RIC participating. The research will be done through "How Good is our 1+2?" a toolkit for self-evaluation, which is in line with HGIOS 4. Views will be gathered initially from practitioners on what is manageable and successful language learning.

Actions Ongoing/duration

SIG members to consider attendance at SIG engagement meetings – this remains an open invitation, next meeting will take place in November or December.

ACTION: SIG members to be included on distribution for future SIG Engagement meetings and events.

Record of Actions – a short discussion on how to collect updates for the record of actions took place. It was agreed that to help members a series of calendar reminders would be sent out prior to each SIG Education meeting.

ACTION: Secretariat to send all requests for updates to the group as calendar requests.

Regional Improvement Collaboratives (RICs) SG secretariat to update the meeting with further information on the shape and role of the RICs for discussion – will remain on agenda while RICs become established. – an update will be circulate soon after meeting

Item 4. SQA results 2018 – Jim McDonald, SQA

Jim McDonald, Qualifications Manager at SQA, provided an overview of the 2018 SQA exam results.

General Observations – from Jim McDonald

- Candidate performance in 2018 was generally strong at National 5 to AH, with performance broadly in line with 2017.
- At National 3 and 4, the vast majority of candidates entered for the course obtained the course award.
- In terms of uptake, there was generally a decline, however there were small increases in uptake at National 3, in French, German and Spanish.
- The Languages for Life and Work award at SCQF 3 and 4 continues to be popular, with almost 3,000 candidates certificated in 2018. It is the second most popular SQA Award, after Employability.

A further, more detailed, update will be circulated.

A short discussion followed. It was noted that language candidates performed as well as other subjects and that there is a strong correlation between teacher estimated and actual grades. Although there has been a decline in entries to language qualifications the reasons are more complicated than just around subject choice.

There was a good uptake of the SCILT Advanced Higher workshops, all 30 workshops were fully subscribed

Item 5. Next steps from 2017-18 survey

Roadshows - Planning for a series of Roadshows targeted at Timetablers is underway, Chairs holding discussions this week to take forward.

ACTION: SLS (Graeme Hutton) to go back to SLS to take forward setting up of a timetablers event.

ACTION: SCILT to share details of LA contacts who could present at Timetablers events.

Engagement plan – Louise set out that with the increased capacity, Education Scotland will begin to work on a toolkit to support understanding of progression in language learning within and through curricular levels First to Fourth. A suggestion was made that they should consider taking the changes to the CEFR and putting in to a Scottish context. It was noted that there remains a need for stronger messaging on the S1-S3 entitlement, the group were invited to consider how this can happen.

ACTION: Secretariat to look into process of SG making sure Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICE) hold up to date information on 1+2 policy developments.

Item 6. Any Other Business

New members' role overview – new members gave an overview of their roles and were welcomed to the group. SQA looking resilience of qualifications and awards for 21st Century Skills as the heart of future skills. College Development Network (CDN) working to revitalise the network and language learning within the FE sector.

British Sign Language – the group heard an update from SQA on the new BSL Awards. These will be piloted in two schools during the current school year. A routemap is in place to develop the suite of BSL awards and qualifications further.

Moray House Transformative Learning Programme – Do Coyle shared developments on this new course, currently under way for Maths, English and Physics. This two year programme is for the development of BGE teachers with specialism on transition between early years and primary or primary and secondary BGE. A Language stream is currently going through the GTCS approval process, it is hoped that will begin from the next academic year.

Update from Do Coyle

The University of Edinburgh is planning to offer ITE qualification in Latin and Classical Studies within the existing PGDE and in addition to introduce a Languages strand to the MSc Transformative Learning. Processes and agreements are not yet finalised but in the immediate period, Moray House has set up an Advisory Board consisting of university educators (School of Education and teacher representatives (both state and independent schools) and the Classics Outreach Coordinator for Scotland. It is envisaged that PGDE students will follow the current languages programme and the MSc TLT will follow a new pathway for Languages (Education) over a two years full Masters programme with QTS at the end. The MSc in Transformative Learning and Teaching programme is the first one of its kind in the UK. It provides an in-depth and integrated learning experience, with time spent in both University and school sites throughout two years, and leads to a teaching qualification which will allows future teachers to work across the primary/secondary transition. Importantly, this programme, designed and developed in partnership with local authorities, is future-oriented, drawing on cutting-edge research, and is designed to prepare new teachers for a career in teaching in an ever-changing world, with a particular focus on social justice, sustainability, global perspectives, digital and statistical literacy, and professional inquiry skills. Because of the transition nature of the experiences this makes it an ideal programme for exploring 1 + 2 issues in terms of learner progression and pluriliteracies development. This strand will include other languages.

Date of 2019 meetings (venues tbc)

24 January 13:30 – 16:00
23 May time tbc
12 Sept time tbc