

Global Futures Steering Group online meeting
5th May 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Present:

Glynn Downs, Chair of the Global Futures Steering Group
Sioned Harold, EAS Consortium
María Rolland García, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Emma Muggleton, Caerleon Comprehensive School
Jenny Scott, Director, British Council Wales
Divya Parikh, British Council Wales
Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University
Lucy Jenkins, Cardiff University
Helen Phillips, Open University in Wales
Andrea Pfeil, Goethe-Institut
Manuela Vogelgesang, Goethe-Institut
Stephanie Ellis-Williams, GwE Consortium
Amy Walters-Bresner, CSC Consortium
Penny Lewis, Estyn
Catherine Chabert, Confucius Institute
Elen Davies, WJEC
Ann Bradshaw, Welsh Government
Jane Peffers, Welsh Government
Gerard Pitt, Welsh Government
Manon Edwards, Welsh Government

Simultaneous Translation:

Catrin Llwyd, Simultaneous Interpreter, CYMEN Agency

Apologies:

Ceri Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini
Liz Barry, Estyn
Liz Wren-Owens, Routes into Languages Cymru
Meleri Jenkins, Routes into Languages Cymru
Craig Thomas, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Cathryn Billington-Richards, CSC Consortium
Nick Waters, CSC
Anna Vivian Jones, Partneriaeth
Lucy Carver, Mid-Wales Partnership
Catrin Verrall, Qualifications Wales
Nia Davies, BBC
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Romain Devaux, Institut Français
Ariane Laumonier, Institut Français
Roberta Guzzardi, Education Department of the Italian Consulate General, London
Beth Titley, Careers Wales

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies and updates

Global Futures Steering Group Chair, Glynn Downs (GD) welcomed members, noted apologies and introduced first time attendee:

- **Divya Parikh**, Education Project Manager, British Council Wales

Announcements:

- GD confirmed that **Anna Vivian Jones** would be leaving her post as Area of Learning and Experience (AoLE) Development Lead at Partneriaeth (formerly part of ERW), on Friday, 20th May.

Anna was unable to attend the meeting. In her absence GD thanked her, on behalf of everyone, for her exceptional work, for her passion and commitment in supporting and promoting modern languages in schools across Wales and for being a much-valued member of the Steering Group. We wish her all the very best in whatever she does next.

Quarterly updates:

Written updates from Steering Group members on priorities and work undertaken since the previous meeting in January 2022, together with a forward look at events, activities and opportunities available to learners and teachers across Wales, were shared with members prior to the meeting for information.

2. Global Futures 2022 and beyond – Workshop session

Draft strategic plan

A draft strategic plan for the next three years, based on the 2020-2022 Global Futures plan, with revisions to the Vision, Strategy, Aims and Context sections (updated following discussions and feedback received from members following the last Steering Group meeting on 13/01/22), was circulated to members prior to the meeting along with the recommendations from the ARAD evaluation, for reference.

Gerard (GP) set the scene and context for the meeting.

Ministerial agreement

GP confirmed that following Policy advice submitted to the Minister, in response to the recommendations within Arad's independent evaluation of the Global Futures programme and proposals for a way forward for Global Futures based on these findings, on 25th April the Minister had agreed to the development of a new Global Futures plan for a three-year period until March 2025.

Purpose of the workshop

In context of the above, GP highlighted the purpose of the workshop to:

- review and, if necessary, revise the strategic aims developed at the last steering group (13/01/22) and
- begin to draft and consider actions that meet these aims, including greater collaboration between members, greater visibility of the programme and monitoring to inform work. (GP noted that these actions would be high-level and should not be confused with the activities individual organisations will undertake, which will be incorporated into the plan at a later stage once the aims and actions have been finalised.)

Workshop discussion:

Members were divided into three workshop groups, using the following questions as prompts to help aid and focus discussions:

Workshop questions to consider:

- Our aims provide a strategic direction for language learning but we recognise there are still systemic issues around the decline of IL take up at secondary level. Can our actions offer challenge to these issues?
- Do the strategic aims and actions address the appropriate recommendations from ARAD's evaluation of the programme?
- The new curriculum offers increased opportunities for international language learning but schools need support to plan and design international language learning as part of their new school curriculum.

What actions are needed to support this, e.g. more resources, greater visibility of existing programmes such as exchange visits?

3. Feedback/plenary

Colleagues felt strongly that having clear aims and actions that would allow recommendations from Arad's evaluation of the Global Futures programme to be integrated into the functioning of Global Futures 2022-2025, was key.

Colleagues also agreed that the strategic actions for the programme would need to have clear ownership and accountability to help strengthen engagement and messages to schools.

Following discussions, comments were incorporated into a revised plan. This would then be distributed for final review by the group prior to being forwarded to the Welsh Government's Publications and Design Teams for typesetting and proofing stages of the document.

The Global Futures strategic plan (2022-2025) is scheduled for publication in September 2022.

The three-year timeframe for the next iteration of Global Futures will provide reassurance to the funded elements of the programme. It will also bring additional creditability to the Global Futures brand. In addition, the Programme for Government commitment to expand the teaching of modern foreign languages in our schools will allow a platform to facilitate meaningful change as CfW is rolled out from September.

4. Next steps and any other business – Chair

- The next meeting of the Global Futures Steering Group will be held on 15th September 2022. GD thanked the group and closed the meeting.