



NEEN/ NESPSS Board Meeting
Tuesday 30th July 2007
Government Office North East, Citygate, Newcastle.

Present

Mike Tones, Rich Hurst, Dave Smith, Robin Casson, Sally Preston, Steve Gater, Neil Alderman, Ian Findley.

Apologies

Frances Hinton

Welcome by Mike Tones, Chair

Mike welcomed, Ian Findley attending his first meeting as an invited observer. Ian works as a consultant for NEPIC (North East Process Industry Cluster). His background is in chemical manufacture and the nuclear industry; he has worked as a consultant for two years on a variety of initiatives.

Minutes of Last Meeting

- ❖ Accepted as a true record.

Matters Arising

- ❖ The Newcastle Eco-Schools event took place, supported by £1k from NESPSS. RH handed out a conference report.
- ❖ Issue of new Trustee's was discussed. There is a concern that there is no representation from Tees Valley. MT suggested one of the LA reps may be appropriate.
- ❖ SG highlighted the DOTT07 Festival happening in Gateshead on 16th-26th October. Eco-Design Challenge and BSF work at Walker Technology College will be represented. There will be an evening event for designers and students, SG can gain invites for interested parties. Contact SG directly. RH has had discussions with DOTT team about legacy after project finishes in March 08.

Report from LA Representatives Meeting on 19th July 07

- ❖ The group was formed by an invitation from Dave Smith to Directors of Children's Services to suggest a rep for their LA. A mix of Advisors, BSF contacts, some LA's sent two reps.
- ❖ Notes from the meeting will be circulated with these minutes.
- ❖ Key Outcomes:
 - Thought regional coordination function was essential
 - Keen to support baseline research of activity in the region, impact of NESPSS activity in the last few years, investigate weaknesses/ effectiveness.
 - Keen on pan regional conference
- ❖ Issue of BSF highlighted. There is a regional forum for BSF colleagues. DS suggested contacting David Walker, Partnerships for Schools Regional Coordinator who is interested in Sustainable Schools agenda. **Action:** DS to invite David Walker to the next meeting
- ❖ SG highlighted that BSF/PFI is about transforming schooling, it shouldn't be about buildings. Also LA plans must show how they deliver ECM agenda.
- ❖ The reps present agreed to report back to colleagues to find out who is most appropriate rep for their LA. They were keen to meet again. DS happy as they act as validity by LA's for NESPSS's work.
- ❖ DS happy for GONE to administer and coordinate these meetings and these will become another sub partnership under the NESPSS banner.

- ❖ Carol Ashworth has met with Sustaine recently as has RH. Keen to ensure that Sustainability Officers are aware of NESPSS activity. **Action:** CA to contact Kerstin Wright at GONE to ensure sharing of information.
- ❖ Following meeting with RH Sustaine are including NESPSS linkages on their first business meeting for them to decide how the two Boards link together. Likely that Philippa Scott will be given Children Services brief. NESPSS Board would wish for a Sustaine Board member to sit on NESPSS as either an observer or perhaps a Trustee (perhaps more complicated) and represent NESPSS views at Sustaine meetings. To be debated further following Sustaine's first Board meeting.
- ❖ DS highlighted that at next meeting need to include on agenda what roles the Trustees will take on, what skills etc they bring or who they are representing. **Action:** RH to put on next agenda.

Proposal for Allocation of DFES/ GONE Sustainable Schools Funding

- ❖ Newcastle City Council were allocated £1k to part fund the Eco-Schools Event in July. NCC will draw down funding directly from GONE, so no need to go through NEEN account.
- ❖ Agreed that £10K will be allocated to Regional Coordination from 2007-8 budget to deliver proposed action plan. **Action:** RH will organise invoice for funds to go to GONE.
- ❖ The other £14K to be allocated for research and development projects. **Action:** RH to summarize discussions in a paper to be tabled at the next regional LA reps meeting. That group to decide on exact activity and will make a proposal to the Board.
- ❖ **Action:** SG to send RH Becta evaluation paper to aid thinking.
- ❖ **Action:** SP to ascertain any potential links with STEM Net research/ evaluation.

Northern Sustainable Schools Conference

- ❖ The Park Inn Hotel in York has been booked for the 7th & 8th February 2008. Funding for the event and a lot of the admin will be delivered through GOY&H. DCSF have agreed to fund with £25K. Current proposal is one day for LA/Voluntary sector partners one day and school reps (Heads/ Governors/ Bursars) the other day.

National Sustainable Schools Seminars

- ❖ Proposal from EEAA to DCSF to deliver 4 seminars on Sustainable Schools has been agreed by DCSF. Durham LA will host an event on either 21st or 22nd November. NESPSS is keen to work in partnership with DCC to support the event.
- ❖ It is hoped that a DCSF Minister will attend, likely to be Kevin Brennan.
- ❖ The aim is for each LA attending to bring up to 5 Officers from a number of departments to begin to look at how they support sustainable schools as a corporate issue.
- ❖ The overall theme is Place Shaping. Durham's focus will be on Procurement.

Climate Change Schools Officer Post

- ❖ Post has been accepted by Dr Krista Mckinzey, who has been working at 'Our Dynamic Earth' in Edinburgh. Will start work on 17th September. Steering Group is made up of Science Learning Centre, Environment Agency, Sustaine, NESPSS & One World Network North East. Post is employed by Durham University and hosted at Science Learning Centre, Durham

Regional Sub Partnerships

- ❖ The list of sub partnerships is growing.
- ❖ How much information does the Board wish to receive from them. All minutes etc are available to download from the website www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk
- ❖ **Action:** At next meeting need to map out accountability of the sub groups to the NESPSS Board. RH to place on agenda.

Dates of Next Meetings

- ❖ The Board will meet quarterly. The next four meetings will be arranged by e-mail with Trustees and will meet at GONE, Citygate.