

## **ECEC SUSTAINABILITY FORUM**

### **MEETING MINUTES**

DATE: 7<sup>th</sup> May 2021

TIME: 10:00

#### Attendees:

Cheryl Hadland	Tops Day Nurseries
John Siraj-Blatchford	SchemaPlay
Mark Bird	Childbase Partnership
Nick Corlett	LEYF
Barbara Chaitoff	Tops Day Nurseries
Claire Brown	N Family Club
Amy Jones	Enya's Childcare
Diane Boyd	Liverpool John Moores University

#### Apologies:

Naomi McLeod	Liverpool John Moores University
Millie Colwey	Liverpool John Moores University
Louise Lloyd-Evans	SNAP/ Young Friends Nature Nursery

#### Minute-taker

Charli Henley-Carter	Tops Day Nurseries
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<b>Item</b>	<b>Topic</b>	<b>Who</b>	<b>When</b>
<b>1</b>	<i>Introductions</i>  <u>Diane Boyd – Liverpool John Moores University</u> All my research in the last five six years/my work has been around early childhood education, sustainability and it's been very much about getting children involved. I'm also lucky that I have contacts in Australia (Australian citizen) and on Monday I am linking up with an Early Years through the indigenous programs of Australia as well. Current project with Nursery World on Sustainable Development Goals  <u>Nick Corlett – LEYF – Senior Nursery Manager &amp; Sustainability Lead</u> 42 nurseries – role oversees sustainable aspects Wrote L4 qualification with June O'Sullivan, endorsed by CACHE – Developing Sustainability in the Early Years Manages own nursery and line manages 8 other nurseries		

<p><u>Amy (standing in for Enya)</u>  Worked all over the world (inc Dubai, London)  Enya started Enya’s Childcare in 2016, based in Lincolnshire  Wanted to change the world from the ground up  If youngest generation, learn to be sustainable citizens of the world, then that will be instilled in them for rest of their lives  Business action plan: Looking at solar panels, re-insulation, gone digital (thank you Family), reduction in printing  Business commitment: we don’t buy plastic, we try to source, upcycle, recycle, natural use parts, lots of resources are found during Forest School sessions (forage and bring back to setting),  Green Flag awarded  Eco-committee – involve pre-schoolers and out of school club  Children that ordinarily wouldn’t get involved (in front of their friends) are the ones who are most passionate – leading the awareness marches, fundraising etc  Enya doing work on pedagogy, working sustainability into that, responsibility  Getting parents involved “We didn’t realise it was that easy”</p> <p><u>Barbara Chaitoff – Tops Day Nurseries – Sustainability Lead</u>  Started working in Early Years in Alaska in 1987.  Lots of involvement out there, before moving back to England to start up a nursery with a friend (use reusable nappies for 22 years)  Started working for Tops Day Nurseries, Nursery Manager – lead nursery to being UK’s first nursery to be awarded with Plastic Free School Award.  All of Tops Nurseries now have Green Flag (30 settings)  Helping launch the Real Nappy Project  Working with the settings from the ground up – help with the environments, sourcing the plants (making sure they’re robust enough to not have to be watered all the time), pushing the staff to re-use, recycle, to really get them to engage  Part of Tops Sustainability Group, which is steering Tops on its journey to net-zero carbon by 2025.</p> <p><u>Claire Brown – N Family Club</u>  Based in London - Quite new group, but expanding rapidly  Have own curriculum, based on 4 pillars – one is global responsibility (encompasses sustainability, environmental, wellness and holistic health)</p>		
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	<p>Working towards Eco School Green Flag in all nurseries          Build from bottom up and get team on-board          Working towards Bcorp as well</p>		
2	<p><i>Approve last minutes</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No corrections received</li> <li>• No outstanding actions</li> </ul> <p><b>Minutes approved by forum</b></p>		
3	<p><i>Terms of reference review</i></p> <p>Terms of reference were updated live during the meeting (see attachment)          John SB suggested an overall aim for the group – <b>approved</b></p> <p>Group in Bristol – organising a f2f conference in October (dates TBC)  <b>Charli HC to send out dates to sustainability group when confirmed</b></p> <p>Running conference is the chair of NDNA – very pro-sustainability, creator of the Eco-Wheel (nurseries measuring sustainability from business side – electricity, water, waste etc, not pedagogy)          Diane B – contact in Bristol, trialling SDG activities – great to link them with Nicky          Cheryl H: Sector is so diverse and if everyone is re-creating the wheel individually, it is difficult to make an impact. Would be great to combine our messages.</p> <p>Midlands Expo – potential for a sustainability platform          John SB: For OMEP/SchemaPlay having a stand is out of the qu (£1200) – could we put together a joint stand on sustainability as a forum?          June O’Sullivan (LEYF), Cheryl &amp; John to run sustainability discussion group at conference.          Cheryl H: Have LEYF got a stand?          Nick C: Yes – usually every year.  <b>Nick C to ask June if we can have sustainability add-on from the LEYF stand.</b>          Cheryl H: Do Child base attend?          Mark B: No – don’t engage with Nursery World - somewhat political (long held standoff), however trying to engage with them more recently</p>	<p><b>CHC</b></p> <p><b>NC</b></p>	<p><b>TBC</b></p> <p><b>17.06.21</b></p>

	<p><b>Opportunity – Mark B to speak to Childbase</b>  GECCO interested and money in pot to help out  Cheryl is going anyway so happy to help man the stand and share information from base at show</p> <p>Having stands at other people’s conference added to Terms of Reference – opportunities to also arrange meetings with people at the conferences, e.g. lunchtime coffees to discuss sustainability</p> <p><b>John SB to send Charli HC new Sustainability three pillars image for use in Terms of Reference</b>  <b>Charli HC to credit John SB for picture</b></p>	<p><b>MB</b></p> <p><b>JSB</b></p> <p><b>CHC</b></p>	<p><b>17.06.21</b></p> <p><b>17.06.21</b></p> <p><b>17.06.21</b></p>
4	<p><i>APPG Childcare and Early Education</i></p> <p><i>Proposal draft</i>  Cheryl has been asked to produce proposal by APPG to persuade other sponsors and APPG MP (Steve Brine) to include sustainability as a session in this year’s calendar to educate other MPs.  Competition from other sponsors (ie SEND)  APPG are looking for more sponsors: £4k commitment a year for sponsorship.  Primary aim = funding, enough money per child to pay for graduates and match schools.</p> <p>Charli HC shared the proposal written by John SB.</p> <p><b>The final proposal to be sent to the APPG will be shared with the sustainability group.</b></p> <p>1<sup>st</sup> diagram: Ecological framework for the integration of Early childhood services; Widely accepted and favoured, the SDG are an extension of this.</p> <p>Diane B is currently doing a monthly article for Nursery World on the SDGs (different goal each month) – doesn’t know of any EY settings that actually use the SDGs actually in practice.  Diane B is happy to send the articles to group attendees for them to trial in their own settings. Overall aim of these articles is to produce a booklet or resource for practitioners to use.</p>	<p><b>CHC</b></p>	<p><b>14.05.21</b></p>

	<p><b>John SB to send diagram to Diane B to use.</b></p> <p>Global week in June – Diane B will be writing a feature in Nursery World. Diane B looking for projects to highlight and promote to get the message out that SDGs are a framework that should be used.</p> <p><b>If anyone in the group has any sustainability projects they would like Diane B to highlight in the feature, please send across.</b></p> <p>2<sup>nd</sup> diagram: List of EY associations that have come together to create the Birth to Five Matters guidance following the revision of the EYFS.</p> <p><i>Activity Programme</i></p> <p><b>Charli HC to send out with dates attached (see attachment)</b></p> <p>Listeners encouraged, taking qus Lords very uninformed – review EY settings as babysitters</p> <p>John SB: Dame Rachel de Souza – are there any event associated with her? Anyway we can be involved?</p> <p><b>Cheryl H to make sure sustainability group are made aware</b></p> <p>John SB &amp; Diane B can support with Pedagogy session. Using pedagogy in practice – Enya very interested to help.</p> <p>APPG sessions - can invite 20 people to session per sponsor</p>	<p><b>JSB</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>CHC</b></p> <p><b>CH</b></p>	<p><b>30.05.21</b></p> <p><b>30.05.21</b></p> <p><b>14.05.21</b></p> <p><b>TBC</b></p>
<p><b>5</b></p>	<p><i>Washable Nappies Conference in 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Oct 2021, 10am-4pm</i></p> <p>Online Speakers: make nappies, wash nappies, use in practice etc Just to share good practice No good excuse to be using one-use nappies in nurseries Lack of practice, laziness, fear</p> <p>5 nurseries, 4 nurseries starting 17th May Lots of nurseries doing effectively, Some using laundry services that are sustainable, others aren't How we can parents engaged How to encourage?</p>		

	<p><b>If anyone wants a slot, let Charli know.</b></p> <p>N Family Club starting nappy library for parents – keen to be involved</p>	<p><b>All</b></p>	<p><b>17.06.21</b></p>
<p><b>6</b></p>	<p><i>Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)</i></p> <p>Generally for those that are working with pre-schools  OMEP award has an accreditation process</p> <p>John SB: It would be great if, through the forum, we could actually have recognition of prior experience that, if we if we're working with a particular setting and/or individuals in a particular setting and/or we're training trainers, who are training practitioners, then it would be great if that could be credited towards qualifications at other levels.</p> <p>Nick C: We've actually reached out to CACHE about RPL – just waiting on Janet coming back to us. It's a learner's portfolio and then an evidence based portfolio, as well as assessment at the end, so unsure about the RPL system here, so I'm hoping Janet from CACHE can help us out and point us in the right direction.</p> <p>Julie Hyde: CEO of CACHE (main awarding organisation), APPG sponsor</p> <p>Cheryl H: Should we invite her along [to the forum], or maybe she has someone who is taking the lead in sustainability?</p> <p>Nick C: It's Janet King at the moment (Senior Early Years consultant)</p> <p><b>Charli HC to invite Janet King to next meeting of the forum</b></p> <p>Cheryl H: We run our own little in-house qualification (not accredited by CACHE); Childbase are you running any?</p> <p>Mark B: Not at the minute for sustainability. Currently academy is full-steam ahead to get apprentices as a route to employment. Scope to deliver more training as it progresses, only started in January so wanting to get the quality right before expanding into more courses.</p>	<p><b>CHC</b></p>	<p><b>17.06.21</b></p>

	Claire B: Running own in-house speciality, eco and sustainable champion, one person from each nursery training.		
7	<p><b>AOB</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <del>Forum Meeting – August/September – 90 minutes?</del></li> <li>• GECCO website <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Page for Forum (post minutes, applications via website, ToR, bio of attendees)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>Individual page for Forum</p> <p><b>Links to own websites – send across to Charli</b></p> <p><b>Bio for each member – specialisms in terms of sustainability, picture</b></p> <p>Can promote people as speakers</p> <p>LinkedIn</p> <p>#ECECSustainabilityForum</p> <p>Chairing good practice</p> <p>Create page for sustainability forum</p> <p><b>Charli HC to set up from Cheryl's profile</b></p> <p>Good for sharing articles, white papers, scholarly articles</p> <p>Cheryl H: Do you think there are any journals that will publish any articles that we come up with, by the way?</p> <p>John SB/Diane B:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early Education</li> <li>• Springer</li> <li>• Other environmental education journals</li> <li>• Professional magazines</li> </ul> <p>Cheryl H has a regular column in Nursery Management Today – using for sustainability</p> <p>Diane B has Nursery World feature</p> <p>John SB has regular articles in eye magazine</p> <p>Cheryl H: People are genuinely interested</p> <p>Diane B: When talking to practitioners about SDGs, a lot of them just don't have a clue. We in England are so far behind Wales and Scotland and Northern Ireland when it comes to sustainability. Most just think it refers to environmental impact, it's also social, cultural, economical... they don't have any understanding about what it is. Higher education is</p>	<p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> <p><b>CHC</b></p>	<p><b>17.06.21</b></p> <p><b>17.06.21</b></p> <p><b>17.06.21</b></p>

<p>failing as well and initial teacher training – teachers cannot put into practice what they don't know!</p> <p>John SB: There was a survey published a couple of weeks ago for schools or, by one of the teaching associations, and something like 90% of teachers didn't have any knowledge of sustainability in secondary schools.</p> <p><b>John SB to find survey and send to members of the forum</b></p> <p>Diane B: There is no evidence of SDGs in any curriculum at all and no plans for it either. It's a shame as it is visually easy for children and practitioner to link with.</p> <p>Cheryl H: It's the DfE that's not listening.</p> <p>Diane B: It's also the sustainable development group department in parliament, surely they'd be fighting to get it in, but no! Even Scotland, Wales &amp; Northern Ireland don't have the SDGs, but they talk about sustainability – but how useful is that if they don't have the understanding of sustainability then how are they going to make the link to the SDGs?</p> <p>John SB: How appropriate that Scotland is hosting climate change?</p> <p>Cheryl H: Thank goodness it's not England! Is anyone planning on going up to attend?</p> <p>John SB: We'd get lots of publicity if we had a Fringe meeting.</p> <p>Cheryl H: Okay, so we should try and organise a Fringe meeting – any ideas on how John?</p> <p>John SB: Too late for an official one, but could put together a meeting (unofficially).</p> <p>Diane B: Is Greta going? Could we link up with Greta? The face of early age sustainability – bottom up perspective!</p> <p>Nick C: Going back to the higher education and tertiary qualifications; we teach a degree at LEYF and we're currently in the process of writing the L6, the top up, here and we included a whole module on sustainability as well. I'm happy to keep everyone posted on the progress.</p> <p>Diane B: That is good, but there's lots of little modules out there, but it's not enough. It's fractured all over the place, but how can we get it to be at the forefront of early childhood... think about the pioneers, they were all really pioneers for sustainability (environmental, social, cultural, justice) and it's the bedrock of early childhood so for these.</p>	<p><b>JSB</b></p>	<p><b>14.05.21</b></p>
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<p>Nick C: Off the back of the last meeting, June reached out to the DfE for us, on behalf of the forum, and someone from the Early Years Childcare teaching regulation came back and said, he's put the feelers out but no one has come back yet, but when the forum is more established, please can we send across an invitation.</p> <p>Cheryl H: That's fantastic! I wonder what they mean by more established?</p> <p>John SB: I wonder if it means something similar to representation. UNICEF/UNESCO - UK projects, which may overlap with what we do.</p> <p><b>John SB to send Charli HC contacts to invite to next forum meeting.</b></p> <p>Diane B: I can find that email – no plans to imbed sustainability into curriculum – we can invite them along too!</p> <p><b>Meeting end: 11:00</b></p>	<p><b>JSB</b></p>	<p><b>17.06.21</b></p>
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