

Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment

Council Workshop

Minutes of the Council Workshop on e-Learning Developments, held on 21 April 2004 at 0930 hours in Room 111, CCEA, Clarendon Road, Belfast.

Present

Dr A Lennon (Chairman)	Mr B Carlin
Mr J Ellison	Mr J Collins
Dr A Murray	Dr W Mulryne
Miss J Bell	Mrs H McClenaghan
Mr D Thompson	Mr B Turtle

Mr D Mann (Assessor, Department of Education)
Mr D McCall (Assessor, ETI)
Mrs M Cree (Assessor, Department for Employment and Learning)

Mr G Boyd, Chief Executive
Dr A Walker, Head of Education Services
Mr D Mulholland, Head of Corporate Services

Mr R Hanna, e-Learning Development Manager

Miss N Kennedy, Manager, CE Office

Introduction

The Chairman welcomed members to the meeting. He reminded members that the purpose of this workshop was to discuss the e-Learning Strategy which had been circulated and to view some illustrations of e-learning classroom practice.

He said that before the workshops began there were some items of Council business that needed attention. The minutes of previous last meeting would be dealt with at the June meeting.

Apologies

Apologies have been received from Mrs D Black; Mr J Clarke; Professor P Roebuck; Mr D McKee; Mr J Lee and Mrs P O'Farrell.

Chairman's business

The Chairman informed members that:

- He had been reappointed as Chairman for a further term. Members congratulated him on his appointment.
- Key Stage 3 and 4 advice. No formal response has been received from the Minister despite assurances at the last Council meeting on 3 March that this was imminent. Concerns have now been raised by many Principals at the series of dinners we have been conducting as to the timescales for implementation and the impact of Costello.

The Chairman asked the Chief Executive to follow up with David Woods as soon as possible.

He also asked members of the remuneration committee to remain behind after the meeting to discuss the Chief Executive's PRP.

Approval of Draft Corporate Plan for Consultation

Mr Mulholland informed members that the document provided reflected consultation with CCEA staff, Business Committee and on one occasion a representative from the Department.

The draft plan reflects 2 main themes:

- 1 a 3-year rolling plan subject to quarterly reviews; and
- 2 a change in the format to take account of :
 - the format of the business excellence model;
 - further detailed content to reflect the priorities for 2004-2007;
 - summarising the vision and expansion on strategic themes and actions to be taken.

The Chief Executive sought approval of the draft plan for wider consultation with stakeholders.

Members discussed the plan and raised the following issues :

- More emphasis on the educational priorities to include the implementation of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Strategic areas to be re-ordered to reflect the educational priorities of the Council;
- Page 6 to be redrafted to draw out the main issues surrounding the curriculum review;
- Page 12 : Markets and Services : development of 20 new vocational qualifications – sentence to be included to reflect the success and current uptake of these courses;
- Vision – need for this to be laid out more clearly and less crowded;

The Chairman assured members that all the points raised would be taken on board and reflected fully and clearly in the draft for consultation.

14-19 Project Plan

The Chief Executive spoke to the detail of the project plan. The outline project plan had been previously considered and approved by the Council. The project officer, Jenny Scharf, had now developed a detailed project plan for Council approval.

Session 1 : e-Learning Strategy

The Chairman welcomed Richard Hanna to the meeting and congratulated him and the staff involved on winning the Golden Eye Education Award.

Richard outlined the programme for the remainder of the day and introduced the e-learning strategy.

Members raised the following points:

- Mission statement - the word 'ensure' to be changed. We cannot ensure, however we can help provide an environment where things are possible;
- The term 'all learners' to be more explicit;
- Scope – our central focus is what CCEA can do to embed the use of technology into curriculum, assessment and specifications for qualifications;
- Seek to influence adult learners and highlight links with Further Education (electronic links);
- Strategy to be reviewed in the context of the increasing role the Council will have with FE;
- Equality issue to be addressed explicitly in the document;
- Highlight the pilot work going on within the curriculum in relation to e-learning;
- To ensure the platform for providing technology is sufficient to provide the same learning experience for all;
- To ensure we differentiate between the aspects of e-learning for which we have less influence;
- Raise awareness of CCEA staff re technology capability.

The Chairman assured members that all of the issues raised would be taken on board and incorporated into the revised strategy document.

Mr Hanna raised the following:

- The proposal for CCEA to establish and formalise a quality assurance standards service for products to support the curriculum, examinations and assessment. It is important to have a common set of standards and procedures for staff to use when evaluating products.

The Chairman agreed that this was an important issue and should be taken forward. Mr Carlin stated it was important that CCEA was covered from a legal perspective when drawing up this set of standards.

- Knowledge Centre – there is currently no facility for CCEA officers to access the wide area service. They cannot view the common platform and it is proposed that a facility be created as part of the awareness raising process for staff to be able to view both primary and post-primary builds. It will also provide a facility for officers to work closely with CCEA Multi-media, for staff training and professional development.

Members agreed that this should be investigated further.

Sessions 2 and 3 : Workshops

Members were divided into 2 groups to give them an opportunity to view examples of e-learning good practice in the classroom in Religious Education and Modern Languages. The workshops were facilitated by Mr Edgar McKinney and Mr James Maxwell from Ballyclare High School.

The Chief Executive thanked Mr McKinney and Mr Maxwell for sharing some of their expertise with the Council and made a brief presentation.

Session 4 : e-Learning developments across education services

Mr Hanna tabled the emPowering Schools and Milestones documents. He informed members that the documents had been put out for wide consultation with the deadline for responses at the end of May 2004.

The Chief Executive reminded members that the document has been subject to ongoing consultation for a considerable period of time, however it is uncertain if there has been widespread engagement from schools.

It was agreed that a further meeting of the e-Learning and Services Committee be arranged to agree the response to the document. The response would be circulated to Council via e-mail for comment before submission to the ETSMG.

Paper 3

Mr Hanna tabled a paper on a 'process model of Curriculum/Assessment policy development including a proposed model for identifying and supporting development needs'.

The document outlines a possible way forward in respect of clarifying roles and responsibilities between CCEA and C2K. Several meetings have taken place with C2K and a need was identified to formalise the relationship.

The Chief Executive drew attention to the schematic tabled. This was agreed between himself and Mr J Stewart of C2K and has also been passed to PWC who are carrying out a review on behalf of the department of education.

Members noted the information given and were happy with progress being made in this area.

Any other business

None identified

Date of next meeting

The next business meeting of Council was scheduled for **Wednesday 9 June 2004** at 1000 hours.

CHAIRMAN

DATE