



## EAAL Scotland Impact Forum

11am – 1pm, 17 April 2018

Scotland's Learning Partnership, Edinburgh

### Notes of Meeting

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**1. Present:** Mark Ravenhall (Learning & Work Institute); Ian Leith (SLP Associate); Isobel Pattie (Midlothian Council); Eleanor Gordon (Renfrewshire Council) Liz Highett (Edinburgh Council); Sir Alan Tuckett OBE (Warwick University); Fiona Boucher (SLP); Lee Callaghan (SLP); Tracy Waddell (SLP); Ian Shaw National Learners' Forum.

**2. Apologies:** Margaret Allan (National Learners' Forum); Loretta Mordi (Museums Galleries Scotland); John Field (Emeritus Professor University of Stirling); Oonagh McGarry (Scottish Borders Council); Jackie Howie (LLS); Cath Hamilton (ES);

**3. Welcome and introduction**

Fiona introduced the day describing the focus as considering the long term future of the Impact Forum. Each of the four nations has an Impact forum but the landscape of adult learning is changing in Scotland and this will mean changes to the direction of the Impact Forum and potentially it's inclusion on the Strategic Forum for Adult Learning.

The Departmental Policy lead for adult learning is moving back into Scottish Government, having been placed within Education Scotland (an Executive Agency) for the past 6 years. The transition will be completed by 31 August 2018 to the Advanced Learning and Science Directorate.

The previous session of the Impact Forum agreed to look at how we develop the work of the impact forum and this discussion is designed to help us consider future possibilities.

Fiona introduced Sir Alan Tuckett to the forum who led the discussion.

**4. What Future – Community Based Adult Learning?**

Sir Alan Tuckett OBE, Warwick University

Sir Alan Tuckett OBE used the Healthy, Wealthy and Wise report to frame the discussion considering the audience for the publication and its ability to establish the impact of adult learning on learners and the effective role adult learning plays.



The discussion was wide ranging including:

- Historically there have always been cuts to adult learning and workers have made deals and alliances with other partners. This can be either seen as both a strength and a weakness.
- What is it that transforms communities and what contribution does adult learning have in this?
- Although it appears that it's non formal there is no accidental curriculum in adult education and in Scotland your campaigns are good at including all forms of adult learning.
- There's widespread frustration in the adult learning field and for some delivery of a wide ranging curriculum has become difficult in Scotland. Whilst literacy and employability activity is funded how can you really reach those most excluded who don't yet appreciate that they have needs or skills gaps in these areas.
- The impact of an audit culture has narrowed the path for adult learning and does not capture how imaginative and creative it does, nor does it show well the difference adult learning makes within its own policy area or its support for others including, health, justice, enterprise, social inclusion, communities.
- The celebration of non-formal adult learning is critical otherwise it will always be marginalized.
- We felt that commitment to outreach and celebration is something that us missing in the document, although it was captured slightly in the Scottish pages with the First Minister lending her support.
- The fact that any collective activity has become increasingly difficult as there are fewer professional staff and less resource to get people there, this is a real issue.
- The need to develop challenges and commitment in taking adult learning forward.

## Discussion and Actions

How can the forum use the idea of celebrations to take adult learning further?

- Need to be ready with a presentation in Scottish Parliament
- Enroll Learning Ambassadors to be proactive across Scotland
- Refresh Learners' Voice Programme
- Recognition of the need for adult learning to inform some kind of public debate
- Find out what is shaping politicians thought process
- Research the social metrics of adult learning



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- Capture what is exciting in CBAL
- Develop a message for learners and in a similar way a message for politicians
- Ask those not involved in adult learning, but in other policy areas what they might be able to contribute to adult learning
- Invite new Government policy lead to an impact forum meeting

## 5. Time to Think - (Think Piece) – (Annexe 1)

Ian Leith – Associate

Ian introduced Time to Think-a paper looking at the past, present and future of cbal to stimulate debate on its future role and consider the questions we need to ask vis-a-vis the impact and benefits of adult learning

## Discussion and Action

- Build a case for cbal using the ages and stages of adult learning
- Engage disadvantaged and marginalised communities in the discussion around its impact
- Link impact together with key activities and actions for politicians local and national (Scotland)
- Consider how we might create joint practice development
- Consider the role of adult learning and its separate forums such as family forum, world forum in building a bigger picture.
- Good practice thematic seminars on impact to include: digital skills, mental health and family learning.

## 6. Date of next meeting: 14 June 2018