

Global Futures Steering Group online meeting
7th October 2020, 10:30am – 12:30pm

Present:

Glynn Downs, Chair of the Global Futures Steering Group
Domini Stone, Goethe-Institut
Benoît Le Dévédec, Institut Français
Carmen Santos Maldonado, Spanish Embassy Education Office
María Antonia García, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Roberta Guzzardi, Italian Consulate Education Office
Professor Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University
Lucy Jenkins, Cardiff University
Meleri Jenkins, Routes into Languages Cymru
Dr Liz Wren-Owens, Routes into Languages Cymru
Penny Lewis, Estyn
Cathryn Billington-Richards, CSC Consortium
Carrie Fisher, CSC Consortium
Stephanie Ellis-Williams, GwE Consortium
Sioned Harold, EAS Consortium
Anna Vivian Jones, ERW Consortium
Stephanie Grant, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn
Ceri Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Emma Muggleton, Caerleon Comprehensive School
Helen Phillips, Open University
Dr Catherine Chabert, Confucius Institute
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Dr Walter Ariel Brooks, British Council
Emily Daly, International School Linking, Cardiff Council
Beth Titley, Careers Wales
Catrin Verrall, Qualifications Wales
Georgina Haarhoff, Deputy Director Curriculum, Welsh Government
Jane Peffers, Welsh Government
Gerard Pitt, Welsh Government
Eleri Goldsmith, Welsh Government
Manon Edwards, Welsh Government

Simultaneous Translation:

Aled Jones, Translator/Simultaneous Interpreter, CYMEN Agency

Apologies:

Amy Walters-Bresner, CSC Consortium
Ariane Laumonier, Institut Français
Lucy Carver, Ysgol Penglais
Nia Davies, BBC

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Global Futures Steering Group Chair, Glynn Downs (GD) welcomed members and introduced first time attendees to the meeting, including:

- María Antonia García Rolland, Education Adviser, Spanish Embassy Education Office
- Beth Titley, Operational/Development Manager at Careers Wales;
- Vicky Ucele - Wales China Schools Project Manager;

GD also welcomed Anna Vivian Jones back to the Steering Group, in her new role as Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) Development Lead for ERW.

Aled Jones, Company Director of CYMEN Translation Services provided the simultaneous translation service for the meeting.

2. Welsh Government update

Jane Peffers (JP) and Gerard Pitt (GP) provided updates on Welsh Government activity:

Global Futures 5-year summary document

The Global Futures 5-year summary document is currently with the in-house Publications and Design Teams. A near final draft version of the document will be shared with the Steering Group members prior to publication.

Evaluation

Work is also beginning on the external evaluation of Global futures programme 2020-2022. Consideration will be given to the impact of the programme on schools and to establishing an accurate baseline of International Language provision as we transition to the new curriculum. GP noted that the group's expertise and support would be valued as part of this work as research is developed and data gathered. GP will follow up with more specific requests for Steering Group colleagues in due course.

Communications campaign

Whilst Action 5 of the Global Futures Plan sets out that we will deliver a national campaign for languages, due to current circumstances, Welsh Government messaging is, of necessity, Covid-focused. We are therefore seeking, for the time being, to incorporate positive messaging around languages as part of new curriculum notices.

Global Futures Action Plan

GP confirmed that the high-level aims and actions of the Global Futures Plan published in August, will help with planning and signpost schools to what's happening over the next two years of the Global Futures programme. A more detailed version of the Plan outlining how the Welsh Government and its partners intend to meet the Strategic Actions of the Plan will be published early in the New Year.

OECD

JP confirmed that the recently published Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's (OECD) independent report, entitled: *Achieving the New Curriculum for Wales* is encouraging and recognises that Wales has a clear vision for its education system and for its learners. It also acknowledges the Welsh Government's role in embedding co-construction across the system as a principle for curriculum development and education policy making more generally. The Welsh Government's *Education in Wales - Our national mission: update October 2020*, takes into consideration the OECD's recommendations, reviews collective efforts and achievements and maps the next stage of the reform journey.

3. Strategic Plan progress - updates from Steering Group

Cardiff University - Professor Claire Gorrara (CG) updated the group on the successful online Post-16 recovery project for languages to help upskill and motivate language learners during the summer. Eighty sessions were delivered with over four hundred learners engaged online - an excellent response. The Post-16 work will continue over a five-week programme starting in November, to support learners to aspire to university and show diversity in terms of languages. Lucy Jenkins (LJ) gave headline updates for the MFL Student Mentoring Scheme 2020/21 round, which included training for 92 mentors over a three week period in September. A total of 72 schools have engaged with the project for the first term, including 27 new schools. LJ thanked consortia leads for their help in recruiting schools.

Qualifications Wales - Catrin Verrall (CV) updated the group on recent Qualifications Wales activity. She confirmed that the consultation on the proposed range of GCSE qualifications for schools and learners to support the introduction of the new curriculum for Wales, will be delayed by a month until January 2021. Quads Wales is also looking into the possibility of securing access to a variety of other language GCSEs from English boards and how these might be made available bilingually. CV thanked the group for their inputs to date.

Careers Wales - Beth Titley (BT) highlighted the work of Careers Wales and the support available to schools, including the Education Business Exchange (EBE), a database of employers across Wales who are keen to work with schools in a variety of different ways. The database allows schools to search for employers in their area and request support via Careers Wales. BT noted that, although not currently available, Careers Wales could look into building a list of employers and businesses that use International Languages, into its employer database. Members agreed that this would be a welcome addition. BT added that Business Engagement Advisors could help to promote and raise awareness of multilingual employment opportunities.

Consortia - Sioned Harold (EAS), Cathryn Billington-Richards & Carrie Fisher (CSC), Stephanie Ellis-Williams (GwE) and Stephanie Grant & Anna Vivian Jones (ERW), each gave highlight updates of activity being undertaken across their respective regions to address Global Futures actions. This includes the development of networks and webinars/online sessions for schools at Primary and Secondary and ongoing work in Lead Schools to build capacity for learning and teaching international languages.

SH (EAS) made a case for cross-consortia collaboration in line with the Global Futures Aims and Objectives 2020-2022. Consortia Leads welcomed a national approach to developing and sharing good practice, which will also serve to strengthen messages.

Teachers from across the consortia regions have signed up to the Open University's *T*eachers *L*earning to *T*each *l*anguages (TELT) programme and also the British Council's *Cerdd Iaith* project. Some collaborative work has also been undertaken with the language institutes and Routes into Languages Cymru. Over 70 secondary schools are signed up for Cardiff University's Mentoring Project – SG noted that online mentoring has been a real boon in the remoter areas of ERW. SG also remarked that some schools in the Carmarthenshire area have recently seen reduced hours for language teaching at KS3 and KS5, with some schools cutting back from 5 to 3 hours a fortnight.

SEW (GwE) reported that there are restrictions currently on how schools can be reached, with a strong message about not bothering schools. This means that a lot of MFL messages for schools are going to quarantine and some are not seen at all. JP acknowledged that the situation was not ideal and that the Welsh Government is trying to get the balance right in terms of keeping a momentum in schools. She encouraged members to feed back any thoughts on the Covid guidance recently issued to schools.

Language institutes – Members provided brief updates on priorities and work undertaken in the last quarter together with a forward look at forthcoming events, activities and opportunities available to learners and teachers in Wales.

Institut Français - Benoît Le Dévédec (BD) advised colleagues of online support for schools during the autumn term including, professional development opportunities and webinars including on the Primary French Project with a focus, in November, on transition to secondary. In addition there are webinars on how to use Primary French resources for Year 3 and Year 4 teachers (Yr 4 in December). BD also confirmed that Ariane Laumonier (AL), can be contacted directly for any online workshops. The national debating competition "Joutes" for UK students of French in years 12 and 13, hosts its grand final in March 2021, as part of the *Mois de la Francophonie*. This year, the Institut français and Francophonie UK group are sponsoring free workshops for state-sector Sixth Forms wishing to join the competition.

Confucius Institute - Vicky Ucele (VU) reported a rise of 33% in learners studying Mandarin in 2019-2020, compared with the previous Academic Year. She noted that fortunately most of the Chinese New Year celebrations had taken place in schools before the pandemic struck in late March. The three Confucius Institutes in Wales have been encouraging schools to undertake GCSE Mandarin, the Youth Chinese Test (YCT) and Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK) qualifications. The Institute is currently building up a bank of pre-recorded classes online for schools to access as they look to enroll new schools. Sully Primary School is the latest school to be awarded Confucius Classroom status in Wales.

Education Department of the Italian Consulate General - Roberta Guzzardi (RG) highlighted the Consulate's continued support for primary and secondary schools in Wales (with current applications to the Italian Government for teaching hours to support 272 learners in primary and 61 learners in secondary. The Consulate's Education Department is also increasing resources for schools on its website and features updates on what's happening to promote the Italian language and culture in its Newsletter. RG outlined the Department's aim to liaise with Qualifications Wales regarding an NVQ Business Qualification or equivalent for Italian and also with the WJEC regarding Italian GCSE. In November, the Consulate will publish an Italian curriculum learning programme on its website, for which the Consulate's Education Department will provide guidance.

Goethe-Institut - Domini Stone (DS) updated colleagues on some of the Goethe-Institut's upcoming offers to schools. The Goethe's fully funded Work Shadowing Programme, which each year sees a group of twenty youngsters experience working life at first hand in Germany whilst partaking in a cultural programme, has this year been adapted as a virtual programme, including podcasts. Participants include two pupils from Wales. Calls for applications for next October's programme will be open in springtime 2021. For Year 11 and 12 students the Speak Up German initiative will be running every second Thursday during term time from November 5th - December 17th. From January-March 2021, the Goethe-Institut will be running Post-GCSE blended learning courses for those students who have a GCSE and want to continue with German but are unable to do A-Level. These are 12 week courses with 6 modules (level B1, Common European Framework), an initiative which the Goethe-Institut would be interested in rolling out in Wales.

Spanish Embassy Education Office (SEEO) - María Antonia García (MG) confirmed that the SEEO currently has three Education Advisers to support Spanish teaching and learning. All SEEO training was moved online during the summer and there is now a whole series of online workshops available for teachers of Spanish to access. MG noted that the webpage has been reorganised and is now easier to navigate and includes access to a free digital library together with a library of Spanish Short films for Primary and Secondary. MG also confirmed that schools and universities are able to apply for Erasmus+ until November. The SEEO continues its collaboration with the Instituto Cervantes.

City of Cardiff International School Linking (ISL) – Emily Daly (ED) updated the group on activity including a new Digital Innovative Learning in Schools Network, which will help classrooms in Wales to connect and collaborate with classrooms in other countries across the world. A total of eleven countries have signed up and fifty teachers are involved in this exciting new initiative. In other news ED confirmed that colleague Selina Wells was no longer working for the City of Cardiff Council's International School Linking team. The Erasmus+ Key Action 2 languages project with EAS in collaboration with partners from Spain and Ireland, enjoyed a successful project meeting early in the year, hosted by EAS. ED confirmed that some ISL activity has been put on hold since Covid-19, to allow schools the necessary time to adjust to new challenges in a changed landscape.

British Council Wales – Dr Walter Brooks (WB) notified members of the launch of the British Council's online Language Trends Wales 2020 – The Conversation. WB explained that this year a different format has been used to the usual survey, with the launch of a regular series of short essays/thought pieces outlining what the vision for languages and multilingualism is in Wales within the framework of the new curriculum. As a starting point, a video by British Council CEO Sir Ciaran Devane has been launched together with a brief analysis of the latest statistics and two pieces on modern foreign language learning by Jenny Scott, Director British Council Wales, and Professor Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University.

Routes into languages Cymru - Meleri Jenkins (MJ) updated the group on Routes Cymru activity, including recent discussions with Consortia Leads regarding provision and adapting the Pupil Language Ambassador Scheme, as Routes Cymru Ambassadors embrace the new challenge of delivering live virtual sessions from November. A menu of activities is being adapted for online access and updated resources are available on the website. MJ confirmed that a SEREN Network Modern Languages course at Oxford University is planned for March 2021. MJ also noted that a new member of the team is developing a Primary Toolkit to support the delivery of International Languages in the New Curriculum for Wales. A Governors Toolkit is also in progress.

The Open University in Wales (OU) – Helen Phillips (HP) updated the group on the TEachers Learning to Teach Languages (TELT) 2020-2021 programme, for which 41 teachers in Wales have enrolled, for courses in French, German, Spanish and Chinese. Two of the teachers have progressed to the next level up. Holly Anderson, a primary teacher from GwE, is being funded as an OU Associate Teacher to encourage and support other primary teachers on the programme. HP also notified colleagues that the programme has been given a professional recognition award by the General Teaching Council for Scotland, including recognition of its work with Wales. HP also mooted proposals for a bespoke TELT website for Wales for possible launch in March next year.

4. Models of support

GP introduced this item to investigate with colleagues whether there are emerging examples of collaboration that could be encouraged to support language provision in future, such as greater collaboration across regions and between GF partners, including the Language Institutes, to support those learners in areas where provision is being scaled back.

GP noted that talks between the Goethe-Institut and consortia colleagues had recently taken place to investigate the possibilities for additional support for German beyond what some schools are currently able to offer. GP welcomed suggestions for other possible future collaborations and any feedback to potential barriers. GP noted the importance of maintaining fluid discussions in this area to help build momentum where possible. Conscious of the need to grasp the opportunity to focus on longer-term

planning in this area, GP will continue to take matters forward with colleagues over the coming months.

5. Estyn – Penny Lewis

Penny Lewis (PL) provided a brief update on the Inspectorate's activity. Estyn, in consultation with the Welsh Government, stopped inspections in the summer term but followed up with engagement with Senior Leaders. Estyn colleagues also undertook research on blended learning.

To allow schools the necessary time to adjust and deal with new pressures and challenges arising from COVID, site visits have been proposed for next term. However, Estyn will only visit or inspect providers when it is safe and practicable to do so and will be sensitive to individual circumstances

Despite current limitations, PL acknowledged the importance of maintaining contact with schools to enable Estyn to gather intelligence on what schools need and how they are coping and to be able to share that intelligence with Welsh Government colleagues and other providers.

PL is currently working on research into blended learning in Post-16, with updates submitted in October and December 2020, followed by a thematic report at the end of March 2021.

6. Date of next meeting and close

- GD confirmed that the next online meeting of the *Global Futures* Steering Group will be held on **Wednesday, 20th January 2021**, from **10:30a.m. – 12:30p.m.**

GD thanked the group and closed the meeting.