

Global Futures Steering Group online meeting
13th January 2022, 10:00am – 12:00pm

Present:

Glynn Downs, Chair of the Global Futures Steering Group
Jenny Scott, Director, British Council Wales
Dr Walter Ariel Brooks, British Council Wales
Maija Evans, British Council Wales
Professor Claire Gorrara, Cardiff University
Lucy Jenkins, Cardiff University
Tallulah Machin, Cardiff University
Meleri Jenkins, Routes into Languages Cymru
Roberta Guzzardi, Education Department of the Italian Consulate General, London
Andrea Pfeil, Goethe-Institut
Manuela Vogelgesang, Goethe-Institut
María Antonia García, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Craig Thomas, Spanish Embassy Education Office
Romain Devaux, Institut Français
Ariane Laumonier, Institut Français
Dr Catherine Chabert, Confucius Institute
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Nick Waters, CSC Consortium
Sioned Harold, EAS Consortium
Anna Vivian Jones, ERW Consortium
Lucy Carver, Mid Wales Partnership
Emma Muggleton, Caerleon Comprehensive School
Penny Lewis, Estyn
Liz Barry, Estyn
Helen Phillips, Open University
Beth Titley, Careers Wales
Elen Davies, WJEC
Brett Duggan, Arad Research
Martin Jones, Arad Research
Zoe Williams, Welsh Government
Ann Bradshaw, Welsh Government
Jane Peffers, Welsh Government
Gerard Pitt, Welsh Government
Manon Edwards, Welsh Government

Simultaneous Translation:

Steffan William, Simultaneous Interpreter, CYMEN Agency

Apologies:

Cathryn Billington-Richards, CSC Consortium
Amy Walters-Bresner, CSC Consortium
Stephanie Ellis-Williams, GwE Consortium
Ceri Griffiths, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhywni

Dr Liz Wren-Owens, Routes into Languages Cymru
Catrin Verrall, Qualifications Wales
Nia Davies, BBC
Vicky Ucele, Confucius Institute
Amanda Morgan, International School Linking, Cardiff Council

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies

Global Futures Steering Group Chair, Glynn Downs (GD) welcomed members, noted apologies and introduced first time attendees:

- **Jenny Scott**, Director, British Council Wales
- **Andrea Pfeil**, Deputy Director and Head of Language Department North West Europe, Goethe-Institut
- **Manuela Vogelgesang**, Advisor for German, Goethe-Institut London.

Announcements:

- GD confirmed that **Dr Walter Ariel Brooks** would be leaving his post as Head of Education at British Council Wales to take up a new post at Cardiff University working on international opportunities for the college/further education sector through the new international learning exchange programme. Colleagues wish Walter all the very best in his new post and thank him for all his support and excellent work on behalf of the Global Futures Programme and schools across Wales.
- Also leaving the Steering Group is **Stephanie Grant**, Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn. Thank you to Steph for her contributions to the Steering Group. We wish her all the very best and hope that she will be able to join us again in the future. Steph was not able to attend the meeting but wanted to pass on her thanks for having had the opportunity “to be part of this fantastic project.”

Quarterly updates:

Full written updates from members on priorities and work undertaken since the previous meeting in October 2021, together with a forward look at events, activities and opportunities available to learners and teachers across Wales, were shared with members post-meeting, for information.

2. Global Futures 2022 and beyond – Workshop session

Gerard (GP) set the scene and context for the meeting. He confirmed that:

- The **Evaluation of the Global Futures Programme 2020-2022**, commissioned by the Welsh Government and produced by *Arad Research* is nearing completion and it will be published in due course.
- Set within the wider **Programme for Government commitment** to “Expand the teaching of modern foreign languages in our schools”, advice on proposals for the continuation of the Global Futures (GF) Programme, will be submitted to the Minister

for Education, Jeremy Miles MS, for recommendation and review. The advice will draw on the findings of the evaluation of the Global Futures Programme and on the workshop feedback of the Steering Group.

- The current Global Futures Programme 2020-2022, will end on 31st March.

To inform discussions, **Brett Duggan and Martin Jones, Arad Research** presented a top-level view of main findings from the external evaluation of the Global Futures Programme 2020-2022, which the final report will explore in greater depth.

- In broad terms, the report recommends that the momentum of the Global Futures programme continues but that it needs to adapt and change and its reach extended going forward, particularly given that there is a strong desire from teachers for more support for international languages as we transition to the new curriculum. The strengths and partnerships of the Global Futures Steering Group can be built upon to support this.
- Members of the Steering Group were reminded that the findings of the evaluation remain confidential until the final report is published.

Workshop discussion:

- To help focus discussions and explore initial steps towards reviewing the strategic aims for the next steps of the programme, members were divided into three workshop groups. The following Welsh Government/Arad questions served as prompts to help focus group discussions:
 - i. The new curriculum offers increased opportunities for international language learning but schools need support to plan and design international language learning as part of their new school curriculum.

How should the strategic aims reflect this? (WG)

How should Global Futures be re-designed to support IL within the new curriculum? (ARAD)

What additional resources/Professional Learning/support can Global Futures offer schools? (ARAD)
 - ii. The systemic issues around the decline of IL take up at secondary remain.

Can the aims offer challenge to these issues and provide a strategic direction for language learning – can the aims support a collective responsibility across all sectors to bring about change. (WG)

How can Global Futures be more effectively delivered and its impact monitored? (ARAD)
 - iii. The Global futures steering group encourages cooperation and sharing of ideas

Should the strategic aims develop wider cooperation, from Welsh language colleagues for example, in line with the ethos of the curriculum to strengthen the programme and work smarter to make connections? (WG)

What actions and partnerships are needed to expand the reach of IL? (ARAD)

3. Feedback/plenary

Some broad themes emerging from the feedback session included the following:

- Clear demand for support from primary and secondary schools. The GF Partnership model works well and good links are developed and utilised to support schools.
- Variability in terms of engagement/reach of the GF Programme. Limitation of the programme's reach due to lack of buy-in from some schools. Importance of addressing/changing the perceived barriers to learning languages that persist.
- Need to raise the profile of languages with Heads and Senior Leadership Teams. Consider how to address systemic issues such as time tabling options and whole school planning, departmental planning etc.
- How to engage those schools that are less prepared and less engaged ...need structures and targeted interventions in place and a systematic approach to accountability.
- Schools need support to realise the vision of the Curriculum for Wales (CfW)...and guidance on how to do this.
- Enhance GF Steering Group membership to include Initial Teacher Education (ITE) representation and actively seek to develop working partnerships with other subject specialists/bodies/employers etc.
- Need a higher profile for languages to help schools realise the Programme for Government commitment (PfG) to 'Expand the teaching of modern foreign languages in our schools' and keep languages 'visible' as part of the broader landscape of the new curriculum.

4. Next steps and any other business – Chair

- Date and time of the next online meeting of the Global Futures Steering Group to be confirmed. GD thanked the group and closed the meeting.