

Learning Link Scotland Network Zoom Meeting Notes from 6th May 2020

This was Learning Link Scotland's (LLS) first Network meeting held on Zoom. 23 adult learning practitioners from across Scotland joined the meeting. In addition to third sector colleagues, we were delighted that colleagues from local authorities and NHS were also able to join us. We had limited the number of participants to allow everyone to contribute to the online discussion. This meant we had a small waiting list and we hope these colleagues are able to join us on a future Zoom meeting. The meeting was well received and it was good to have an opportunity to see colleagues which helps us all to feel more connected during this period of lockdown due to COVID 19. If the lockdown is extended, we plan further Zoom meetings.

Presentations were made by Jackie Howie, CEO of LLS and Laura McIntosh, Development Officer at Education Scotland. Both of these presentations will be available along with this note of the meeting. The meeting was an excellent opportunity to share useful online resources and experiences of various online platforms.

Below are some of the key points and links to a range of online resources and platforms participants shared at the meeting:

Key points and resources

- There was discussion throughout the meeting about the new ways of working everyone has been developing, including new ways of working with learners.
- Participants shared their experiences of some online platforms which they were finding useful for keeping in touch with learners: Google Classroom; Google Meet; Microsoft Teams, Sway, Facebook, Wakelet and Webex.
- Google Classroom enables the sharing of documents which means online learning resources can be shared between tutors and learners. Students can access Google Classroom on a laptop or a phone as long as they use the Google Chrome browser. Several people reported supporting learners to download Chrome.
- One colleague reported that learners have found it fairly simple for learners to engage in online learning. Learners are sent the link to the Google Meet via email or WhatsApp and as long as they are using Chrome then they seem to be able to click the link and go. Sharing documents online or by email or by post and then following up with a phone call is a good low tech way to engage with learners.
- A few colleagues discussed sends out by post or delivers worksheets, picture dictionaries, Bilingual dictionaries etc to learners who do not have wifi or any IT equipment. These learners are then followed up with telephone calls.
- Although online learning is new to many learners some report enjoying the experience. For example, some learners are enjoying the interactive links to museums and zoos.
- Tutors are enjoying the short videos posted through one organisation's newly created Social media.

- Some colleagues are exploring using Webex as an alternative to Zoom. Webex is available free of charge to organisations with charitable status through Charity Digital. To obtain free Webex organisations need to register with Charity Digital at: <https://charitydigital.org.uk/home>. Once you register they have lots of software available for free or reduced price for charities - Microsoft office for example.
- Colleagues from Aberdeenshire shared the link to their own Wakelet site and you can view it here: [Aberdeenshire adult learning Wakelet](#) and ESOL: [Aberdeenshire ESOL Wakelet](#)
- LiveLife Aberdeenshire have a range of resources which you can access here: <https://livelifeaberdeenshire.org.uk/live-life-at-home/>
- Microsoft office if free for non-profits: [Microsoft for nonprofits](#)
- There was discussion about how to help learners who do not have smart phones or lap tops to enable them to engage in online learning during COVID 19. SCVO's programme, "*No one left behind*" can provide help getting devices and setting them up to those who don't have it :[No one left behind](#)
- There are resources which can support ESOL tutoring via text using a basic smartphone. Here is one to check out: [Text chat resource](#)
- Diane Gardner at City of Glasgow College is developing the citizen literacy app and is looking for practitioners to use and feedback on the prototype. If anyone interested please contact Laura McIntosh: laura.mcintosh@educationscotland.gov.scot . The app will be free to download and use when released with voice software to take in regional accents.
- SQA has a bank of online resources available to support ESOL Literacies learners at National 2 level, <https://www.sqa.org.uk/sqa/33697.html>