

Regional Eco Schools Partnership Meeting
Wednesday 24th June 2009 10.30am-12.30pm

Present

Kath Hull, Tees Valley One World Centre
Ben Grant, North East Councils
Rich Hurst, NESPSS
Andrea Carling, Groundwork South Tees
Karen Collins, Green Pride Officer

1. Welcome and Apologies

Krista McKinzey, Climate change officer
Barbara Moorhead, Newcastle City Council
Nichola Ramshaw, Groundwork
Jill Essam, Harehope Quarry
Cherie Kemp, MEC
Victoria Welsh, Stockton BC
Andrew Souter, Keep Britain Tidy
Steve Ashton, Tees Valley WT
Helen Douglas, Pride in Easington Officer
Kathryn Warrington, Sunderland City Council
Tony Turnbull, North Tyneside Council
Clare Ross, Gateshead Council
Alistair Wilson, Newcastle City Council

- Ben mentioned that he has a new job role, Sustainable Schools Project Officer, a new email address ben.grant@northeastcouncils.gov.uk and telephone number 07554 333679. He's been seconded to a regional role through funding from the NE Improvement and Efficiency Partnership focussing on waste and purchasing for schools using sustainable schools framework.
- Karen Collins introduced herself. She is handling school grounds development projects with Derwentside schools, sessions based on enviro friendly issues and visiting local areas. RH will speak with KC about the school grounds work later
- Agenda is changed due to Steve Ashton being unable to attend at the last minute. RH will put SA's presentation forward to the next meeting. ***RH to action**

2. Minutes of the last meeting on 25th February 2009.

- RH hasn't as yet contacted the Chronicle Enviro awards , so this is carried over ***RH to action**
- Ben mentioned 60 Newcastle schools attending a Climate Change Event tomorrow (25/6/09). There are also other authorities attending this consultation on climate change, waste and recycling. Keypad voting. Recycling exhibition will be there and the new Dino Jaws exhibition inside the Centre for Life. RH requested feedback from Ben ***BG to action**
- RH mentioned the National Recognition Scheme events in March. At North Tyneside approx 25 people attended and 50 attended at Darlington. The evaluation was good. Agreed that a half day workshop is a good way of pulling people together with flexibility.

3. Masters Research Undertaken by Steve Ashton

- Carried forward to the next meeting

4. Eco Schools Local Authority Model Updates

- The **Durham and Darlington** Eco Schools forum held its last ever meeting in March. Now the 2 authorities have split. Darlington is running their meetings in future through Darlington's 'Greener Theme', under Paula Jamieson's remit. KH is concerned that the Darlington Children's Services don't appear to be involved. Durham is currently looking at how to support Eco Schools more broadly. RH mentioned the OASES schools survey questionnaire results and the decision to resubmit the questionnaire in the autumn term.
- **Redcar & Cleveland** - Andrea says in the past few years Gwk have applied for funding from Toyota, unfortunately they didn't get Toyota funding this year. They have submitted DFID and a Pathfinder bids to develop specific support to specific schools, but as yet there is no general funding for eco-schools support in the LA. The authority are concerned, hopefully there will be a strategy out of this for the future. AC is considering developing a package of support for schools to take this forward in Redcar & Cleveland.
- KH mentioned OWNNE running the Global School Sustainable School event again.
- KH also suggested funding available through community cohesion; this may be another route for future funding.
- **Newcastle** - BG says Newcastle is more fortunate. They are core funded through Neighbourhood Services. Council members and the management team support them. There have been lots of changes within the council, but Enviro Schools has survived the changes so far. EMAS has been disbanded. Sustainable Schools is now the pinnacle, 'Importance and value'. BG has support from International Schools officers to help link with the global dimension side too, so hopefully they are going from strength to strength.
- **Sunderland** LA work in conjunction with Groundwork in Sunderland.
- Middlesbrough Environment City has funding until September 09, but then back to the Local Authority
- The group agreed that there are lots of different ways to find funding.

5. SEEd Sustainable Schools National Conference.

- AC is attending the Leeds Conference 3/7/09 and will report back to the group ***AC to action**
- RH is registered for Preston but he's going to see if he withdraw due to other commitments
- AC stated hopefully good contacts can be made at these events.
- There is still time to register; it costs £150 to attend.
- RH says it will be interesting to see what comes out of this and explained how Ann Finlayson is now at SEEd from WWF
- KH asked if there was any merit in having an event regionally? RH mentioned the 'pathfinder event' next March, but there are no firm plans as yet.
- The Schools Tree Nursery Plan was discussed. RH handed out details, but info can be found on the main news page of the National Eco Schools website if wanted.

6. Regional Eco Schools database

- RH showed the database that NL has compiled for the group.
- RH suggested that each authority saves and then update their own local authority page.

7. National Eco-Schools News

- RH talked about the 'Change Makers event' in London on 2nd July and handed out information on this.

8. NESPSS update

- RH updated on the LA Corporate Approach Pathfinder authority work.
- 3 authorities Durham, Redcar & Cleveland and Newcastle have been selected in our region. Corporate strategy to be ready by March next year. Planning to hold an event at the end, so each authority has 7 months to pull a strategy together.
- NESPSS strategy update was given by RH. The next NESPSS board meeting is in July
- Proposed Growing Schools Regional Partnership. Another DCSF initiative run by NAFSO, LTL, FACE etc they are interested in supporting a regional partnership in NE as a pilot. RH convened a meeting of key agencies with previous experience of GS, this group convened a short action plan and Groundwork North East offered to be the accountable body for the funds. This partnerships aim is to make the Growing Schools support structure more effective for schools and promote GS activity.
- Also discussed RHS holding the lead on the CPD on Growing Schools Courses. Planning 12 CPD courses over the next year through RHS in the region. Information will go to schools by this September. Previous courses were well attended in the region.

9. Members updates

- AC gave details of the Conflux Theatre from York; Groundwork have got funding to work with 10 schools in R&C. Theme is reducing, reusing and recycling. A class learn a play, and then perform this back to the rest of the school later. BG mentioned that he has seen this information and it looks good.
- AC mentioned 'Only made of wood' and 'what on earth' which are good fun. AC to feedback on these *AC to action
- RH mentioned 'Little Green Riding Hood' from arts group Fame Factory Spotlight based in Co Durham. Planning to deliver the play in schools from October and will be offered to all schools across the region if bid to Arts Council is successful. They can deliver to 2 schools a day. KC commented that plays are excellent for interaction with the kids.
- KH mentioned the RAPT conference on the 2nd July at Carmel College, Darlington.
- KH highlighted the TVOWC new leaflet, their big resource library, resource boxes, and CPD sessions. Over the next few months promoting refugee action. R&CBC supplied a grant to work in their schools on awareness, alternative perspectives etc. Schools will have to buy in a certain amount.
- KH explained the 'Escape to Safety' exhibition, a hard-hitting interactive exhibition. KH says it's part of action research 'Reading the World through Other Eyes' module. It challenges your own thinking and is very valuable. TVOWC hoping to do this.
- Newcastle - BG prepared the following synopsis;

Waste Encouraging Cultural Change in Schools

The Regional Improvement Efficiency Programme has undertaken a two year project looking at waste and recycling attitudes and approaches to in schools. The aim is to develop, utilise or enhance existing teaching resources in schools which encourage waste minimisation and recycling.

The resources will be in line with the Purchasing and Waste Doorway of the Sustainable Schools Strategy. Further details of the strategy can be found at www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/

The project hopes draw on the experience of both waste and teaching professionals across the North East region. The project is currently working in conjunction with the Enviro Schools programme and Waste Aware North East.

If you would like further details please contact Ben Grant: Sustainable Schools Officer, RIEP
Tel: 07554333679 or on E mail: ben.grant@northeastcouncils.gov.uk

- RH asked about KC's post. She has her own budget to deliver projects. If a school is struggling for funding for materials and/or time, she can help. This is only in the former Derwentside area only.
- KH mentioned a TVOWC CPD day on 14th October 2009 aimed at special needs teachers on sustainability and diversity. KH to forward some more information to NL to be distributed to the special needs school network. ***KH to action**. BG will also forward some names to KH ***BG to action**

10. Date for the next meeting

Suggested date:

- Wednesday 4th November 10.30-12.30pm

Previous meeting notes are available from <http://www.sustainableschools-ne.org.uk/Eco-SchoolsPartnership.htm>