



NESPSS Board meeting
01 November 2007, 4-6.30pm
GONE, Citygate, Newcastle Upon Tyne



Present

Sally Preston, Dave Smith, Mike Tones, Rich Hurst

1. Apologies

Ian Findley, Steve Gater, Neil Alderman, Carol Ashworth, Frances Hinton, Robin Casson

2. Minutes of the last meeting

Minutes accepted as a true record

3. Matters Arising

- IF is keen to join the board

4. Tender → GONE

- DS had a meeting with procurement to discuss how it is rolled out.
- Suggestion is to produce a shortlist of 10 organisations to deliver.
- CEM Centre at Durham University (Peter Timms) was suggested by Sally Preston.

5. Future Funding

- Discussed that it would be appropriate for a letter to be sent to DCSF highlighting the importance of the regional role and that LA's see a regional approach as important. Made at LA Reps group meeting
- **ACTION:** Letter to go out from NESPSS to be circulated to the Board first, MT to action
- Evening meeting perhaps at the back end of February to develop the Regional Strategy with the Chairs from each of the sub partnerships
- The Pillars
- **ACTION:** NESPSS Board to read current draft strategy (available from <http://www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk/DocumentLibrary.htm>)
- R&D report to influence future strategy
- RH stated that SDC/DCSF have produced a summary of the new Indicator set that relates to sustainability issues **ACTION:** RH to circulate with Board papers

6. RCE North East

- NESPSS has been invited by Prof Tony O'Donnell to join the management group of the RCE
- Agreed if NESPSS gets appropriate recognition
- Partners not working to IRES
- **ACTION:** accept invitation

7. Trustee roles

- Members of NESPSS had an expertise and could provide advice and steerage of NESPSS
- Should be identifying against strategic plan roles and skills needed
- Basing on skills set. Clarity on what we are wanting
- Inform how and where to recruit
- Is there a pro-forma for Board Members to identify
- Skills areas
- Expertise
- Current role

8. Sub Partnership Accountability

- Who's commissioned them?

- How do they report back?
- They are a means of drawing together activity
- Informal arrangement to meet and inform
- Attendees are NGO's/ LA's, some private sector input
- School improvement and the language of education are key areas NESPSS is trying to influence.
- Some more formal than others
- Pressures for new partnerships e.g. energy
- Could propose a generic Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which partners could sign up to
- Test out a draft MOU
 - Not a strong accountability model
- A Coordinated strategic approach
 - A resource of knowledge/expertise which can redirect and make the most of the partnership approach
- Audit of what's out there
- Nature of relationship needs to be clarified
- Suggestion to bring the Chairs of the groups together to discuss strategy/MOU to meet
- **ACTION:** produce a draft MOU & circulate to Board, highlighting areas we are missing

9. Communications Strategy

- NESPSS should have one
- How do we communicate the message?
- What they want to say, not compromise the message
- **ACTION:** Need one. Not to directly link the OWNNE offer and proposed Communications role. Perhaps a risk of mixed messages
- Need to write to key partners, DCS's to inform them of where we are
- Could produce a report
- Funds left in NEEN account could facilitate consultation with partnership
- LA's
- Schools
- Voluntary sector
- **ACTION:** DS to lead on report to DCS's.

10. A.O.B.

- Charity Commission annual return needs completing by 30th July 2008
- Accounts will need auditing due to GONE funding. ACTION: RH to discuss issue with Neil Alderman.
- Schools North East
 - Seems to have support for DCS's
 - Launch on 12th November
 - Sally meeting Lesley Calder on 7th December
- DS to speak to Sally Preston
 - NSCL Sustainable School Grants
 - Encams have confirmed that NESPSS will be informed of the four successful regional schools of the Sustainable School Grants and will support them as much as possible.
- OFSTED
 - In last national Ofsted report on Outstanding Schools → lots of sustainable schools activity in outstanding ones which we could use as evidence of importance of this area of work for school improvement.

Dates of Next Meetings

- Wednesday 23rd January 2008 (4-6.30pm)
- Wednesday 23rd April 2008 (4-6.30pm)
- Wednesday 16th July (4-6.30pm)

All to be held at GONE, Citygate, Newcastle upon Tyne