

## **NOTES – Joint meeting West Midlands Sustainable Schools Network (WMSSN) and Leicester School's Environment, Health and Wellbeing group**

**Date/time: 25 September 2019, 1.30pm-4.00pm**

**Venue: Leicester City Council, Room 1.14, 115 Charles Street, Leicester, LE1 1FZ**

### **Present**

- Lee Jowett, Environment Team, Leicester City Council (Chair)
- Ben Ballin, WMSSN
- Jen Baughan, Solutions for the Planet
- Karen Bevan, Central England Cooperative
- Julie Brown, Practical Action
- Vicky Dunne, Warwickshire Wildlife Trust
- Jane Faulks, City Catering, Leicester City Council, Learning Services
- Tony Fox, Friends of Cannon Hill Park
- Hannah Gallimore, Central England Cooperative
- Nina Hatch, Mount Pleasant School Farm / NAEE-UK
- Danni Kennell, Transport, Leicester City Council
- Sarah Lardner, Solihull MBC
- Rebecca Partington, School Development Support Agency, Leicester
- Daxa Ralhan, Public Health, Leicester City Council
- Adrian Royston, Canal and River Trust
- Ash Sharma, SKIPS Education
- Sally Slade, Leicester City Council – Planning, Transportation and Economic Development
- Kimberley Tilley, Waste Management, Leicester City Council
- Rebecca Somers, Eco-Schools, Keep Britain Tidy
- James Veness, School Energy Efficiency
- Sam Woods, TCV

### **Apologies**

- Colette Bond, Garden Organic
- Rupert Brakspear, Far:Side Learning
- Alex Cameron, Flood Risk, Leicester City Council
- Jon Cree, freelancer
- Claire Dare, Severn Trent Water
- Lisa Didier, Food for Life Project Officer, Soil Association
- Ann Dodd, Leicester City Council
- Jamie Dolling, Leicester City Council
- Margaret Fleming, ASE
- Barbara Golding, Warwickshire County Council
- Amy Hathway, Leicester City Council
- Bren Hellier, Practical Action
- Sue Holden, Leicester City Council
- Michelle James, Severn Waste
- Elly Lengthorn, University of Worcester
- Clare Mills, Leicester City Council
- Nick Morris, Leicester City Council
- Deborah Needle, Sylvanus llp
- Nigel Rayment, Magnified Learning
- Makhan Singh, Birmingham City University
- Richard Smith, School Energy Efficiency
- Jacqui Stanton, Climate Change Solutions
- Paula Walton, LNDS

## 1. General introductions

We received a brief introduction from each person. Some fliers and resources from those present are attached as separate documents, as are some photos from the meeting.

## 2. The networks

Overviews from Lee (Leicester) and Ben (West Midlands). See attached slide sets.

## 3. Themed group discussions

Themes:

- Wellbeing (including health and transport)
- Food (including food growing and biodiversity)
- Sustainable development

Wellbeing (including health and transport)	
Things in common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improving health and wellbeing of children</li><li>• Delivering in school</li><li>• Got a 'clear offer' to schools</li><li>• Funding options</li></ul>
Things we are doing differently	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Street watch <a href="http://www.street-watch.org">http://www.street-watch.org</a></li><li>• Some paid service, some free &gt; doesn't always correlate. Is there a link? Probably not?</li><li>• PPG – social prescribing. Data for health on personal health card.</li><li>• No Limits to Health CIC <a href="http://www.nolimitstohealth.com">www.nolimitstohealth.com</a></li><li>• Some work with teachers, some directly with children</li><li>• Top down vs grassroots upwards</li><li>• Do schools sign up via head or a classroom teacher?</li></ul>
Plans/actions/questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Working with canals and waterways – adopt pathways</li><li>• Pocket adoptions</li><li>• Personal /community ownership</li><li>• To look at plastic challenge / working co-operatively in local areas</li><li>• Another resource from Hubbub: <a href="https://www.hubbub.org.uk/plastic-fishing">https://www.hubbub.org.uk/plastic-fishing</a></li><li>• Public Health England: briefing. The link between pupil health and wellbeing and attainment. <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-link-between-pupil-health-and-wellbeing-and-attainment">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-link-between-pupil-health-and-wellbeing-and-attainment</a></li></ul>

Food (including food grounds and biodiversity)	
Things in common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Grow your grub – meal/wheelbarrow competition – in Leicester and Birmingham <a href="http://growinggrub.co.uk/">http://growinggrub.co.uk/</a></li> <li>Food4Life and TCV partnership – in B'ham? <a href="https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/">https://www.foodforlife.org.uk/</a></li> <li>Practical Action (<a href="https://dev.practicalaction.org/schools-pumpkins">https://dev.practicalaction.org/schools-pumpkins</a>) and TCV and Food For Life pumpkin projects and Hubbub pumpkin rescue (<a href="https://www.hubbub.org.uk/pumpkin-rescue">https://www.hubbub.org.uk/pumpkin-rescue</a>)</li> <li>Biodiversity – wildlife in school grounds – Wildlife Trusts. (e.g. <a href="https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/learning/nature-friendly-schools">https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/learning/nature-friendly-schools</a>)</li> <li>Eco Schools biodiversity link as a framework to recognise everything that EY, Pri or Sec schools are doing <a href="https://www.eco-schools.org.uk">https://www.eco-schools.org.uk</a></li> </ul>
Things we are doing differently	<p>Practical Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Food GCSE materials about sustainability and primary resources for teachers.</li> <li>Link to sustainable development goals and with international links.</li> <li><a href="https://practicalaction.org/our-work/knowledge-that-inspires/inspiring-schools/">https://practicalaction.org/our-work/knowledge-that-inspires/inspiring-schools/</a></li> </ul> <p>TCV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Composting food waste. Demonstration in Leicester.</li> <li>Green Gym and integrating community, Food4Life, gardening week</li> <li><a href="https://www.tcv.org.uk/midlands/tcv-leicestershire-and-rutland/community-food-growing-support/">https://www.tcv.org.uk/midlands/tcv-leicestershire-and-rutland/community-food-growing-support/</a></li> </ul> <p>WWT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Programme of 10 sessions programme being phased down to 8 etc</li> <li>Train the trainer sessions</li> <li>Aim to encourage getting a key person in school to take lead on maintaining and using school grounds</li> <li><a href="https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/">https://www.warwickshirewildlifetrust.org.uk/</a></li> </ul>
Plans/actions/questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Low waste lunch – school trips</li> <li>Farm to fork – where food comes from and where it goes</li> <li>Link local to global – is the global picture too big for deprived communities? (May be worth looking at <a href="https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education">https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education</a> or free download <i>Food &amp; Farming, Local &amp; Global</i> <a href="https://www.tidegloballearning.net/primary-early-years/food-farming">https://www.tidegloballearning.net/primary-early-years/food-farming</a>)</li> <li>Funding to include maintenance to stop raised beds falling into disrepair</li> <li>Biodiversity projects need to be longer term to include maintenance, or money overtime or salary for someone to teach and train how to use/maintain</li> <li>Sainsbury's/Hubbub Food Waste project, trialled in Derbyshire: <a href="https://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/~/media/Files/S/Sainsburys/documents/making-a-difference/Fab%20Food.pdf">https://www.about.sainsburys.co.uk/~/media/Files/S/Sainsburys/documents/making-a-difference/Fab%20Food.pdf</a></li> <li>British Science Association have a kick start grant that could be accessed for materials etc for an outdoor/sustainable project and help pupils gain CREST awards at the same time ( a nice incentive). Eligibility is based on under-represented groups. Grants are for individuals, school and communities. Grants open in October and deadline is 11th November. <a href="https://www.britishscienceweek.org/about-us/grants/">https://www.britishscienceweek.org/about-us/grants/</a></li> </ul>

Sustainable development	
Things in common	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Brokers of direct delivery</li> <li>• Whole system thinking in this space</li> </ul>
Things we are doing differently	<p>Sarah, Solihull</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Solihull Award – Green Awards - <a href="https://www.solihull.gov.uk/education4sd">https://www.solihull.gov.uk/education4sd</a></li> <li>• International Eco Schools have mapped SDGs to the curriculum <a href="https://www.ecoschools.global/material">https://www.ecoschools.global/material</a></li> <li>• Earth Watch / Water Explorers / Practical Action</li> <li>• Cross-curricular work in schools is hard</li> </ul> <p>James, School Energy Efficiency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Whole school approach to EE (get whole school involved)</li> <li>• Peer learning and sharing between schools, teachers and young people</li> <li>• <a href="http://www.schoolenergyefficiency.co.uk">http://www.schoolenergyefficiency.co.uk</a></li> </ul> <p>Nina, NAEE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• online document to help teachers match curriculum to SDGs <a href="http://naee.org.uk/latest-report-from-naee/">http://naee.org.uk/latest-report-from-naee/</a></li> </ul> <p>Solutions for the Planet</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Connect with local issues, bring local business in</li> <li>• Student-led, project-based programme <a href="https://solutionsfortheplanet.co.uk">https://solutionsfortheplanet.co.uk</a></li> </ul>
Plans/actions/questions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How much do schools know about the SDGs? &gt; how are they linked?</li> <li>• How do we make the SDGs relevant and local? Rather than 'out there'?</li> <li>• How can teachers start to embrace the SDGs and point to the environment?</li> <li>• Is there an opportunity to educate trainee teachers (e.g. as with programmes as Worcester and De Montfort Universities)?</li> <li>• How do we prepare for the future?</li> </ul>

#### 4. Key questions discussion groups

- a) [New OFSTED framework](#)
- b) [Climate emergency](#) - how are we tackling it?
- c) [Sustainable Development Goals](#) (SDGs)

##### New OFSTED framework

The discussion was broader than the framework and went on to look at schools / educational structures etc Ofsted

- New framework in effect from this month (Sept 2019)
- Greater emphasis on breadth and balance, progression, wellbeing
- Longer term emphasis on critical thinking and conceptual frameworks
- Agenda around cultural capital – we fit! Enhancing the curriculum, experiential and outdoor learning opportunities
- Fantastic start to work - a visit or a visitor
- Providers offer opportunity to support teachers being a 'subject specialist', especially in primary schools
- What will happen in future? Is Ofsted potentially on the way out?
- How will exams and assessment be linked to Ofsted judgements?
- Useful article on Ofsted framework and outdoor learning from Martin Smith - <http://outdoorcitizens.uk/outdoor-learning-and-the-ofsted-framework/>

## Curriculum

- How can we support the new (2014) curriculum?
- What is the real status of the 2014 National Curriculum (e.g. it doesn't apply to academies, independent and free schools)
- Link to SDG4: quality education (and 4/7 sustainability education)

## Potential opportunities

- Making learning more relevant to children
- Make more bespoke / scalable programmes
- New opportunities in teacher training including diverse providers
- There is a question about how we relate to those embracing home-schooling, flexi schooling, online/independent learning
- Freedom to get into school

## Climate emergency - how are we tackling it?

### Educating about climate change

- Empower not terrify
- Plan and think
- Focus on positives
- Psychologist Jo McAndrew –Teaching children about climate change. Recent YouTube film:  
<https://youtu.be/HJy-8C84ym4>
- Encourage thinking that small actions are important
- Sustainable eco-warriors
- Joanne Macy – work that connects / active hope - <https://www.joannamacy.net/>
- Young people generating ideas themselves (e.g. around eradicating single use plastics)
- Behaviour change – making walking, cycling, scooting normal
- Making links to SDG 13 - climate action
- Linking the local to the global
- Make it about impact on people as well as environment and polar bears!
- Platform for young people to engage with MPs regarding their ideas
- Climate strikes > balance of living

### Climate / sustainable action

- Online meetings and video conferencing
- Reducing paper and going digital
- Constantly looking at plastics usage
- Changing from polystyrene pots to re-usable pots
- Repairing – re-using
- Lift and car shares
- Sourcing – low energy equipment on replacement
- Information on products – is it fairly traded? Can it be recycled?
- Palm oil action

### Teaching resources (see also attached list from WMSSN)

- Including messages around climate change in teaching materials (see list)
- #climatechangeteachers
- @eduCCateGlobal
- Free wallplanner from GlobalDimension (linked to climate change)
- Eco-schools materials
- Interesting comic book – Polo the Bear (see list)

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Action-focused
- Part of a global movement to work towards achieving the goals
- Schools starting to link lessons to SDGs (e.g. Solihull award Level 3 asks for links to SDGs)
- Are NGOs generally making the links more than government and schools?
- Maybe work through governors and office (business) managers?
- Can link business, community, education

Lots of links (maybe this is the start of a new resource list?)

- Practical Action / STEM resources linked to Science curriculum and SDGs [www.practicalaction.org/science-curriculum](http://www.practicalaction.org/science-curriculum) or [www.practicalaction.org/schools](http://www.practicalaction.org/schools). It's new website and not quite there yet but in a month's time you will be able to filter for material for SDGs, eco-schools, food and sustainability.
- World's largest lesson <http://worldslargestlesson.globalgoals.org/>
- Less CO2 programme <http://www.lesenco2.org.uk/schools>
- NAEE document <http://naee.org.uk/latest-report-from-naee/>
- Oxfam document: The Sustainable Development Goals – a guide for teachers <https://www.oxfam.org.uk/education/resources/the-sustainable-development-goals>
- <https://www.globalgoals.org/>
- <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/>
- <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/>
- Lenses on the world: <https://www.tidegloballearning.net/resources/lenses-world>
- Water explorers: <https://www.waterexplorer.org/>
- Earth Watch: <https://earthwatch.org.uk/>

Target 4.7: Education for sustainable development and global citizenship

- The advocacy group led by Oxfam to encourage government to implement SDG4.7 is called 'Our Shared World' currently writing objective etc but watch this space for news before the end of the year. This might be something the networks would like to get behind?
- A reminder of the wording: *By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development*

## 5. Actions/thoughts on next steps - things coming up....

Ben/Lee to liaise over a possible blog / briefing on Ofsted for sustainability educators

Events:

- 2019 DfE Education Sustainability Award: <https://www.educationestates.com/awards-entry-dfe/>
- Association for Science Education regional conference 5<sup>th</sup> October: [www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ase-primary-autumn-conference-leicester-tickets-62117091894?ref=ei0](https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/ase-primary-autumn-conference-leicester-tickets-62117091894?ref=ei0)
- Coventry clean green future event 26<sup>th</sup> October (flier attached)

## 6. AOB - There was no other business

## 7. Date for 2020 in West Midlands

There was unanimous support for a further joint meeting in a year's time.

Date to be confirmed:

Tuesday 22 September, Wednesday 23 or Thursday 24 September 1.30-4pm

It was suggested that Birmingham City University should be approached about possible meeting space.