

# ECEC SUSTAINABILITY FORUM MEETING MINUTES

DATE: 28<sup>th</sup> September 2021

TIME: 11:00

**Attendees:**

|                       |                               |
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| Cheryl Hadland        | Tops Day Nurseries            |
| Barbara Chaitoff      | Tops Day Nurseries            |
| Naomi McLeod          | Liverpool John Moores         |
| Theo Kuehn            | Cosy – Sustainability Manager |
| Peter Ellse           | Cosy – CEO                    |
| Jan White             | Early Childhood Outdoors      |
| Amanda Hubball        | Teacher at                    |
| John Siraj-Blatchford | SchemaPlay/OMEP-UK            |
| Janet King            | CACHE                         |
| Nick Corlett          | LEYF                          |
| Rob Keitch            | Gompels                       |

**Apologies:**

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| Enya Mooney | Enya’s Childcare      |
| Amy Jones   | Enya’s Childcare      |
| Mark Bird   | Childbase Partnership |
| Diane Boyd  | Liverpool John Moores |

**Minute-taker:**

|                      |                    |
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| Charli Henley-Carter | Tops Day Nurseries |
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| Item | Topic   | Who | When |
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| 1    | <p><i>Introductions</i></p> <p><b>Naomi McLeod</b> – Liverpool John Moores; works with Diane Boyd – Diane’s passion is education for sustainability, Naomi is relatively new to sustainability – the need to understand interconnected nature of sustainability – links between the environment, the economic &amp; political and the social &amp; cultural – requires educators who are reflexive, aware of personal bias and assumptions and awareness of human and non-human relationships; really excited to be part of the group, which shows an appreciation of sustainability making a difference.</p> |     |      |

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|                 | <p><b>Amanda Hubball</b> - Teacher at Alfreton Nursery School (20 years) and previous TES teacher of the year winner; environmental education is my driver, its why I do what I do, project in school “outdoor STEM hive” dedicated to education of Young EY children – deforestation, pollution and climate change, interdependence between natural and industrial worlds. Supporting children to understand that exploitation is not the way forward and not the kind of relationships that we need to be developing and respect for life is critical for the future.</p> <p><b>Theo Kuehn</b> – Sustainability Manager @ Cosy (brand new role); Masters in Human Rights &amp; Global Ethics @ University Leicester</p> <p><b>Peter Ellse</b> – CEO @ Cosy<br/>Launched first sustainability report in September and applied for Queens Award (2<sup>nd</sup> time); hardly any people win the Queens Award, but feedback received is really useful; Cosy are using this to set their new vision and missions.</p> <p><b>Jan White</b> – focus on childrens’ right to be outdoors, worked as independent consultant for 20 years on developing outdoor provision and practice. Began with Learning through Landscapes, a few years ago set up a social enterprise called Early Childhood Outdoors (ECO) - join up all the dots to get people working with others, to support children being outdoors – mesh working and nurturing people to support others – combined voice. Reason for joining: Ecological identity – big focus, underpins all previous work – ECO could support the agenda around education for sustainability and sustainable living.</p> <p><b>Next meeting</b> – Outdoors and Gardens.<br/>Support network more effectively and share best practice.</p> <p><b>Invite Forest School and ECO - presentations</b></p> <p><b>New people wanting to join? Bombard Charli</b></p> | <p><b>CHC</b></p> <p><b>All</b></p> | <p><b>Oct/Nov meeting</b></p> |
| <p><b>2</b></p> | <p><i>Review previous actions</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• August minutes approved</li> </ul>   |                                     |                               |

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| 3 | <p><i>Today's focus: Nursery providers and suppliers</i></p> <p>Wanting to focus on kinds of relationship we would like to foster with presentations</p> <p>See attached for Cheryl's presentation – <b><u>Sustainable relationships between day nurseries and their suppliers</u></b></p> <p>Looking at company supplier products – in the past it was how cheap and how fast we can get the product... Now we want to know more, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Do you have a CSER policy?</li> <li>• What you are doing to engage with sustainability?</li> <li>• How sustainable are your products?</li> <li>• How are you engaging with the circular economy?</li> </ul> <p>Slides (more details in presentation):</p> <p>Your company – looking for the whole understanding of sustainability (environmental, social, economic, governance); all about getting these conversations started to get suppliers to think differently.</p> <p>Products – wanting to be able to judge products for ourselves to be able to trust supplier; wanting to encourage nursery managers to challenge greenwashing; we know that not every single product is going to be sustainable, but we want to be able to judge for ourselves.</p> <p>Delivery – trend is next-day delivery, but actually we shouldn't be asking for this – multiple deliveries (usually via diesel van) a week, encourage stock piling and orders weekly/monthly; this is an education process.</p> <p>Circular Economy – EY sector not familiar with – question: when product breaks can we return/can you fix it?</p> <p>What will we do for you? – choice between sustainable/non-sustainable companies</p> <p><b><u>Cosy presentation</u></b> - <a href="https://www.cosydirect.com/our-company">https://www.cosydirect.com/our-company</a></p> <p>PE: We can tell you where we've got to.</p> <p>Cosy Direct – resource developer – sell 4,000 lines, manufacture 42% in UK, 40% in Europe; specialise in SME suppliers – 180 supplies on book, 60 of those suppliers Cosy invests in (stock, QVC, lend money) – Cosy is growing very fast (100 people+) and</p> |  |  |

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| <p>we need to make sure we take care of our suppliers to enable them to remain sustainable.</p> <p>PE used to own TTS Group (importing a lot of plastic, computer for schools scheme) – big carbon bill</p> <p>Cosy has been about creating natural items, that celebrated children being outdoors, with a range of people that could help that were SME &amp; collaborative.</p> <p>Cosy has been running for 10 years</p> <p>10% profits spent on charity (£250k invested across 80 charities – mostly grassroots charities abroad and in UK)</p> <p>ie. own farm in Derbyshire that city children (7-11 yr old) can visit – week of natural living.</p> <p>Recognising sustainability</p> <p>Queens Award – attempted 2020 (evidence is key)</p> <p>Carbon measure everything – building, transport, travel, fuel</p> <p>Next step: Encouraging sourcing locally – lead the sector to a better place, create a system of carbon measurement products that will be on website. Timeline: January 2022.</p> <p>First sustainability report released -</p> <p><a href="https://www.cosydirect.com/media/pdf/cosy_direct_esg_report_v1_september21.pdf">https://www.cosydirect.com/media/pdf/cosy_direct_esg_report_v1_september21.pdf</a></p> <p>Need to independently verify with Carbon Literacy and Staffordshire Business Network, heading towards ISO-4000, not quite there with BCorp yet</p> <p>10 year plan:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• When buying products, buyer can choose which charity they want their contribution to go towards – buyer receives certificate of social contribution</li> <li>• Wanting to become carbon negative by 2025,</li> <li>• Wanting to create 10 jobs which would be given to people from difficult circumstances.</li> </ul> <p>JW: Off the back of Cosy trying to get impact figure for their products – has anyone read the book <i>Environmental Intelligence</i> by Daniel Goldman (Also wrote Emotional Intelligence)? Spent the whole book that this was coming, product impact and comparison, but I haven't seen this occur yet.</p> <p>TK: Look at app <i>Giki.earth</i> – app which carbon capture food products</p> <p>PE: We might create an app that's useful for schools, using Cosy fund to invest in.</p> |  |  |
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JW: it would be great to get something out there that is accessible for everyone to use. Friend in NZ (Michelle Pratt) who has group of nurseries (New Shoots) – early on wanted to ensure that child labour was excluded from any products she brought into nurseries, so she employed a group of people to review the supply chain of all the products use to create children’s environment

More info:

<https://www.earlyyears.tv/episode/michelle-pratt-on-enspirement-inspiration-for-your-environment/>

<https://newshoots.co.nz/sustainability>

JE: Massive social media programme

<https://www.facebook.com/cosydirect/>

<https://twitter.com/cosydirect>

<https://www.instagram.com/cosydirect/>

<https://www.pinterest.co.uk/cosyearlyyears/>

JW: Thrift as a mind-set and repair; suppliers providing a repair service; European law coming through

PE: We considered creating brass plaques for supplying long-life products for suppliers to celebrate longevity (ie 4000 children have enjoyed this) – JE to contact JW to discuss. Under “[Care of Products](#)” on the website, there are loads of notes about how to fix up your product if it has become loose or slightly damaged to prevent breakage.

CH: Lots of our practitioners have no clue how to look after their products, whether it’s re-waterproofing aprons or oiling tables – it should be a unit in the EY Foundations.

**Gompels presentation**

RK: This has been really useful listening in to your all, there is a lot for me to learn. We want to work to work with our customers and suppliers to see where we can do better.

In 2015, Gompels installed solar panels on all warehouses (with the hope to be carbon neutral ASAP), now producing enough electricity to contribute to the national grid, during summer months producing x10.

Recycle boxes to send products; for each box used 10p donated to charity, 800-1000 boxes a day.

Encourage manufacturers to do the right things, use suppliers based in the Far East – regular liaising and visiting to uphold

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|          | <p>standards we have set, but need to further question how are we monitoring what our suppliers are doing.</p> <p>Mission: greenest supplier of our products; to do this we do have to put a bit onto our customers and challenge them.</p> <p>In the last year added to website: monitoring impact on environmental dashboard.</p> <p>RK shared his screen at this point – please see recording <a href="https://zoom.us/rec/share/U3ywfIQ6SKIQ1kFA3W8IIvhBOdf3KC0DpAM98jd1U6N_1U6U6Q91j8nzWzdXqgQ.P3Qbk8lrcDktLoVC?startTime=1632829017000">https://zoom.us/rec/share/U3ywfIQ6SKIQ1kFA3W8IIvhBOdf3KC0DpAM98jd1U6N_1U6U6Q91j8nzWzdXqgQ.P3Qbk8lrcDktLoVC?startTime=1632829017000</a> for screen share and further discussion.</p> <p><b>RK to get a dummy account put on the website for people to review/use for training</b></p> | <b>RK</b> | <b>30.11.21</b> |
| <b>4</b> | <p>Cheryl closing</p> <p><b>Write article on collaboration not competition, planned delivery instead of next-day delivery</b></p> <p>Meeting end: 2:35pm</p>   | <b>NC</b> | <b>31.10.21</b> |