

ECEC SUSTAINABILITY FORUM MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 2nd November 2021

TIME: 11:00

Attendees:

Cheryl Hadland

Naomi McLeod

Diane Boyd

Gill Heyhoe

Sam Green

Theo Kuehn

Claire Brown

Nick Corlett

Deinah Enrile

Janet Packer

Mark Bird

Jan White

Amanda Hubbard

Janet King

Apologies:

John Siraj-Blatchford

Louise Lloyd-Evans

Tops Day Nurseries

Liverpool John Moores

Liverpool John Moores

Watermead Nursery

Prasinus

Cosy Direct

Famly

LEYF

Liverpool John Moores

Growing Wild Outdoor Nursery

Childbase

ECO

Alfreton Nursery School

CACHE

OMEP UK

Young Friends/SNAP

Minute-taker:

Charli Henley-Carter

Tops Day Nurseries

Item	Topic	Who	When
1	Approve last minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No corrections received Outstanding actions NC – nearly finished <u>Introductions</u> Listen to recording and add to ECEC page	CHC	05/11/21
2	COP26 – draft letter for editing/approval		

	<p>Discussion around what we would like the government/Ofsted to do to bring us in line with other countries.</p> <p>Group happy to sign? CH happy to receive letter changes/tweaks Ask group companies if they want to sign letter NC send amended paragraph re: benefits of embedded sustainability pedagogy, what we have already achieved CH: Quality of Education Email or send notes – co sign as individual or company Sending Friday 12th November – will send with whoever has agreed</p> <p>In agreement: Tops Day Nurseries John Siraj-Blacthford Watermead Nursery</p>	<p>All CHC</p>	<p>09/11/21 12/11/21</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Jan White and Janet Packer speaking about the sustainability mind-set</p> <p>JW – Early Childhood Outdoors Website At the bottom of our website we have the dandelion clocks with strands of work that we aspire to – that we think are important; one is supporting the development of ecological identity and education for sustainability.</p> <p>JP – Growing Wild – the outdoor nursery Facebook Website</p> <p>Presentations – watch here JP presentation - <i>Creating sustainability frame of mind.</i> JW presentation – <i>A model for developing stewardship through early childhood education – our ‘pedagogical advantage’</i></p> <p>Messages NML: Thank you Janet and Jan. I love this concept of nurturing a sustainability frame of mind through dispositions as part of children’s innate curiosities. AS part of the 4 dispositions you’ve</p>		

<p>selected 'relational ethics' (an ethics of care) comes to mind as central which correlates with habits of mind and thinking and acting. Thank you so much for sharing.</p> <p>WDN: Feeling totally inspired by what I am seeing and hearing. Will Quince recently visited our nursery and is due to return in 3 months, also our local MP spoke in Parliament last week about what Watermead Day Nursery is offering the children who attend and we have a meeting with her next week. I will certainly be having conversations with both about sustainability and environmental awareness in the early years sector. We are currently planning our new menu and including some plant based options, we will be highlighting this to our parents and hopefully taking our parents on our sustainability journey.</p> <p>MB: We headed to a "flexitarian" menu in 2017; prioritised sustainable/higher welfare produce which came at higher cost but less of it (in terms of "traditional" proteins) and then diversified to beans, pulses, legumes etc. alongside dedicated vegetarian days. We had this accredited via Soil Associations Food for Life Served Here but are finding attaining "gold" to be cost and practicality prohibitive e.g. organic produce on the scale and range we would need.</p> <p>Discussion</p> <p>CH: On-going confusion about what sustainability means Such a vague word – some people focus on the environmental aspect whereas others define it as “thinking for the long-term future”</p> <p>CH: One of my nursery manager refused to take nursery on farm trip, as she was a vegan and she believed that visiting farms supported the reasoning for humans to milk cows/grow cows for meat, and that this wasn't sustainable or ethical. So has this convo come up yet with your staff or children?</p> <p>JP: I am a vegetarian – in terms of personal beliefs – the question hasn't come up yet, the children love to go and see the animals, and as we do this a lot, I'm sure this will come up eventually – we discuss the cows give us beef/milk etc, so we will be honest when the questions start – and part of my diet is the sustainability view. It</p>		
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<p>is tricky. It will be up to children to make their own mind up about their diets and mind set when they have all the information.</p> <p>CH: What do you do for lunches/snacks/milk?</p> <p>JP: We serve oat milk that we buy ourselves – children with dairy allergies at nursery. We provide vegan snacks but not lunches (yet). We encourage healthy eating.</p> <p>NML: I have two vegan daughters – due to way animals are treated – many discussions in house ie ethical “egg” does not exist. Is there a place for farms? Yes, but it’s the way we treat the animals is important – the problem: constant breeding and excessive need for meat/dairy; everything in moderation and considerate use of what we are consuming. Farmers that have animals – need to consider humanly killing of animals – giving children all the information without scaring them to let them make their own choices.</p> <p>JW: Important point there – industrial agriculture is the issue – plant based diets that is based on industrial agriculture is hugely destructive to the environment. Loss good quality agriculture soil is gigantic in industrial agriculture. There are many issues with the way everything is industrialised and within the implications of agriculture that over the last 50 years especially, there are many, many influences over all these things. About giving people the ability to think for themselves, gather their own knowledge, and make their own decisions based on their own knowledge rather than being limited by their simplified knowledge. Important not to be simplistic with giving information, empowering children to make their own decisions.</p> <p>AH: Need to think about the facts and giving the RIGHT facts to the children. Example: Deforestation due to soya production, there’s too much soya being produced for vegetarians – actually, 95% is needed to feed the cattle for slaughter for meat production. People getting wrong end of the stick and problems running from there.</p> <p>CH: We are in incredibly important position to educate children and influence their parents, we are in a good stead for really encouraging a cut down in meat and dairy. Gov pays us to deliver dairy milk to children. As a group we should push for Gov to give oat milk instead of dairy milk. In Scotland – subsidises oat milk and dairy milk. Many MPs are dairy farmers (or family) so lots of push back.</p> <p>McQueens Dairy suppliers – provide oat & dairy milk</p>		
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	<p>Business details: Julian Terriaca (Business Development Manager) McQueens Dairies Limited Office: 0330 555 5588 Ext 483 Mobile: 07741648115 E: julian@mcqueensdairies.co.uk W: www.mcqueensdairies.co.uk</p> <p>CH: If we don't talk with our money or budgets, no one is going to listen.</p> <p>Next meeting MB – soil association presentation NC – sustainable food CH: Pete Ttofis</p> <p>CH: We love it but it is so expensive. Our menus are vegetarian, we'd love to go vegan but our trouble is serving nuts in the nursery</p>		
4	<p>Updates: <i>Washable Nappy Conference</i>, 5th November, 10am onwards. Recording are available through GECCO.</p> <p>Recording to take place of <i>Sowing the seeds of sustainability in Early Education</i> – Childcare & Education Expo Panel, Nursery World. Speakers: June O'Sullivan, Cheryl Hadland, Dr. John Siraj-Blatchford.</p> <p>JSB: The group might offer suggestions on how to make the most of the Expo Panel Recording - if I had been able to attend this morning I would have been talking about the possibility of us pushing harder on the Nature Premium Campaign. https://www.naturepremium.org/</p> <p>JSB: At OMEP we have talked about launching a new badge or ribbon campaign - focused firmly on <i>Sustainability as an assertion of the Rights of the Child</i>. I have spoken to UNICEF about this but a new campaign will need a broader coalition if it is to have impact.</p>		

	<p>Connecting Childcare Webinar – <i>A Sustainable Future</i> – 800 registrants, about 400 attending live, covering Financial & Economic, Environmental, Wellbeing, EYFS Reforms</p> <p>Children’s commissioner meeting of APPG cancelled due to COP26 – new date: 22nd November 10:30-11:30 – please let Charli know if you would like to attend.</p> <p>Next APPG meeting is SEND in the Early Years – 14th December</p>	All	12/11/21
5	<p><i>AOB</i></p> <p>MB: Update from DfE following spending review? CH: No update yet.</p> <p>Times Earth - https://timesearth.events/?utm_source=newsletter Next session: Sustainable Food of the Future</p> <p>Sustainability Live – 2-day event @ Tabacco Dock, London £200 in person/free online – being broadcast across the world https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/sustainability-live-tickets-166906575059</p>		

Next meeting: 11th January 2022 @ 11am.