**Lincolnshire and East Midlands SCiP Alliance Hub Meeting**

**Minutes**

Date: Wednesday 17th January

Time: 14:00 – 15:00pm

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. Welcome, apologies and recording permission | SO |
| 1. SCiP National Updates/Toolkit Developments | VF |
| 1. Festival of Friends Update 2. LiNCHigher Update 3. Terms of Reference/Vice Chair 4. Member’s Development Updates 5. Next Meeting Date/Venue | MB  SO  SO  ALL  SO |
|  |  |
|  |  |

MINUTES OF THE HYBRID MEETING (IN-PERSON AND MS TEAMS) FOR THE LINCOLNSHIRE AND EAST MIDLANDS SCIP ALLIANCE HUB MEETING HELD ON 17th JANUARY 2024 2-3PM.

**Present:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **SO**  Shaun O’Neill | LiNCHigher Community Projects Manager |
| **JH**  John Herbert  **JM** Jess McNeill | LiNCHigher Project Manager  LiNCHigher Community Events and Projects Officer |
| **AS**  Alexandra Stokes | RAF Families Federation Policy Advisor |
| **NE**  Nick Elliott | UoL Widening Participation Officer |
| **SG** Sam Gray | Careers Advisor Defence Children Services |
| **NW** Natalie Williams | Coningsby St Michaels Pastoral Learning Mentor |
| **AH** Anna Hutchinson | Education and Childcare Specialist AFF |
| **VF**  Victoria Fisher | SCiP Alliance Engagement Manager |
| **GG** Gemma Gazi | BGU Widening Participation Officer |
| **MB**  Matt Blyton | Festival of Friends Independent Advisor |
| **KT** Karolina Tauer | DANCOP Area Officer – North Notts |
| **LC**  Luke Chaisty | MPCT Lincoln Business Development Officer |
| **DG** Derwin Gregory | BGU Programme Lead – Archaeology and Heritage |
| **KC**  Kanako Caldicott | LiNCHigher Administration Officer |
|  |  |
|  |  |

*Minutes completed by Kanako Caldicott (KC)*

1. **SO** – Welcome and introductions of members present. Recording permissions gained and started.
2. **VF** – **SCiP National Update/Toolkit Developments:**

Presented by Victoria F

* 1. **Toolkit update**
* Implementing a project based on the toolkit to update and produce case studies from schools across the UK and share good practice in all 7 principles of the toolkit.
* The data is now being formatted by designers. Once they're finished, the toolkit, which has 50 different case studies to look through, should have filter functions by location or primary, secondary, even by service child population, to confirm what other schools are doing and how they're working and providing support for their service children and young people.

**Comments:**

**MB**: In terms of recruitment, we have roughly 48 confirmed schools.

* 1. **Thriving Lives Innovation Project**
* Wellington Academy funded schools to create projects to support service children.
* The pilot is currently running in three schools that have ticked the GDPR box on the toolkit and is awaiting the first pilot outcome. The University of Winchester is involved in the evaluation.
  1. **Toolkit target user extension**
* From the early years to HE, progressing now.

**1.4 Building SCiP Alliance community platform**

* Initial stage. Had a meeting with IT developers last week.

**Comments:**

**MB**: The case study project has also developed a set of guidance materials to help schools understand what emerging practice or developing practice or embedding practice looks like in relation to each of the 40 questions in the self-evaluation toolkit.

**NW**: We have been using the toolkit and have the exemplification materials that Matt gave us. Our school have reviewed all seven items before adding them to the toolkit. This allowed us to identify areas for improvement and determine what to add. We found this information helpful in completing the toolkit.

**VF:** The case studies are not accessible yet. We are considering how it will be within the toolkit and how it can be accessible as well for others.

1. **Festival of Friends Update: MB**

**2.1 Project Description**

* Year long project, aimed at improving provision for service children in schools across Lincolnshire, in association with LiNCHigher.
* Tried and tested model of school collaborative peer supported development. Produced a high-quality published directory of case studies so that every participating school could showcase their work.
* Particularly aimed at schools that have very which have small number of service children.

**2.2 Key aims of the project**

* Sharing good practice and developing the practice through collaborative activity.
* Training and upskilling staff, drawing on the collective wisdom of the schools, but also the resources on the SCiP Alliances website through the Thriving Lives toolkit.
* Encourage families, schools and, the children to consider the benefits that Higher education could have on their own educational journey, even at the early stages of primary school.

**2.3 Status**

* Identified a group of schools that would help to lead the project: 5 Hub schools, 37 Spoke schools and 42 schools in total. 3 hubs have been set up with the remaining schools forming the spokes.
* 20 schools out of 42 have less than 10% of military children involved. All the hub schools have much larger cohorts.

**2.4 How it works**

* Step 1: These schools use the toolkit, the self-evaluation framework, to review their practice against the evidence base, supported by the hub leaders.
* Step 2: The schools identify the area for improvement and set up a small improvement project that they can run between now and the end of May half term or until early June. During the term the school will make a small improvement in one area of one of the seven principles of the Thriving Lives toolkit.
* Step 3: Send some representative children here to BGU on the 6th of June for a celebration day.
  1. **Celebration Day**

For Celebration Day (June 6), Professional comedian and juggler has been arranged to attend. Campus tours will be offered then all gather together with VIPs to celebrate. Some certificates will be given to children. Currently in the discussion to streamline the number of participants from school.

**Comments:**

**MB.** Anyone interested in attending as VIP in celebration day, please contact John or Shaun as the seats are limited.

1. **LiNCHigher Update:**

Creative Forces Day: Dates to be confirmed. Days are open to secondary schools. The invitation has been sent. Venue: BGU. Capacity 60 students. 11 schools showed interest. If any school contacts or sixth forms have not heard of it but would like to be involved, please contact Shaun.

* Lego based STEM sessions: For learners up to 15 per session from any secondary school age. Please contact if any of your school contacts are interested.
* Never Such = innocence: A road show booked at 19 of April to celebrate the month of military child. One day event, and children from 4 schools, 2 primary and two secondaries attending the event.

Event Content: Children will work with creators and artists from Never Such Innocence, and they will put on an exhibition of their identities, their life experiences and how being in a military family has impacted them, then share their experiences with those VIPs.

**Comments**:

**VF**: If you have got any promo material that you would like to me to put on our platform, please send it to me.

**AS**: Please feel free to tag the Army Families Federation, if you're sharing anything on social media, particularly in April for the Never Such Innocence event.

**SO:** If anyone is doing any events in the next few months that you'd like to be shared within the SCiP, please do let me know.

1. **Terms of Reference/Vice Chair**

Presented by Shaun O

* Please refer to the Terms of Reference for details
* We are missing a Vice Chair. If you would like to be nominated by the Vice Chair or change the Chair, please contact Shaun. For Vice Chair, we prefer members outside of LiNCHigher.
* If you are working with other organizations that may benefit, please feel free to inform them. We are always open to new members.

1. **Open Floor for Collaborative Working/Updates**

MPCT Update, Luke C:

* Our organization recently celebrated our students' achievements during the Christmas season. The event included an award ceremony, a parade, and an inspection from senior officers. The mayor was also in attendance and provided positive feedback.
* We are still very much recruiting across Lincoln and nationally as well for the expansion of our school’s provision. This has been very successful across Wales and across 2023/24. We aim to expand this initiative nationally across England. By the next quarterly meeting, I hope to provide more information on how it can support SCiP alliances in Lincolnshire and beyond.
* Had excellent feedback from the teachers and parents.

DANCOP Update: Karolina T

* Ran a first project in Nottinghamshire in November and in December last year. Three day events - Twenty students between year 7 to 9 took part and visited two colleges and the university of Nottingham. They joined in higher education related activities, the third-party activities working on resilience, and got a campus tour and had lunch with other students. Evaluation report is not ready yet, however, received very positive feedback from the teachers and parents. We are looking at running a programme again later in the year for Year 10 and 11 in the summer term.

**Comments:**

MB: Peer support is one of the most requested services for KS3/4 service children. Karolina: Creating sense of belonging is important.

VF: Please share the evaluation report with SCiP alliance with it is ready to share with other hubs.

SO: We can share any positive case study in reginal Hub newsletter, too.

AS:

RAF Families Federation:

* Matters that are now being monitored are access to school places when people relocate, special educational needs and childcare support.
* We are looking forward to the SCiSS Survey findings, which looks at special educational needs and disabilities and the support provided in schools in England, will be published in early 2024.
* Information is available on the Never Such an Innocence website: A few different projects are starting in April, such as the ‘Purple Up Day’ on 26 April. They've developed a song, Dandelions, that schools are being encouraged to sing, and they've also got a poetry and art competition that will run throughout April, we'll be showing information in our Envoy magazine that comes out in March, so be ready for April.
* From a research perspective, the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust has awarded £169,000 to three projects from across the UK under the Armed Forces Families Fund. Through their research grants programme, they're looking to develop a better understanding of complex educational or welfare issues affecting our families and propose solutions. There's one on utilising lived experience to inform practice and understanding, which is being led by Oxford Brookes University, as well as the one in University of Chester to look at helping service children to reach their full potential, and a project exploring the impact of deployment at Bath Spa University.
* From AFF perspective: the South Hub are offering a webinar series. Information is available on the SCiP website.
* If you get any families area families that need support, please feel free to sign post them to RAF Families Federation, happy to support with cases. If it's not something that we can support with, then we can have to sign posts to other organizations that might be able to help families and service personnel.

University of Lincoln Event Update: NE

* Hosting an event on the 28th of February for Year 11 students and their parents in an evening with sessions aimed at providing information and guidance around university as an option. Also, how parents and carers can support their children through Year 11 and their educational journey. An optional tour of the campus and some information about cost-of-living bursaries and scholarships and the financial side of things as well.

Defence Children Services Update: SG

* Target Cohorts: The students, key stage four and five, who are currently overseas but who are transitioning back into the UK.
* Current Challenges: They can’t access open events due to their current location (overseas)
* For these students, Virtual campus tour, bird's eye view of the campus has been useful. So anything that is useful for me to access on websites.
* Please contact me anything related service children on overseas.

Comments:

AS: Is it specifically the two secondary schools, the two DC secondary schools that you're working with, you're not offering it more widely at this point?

SG: It's predominantly the two secondary schools, but I'm linking into our virtual schools that are looking at sort of the summer.

AS: if we have families that come to us ask if a careers advice overseas, where would you suggest we sign post them to?

SG: Direct them to the overseas education and Supportability team and the first instance and it'll probably be directed through to me.

MB:

Additional information on Festival of friends:

* There's a theatre company called An Invisible Man, based in York, and they've written a play that has toured over 100 schools. It's being revived for April for the month of the military child and the theatre company are hoping to do a three-week tour and possibly one week will be with MOD schools overseas. But there's two weeks of the tour left, and the priority area is Lincolnshire because of the Friends Festival.
* If there's a secondary school that you think might be interested, I'll send out a bit of information and I'll make sure Shaun and Jess get a copy of it and they can pass it on.
* It's not something that is just exclusively for service children, a brilliant way of raising the profile of service children amongst the civilian population of a school. It could well be something that that at a secondary would do with the whole of year 7 as a way of celebrating the month of the military child - cost £750 for an entire day.

1. **Next Date and Venue**

Presented by Shaun O

* April 25th, 2-3pm at BGU campus, this will be a hybrid meeting.

**END OF MEETING**

**Date of the next meeting: 25th April 2024 – 2-3pm.** Hybrid meeting, Bishop Grosseteste University and Microsoft Teams