

**ILCoP Health Literacy Group meeting
Monday 12th August 2019 Glasgow Caledonian University, 14:00 – 16:00**

Present: Gillian Armour; Elizabeth Carney; John Crawford; Janet Crozier; Bill Johnston; Kirsten McCormick (minutes); Dr. Evelyn McElhinney; Pamela McLean; Sean McNamara (Chair); Dayo Oluwasanmi; Annette Thain

1. Welcome and introductions

Sean welcomed the group, thanked Kirsten for hosting the meeting at GCU and explained he would be standing in as Chair in place of Jenny and Cleo who were unable to attend. Round table introductions took place.

With regards to minutes of the previous meeting in October 2018, it was discussed that the minutes were quite out of date, that some actions had been completed and that few of today's attendees had been present. Therefore it was decided not to perform a full check for accuracy and agreed it would not be possible to track progress on all of the actions.

It was noted that Amanda Joykin will shortly be leaving SLIC. Amanda has indicated she is happy to share information about the work she has completed so far on the school libraries toolkit. It is not yet clear whether and how this project will continue.

It was also noted that 'A Collective Force for Health and Wellbeing: Libraries, The ALLIANCE and Health and Social Care Celebrating the Power of Knowledge' will be launched at the Autumn Gathering. SLIC, The ALLIANCE, and the Scottish Government Self-Management team have worked with librarians and key stakeholders in health to develop this plan during the past year.

2. Apologies noted from:

Anne-Marie Burns, Jenny Foreman, Cleo Jones, Victoria McCandlish, Ian McCracken, Hilary Weir.

3. Role and remit of the group

Sean provided an overview of the role and remit of the group including Cat McAuley's role at the Scottish Government and recommendations that the information literacy agenda might best currently be carried forth within the context of health literacy policy and initiatives.

He outlined progress of the group to date including:

- Gathering information on current policy, research, education and practice
- Identifying resources
- Twitter campaign for self-management week / health literacy month 2018
- Highlighted areas of concern including deep-end GPs

4. Progress report from Dayo Oluwasanmi (Project Manager, NHS Scotland) on phase 2 of SLIC funding and the #citizenledlibraries project

Dayo provided the group with an overview of timelines and objectives for the project which has changed title to 'co-creating libraries for wellbeing' on account of some concerns around use of the word citizen. There is a two year timescale for the project which aims to position libraries / librarians in the public health landscape. Areas identified for the pilot are Kilwinning (North Ayrshire), Penicuik (Midlothian) and Rutherglen / Cambuslang (South Lanarkshire). The steering groups have been working to establish commonality and a unified approach across the three areas given different capacities in each area. All three areas will address young people and mental health. The project will be co-designed by local steering groups and stakeholders going forward.

Bill commented on the approach, the worthiness of co-creation, application of the approach to issues beyond mental health and suggested a structured dialogue between the project group and the HLG could be beneficial.

Dayo acknowledged the challenges involved in aligning health and library terminologies.

There was further discussion around the library professional point of view, how feedback from the young people might inform improvement to library services, whether there might be an opportunity to assess young people's approach to finding and using information and what would be the approach to measuring outcomes.

The project is schedule to complete by December 2020 and Day confirmed it would then be up to local authorities to take forward.

Dayo spoke without slides but there are some available [here](#).

5. SLIF projects update

Pamela presented on the 'Shelf Help' project in East Dunbartonshire. She explained the reporting structure for school libraries in ED is to senior managers in schools and that while the SLIF application process was demanding it was a good opportunity to bring the library to their attention. A pre-project survey of staff and pupils also helped raise their awareness of library services.

Feedback from teaching and guidance staff suggested the numbers of young people presenting with questions around mental health had been increasing and it was

identified that the health and wellbeing offer in ED school libraries required improvement.

The three main strands of the project were: to increase provision of –up-to-date fiction / non-fiction stock to support health and wellbeing (core collection of stock across school librarians plus student recommendations), bring together pupils’ own writing together in a publication and to bring in an inspiring speaker on the topic.

Outputs included the creation of online reading lists which were perceived as a more private way to access materials, a competition for pupils to write about *The book that saved my life* was launched on World Book Day and winning entries were brought together and published and Natasha Devon led a mental health coaching event for S3 pupils at St. Ninian’s High School.

Kirsten asked whether there were opportunities for the pupils to participate in the digital publication process. Due to timing this was not possible but Pamela suggested there may be an opportunity for a future bid for funding the purchase i-pads and a project on animated and digital storytelling.

Pamela spoke of less tangible outcomes that were just as important such as pupils’ feelings of validation and improved confidence for having their work published. She also highlighted that the published outcome is not just a collection of pupils work but an evidence bank that could be used to demonstrate the value of books and libraries to decision makers.

Sean commented on how the project links libraries to current policy and on the need for stories, not just data, to influence decision makers.

Bill commented on the potential for libraries to influence curriculum design, pedagogy and co-creation of content.

It was reminded that Shelagh Toonen’s slides for the SLIF funded Moray Minds project had been circulated in advance of the meeting and Shelagh was thanked in her absence.

6. Evelyn McElhinney on HL research, Health Literacy UK and how HL is currently embedded in UG/PG health education

Evelyn provided an overview of her interests and work around HL. Her PhD was completed in a 3D Social Virtual world and is entitled – Living in 3D Social Virtual Worlds and the Influence of Health Literacy, Health Behaviour and Wellbeing. She is on the committee of the International Union of Health Promotion and Education Health Literacy working group and on the steering group of Health Literacy UK.

Evelyn provided an overview of the research methodology for her dissertation, a description of the 3D social virtual world and shared some of the findings from her

study. These covered the impact of navigating HL in the virtual world on physical world behaviour, the social skills and core competencies displayed as participants 'journeyed' through the information landscape either with others or alone (networking / decision making), and the visceral nature of the experience. Discussion in the virtual world led to co-production of knowledge.

This led to some discussion within the group about the importance of 'societal activities' and communication for health and information literacy. Concepts discussed included the egalitarian nature of the virtual environment, the value of grouping people with different skill levels together, trust and trustworthiness, serendipitous discovery of information and breaking down learned behaviours in health environments.

In reference to education and professional practice Evelyn acknowledged that there is as yet a lack of familiarity with the terminology that surrounds HL. In her teaching she prioritises equipping students and practitioners with effective strategies (such chunk and check) and is not so concerned with definitions. She also referred to challenges of consistency, resulting for example from a change in staff (lose an HL champion) and the issue of funding for pilots but lack of resources to continue successful projects / interventions.

In reference to her work on the steering group of Health Literacy UK, Evelyn suggested that input from a librarian may of value.

John queried opportunities for research with information professionals. Evelyn responded it would be difficult to build anything further into an already crowded curriculum.

7. Digital and Information Literacy Forum event November 2019.

Kirsten explained that Jenny was keen to have an HL theme as previously discussed and for the group to be instrumental in planning the event this year. There was some discussion around suggested dates (Jenny has provisionally booked the conference room at Scottish Government Victoria Quay). It was agreed the October date was too close to the Autumn Gathering and that Friday 8th November is the SLIC showcase. That leaves Monday 12th November of the suggested dates which was agreed the most sensible unless we could look at slightly later dates (but not into December). It was suggested we could combine the event with the next ILCOP meeting which is also scheduled for November.

There was a question around funding for the event – will SLIC be involved? Kirsten said that Jenny had already agreed an action by telephone to call Pamela Tulloch and discuss.

Jenny had suggested we might invite someone from Public Health Scotland to talk about their leadership role in data science and innovation in health (as per the

FutureScot article that was circulated). Annette commented she may be able to help with this. Suggestions for sessions / activities from the group so far:

- Why HL important – exercise reminding people how it feels to be uncomfortable – could be music example or reading a technical piece, writing with left hand, cutting paper blindfolded
- HL and inequalities
- How you talk about health literacy in the environment you work in – different perspectives from different sectors
- Panel discussion
- Importance of plain English – get a speaker?
- Health and wellbeing in a range of library settings
- Finding health info- good sources eg toolkit from Alliance
- Technology enabled care Teaching critical appraisal of digital info – fake news – innovative ways , sharing ideas from different sectors

It was reminded that as this group was intended to be short life it might be that planning and sharing the event may be the ultimate output of the group. That is unless we identify further work that would require an extended period. If the group is to take on responsibility for setting the November event programme then an additional planning meeting will be required.

Action: Jenny to confirm date, possibility of combining ILCOP meeting with the November event, funding arrangements and level of support required from the group

12. AOB

13. Date of next meeting

TBC