**SAPOE Chairs report March – June 2018**

* Attended Cycling Scotland Bikeability conference in Edinburgh. New funding criteria suggests a more flexible approach to using the £20k available to each LA in a more direct delivery focused way – should make it easier for trained teachers to deliver alongside OL/OEd instructor support, funded by CS/Bikeability. Myself and Alan expressed concern that some LA’s seemed to already be using this money to contract in external suppliers rather than approaching their LA Outdoor Learning team in the first instance – in these testing financial times this could make a significant difference to OL teams.
* Dial in meeting with Jeanna Sandilands (Health Protection Division, ScotGov), re health and safety for general public in local/low key outdoor settings. Resulting guidance can be found at <https://www.nhsinform.scot/bugs-and-germs> (will email link to Natalie for full distribution, any comments/queries please feed back to me and I can pass on to Jeanna).
* Attended UKAIG meeting in Birmingham. Was under the impression that HSE were going to be able to discuss the “results” of the recent review, but this was not the case. Some general points in no particular order;
  + Given that they are seeking a UK wide scheme, it was disappointing to only have 4 (four) replies from Northern Ireland
  + There were c.500 responses, 360 done online.
  + Only 24% of current license holders responded
  + September 2019 is currently the only hard date in the process – this is when current TQS contract ends. It seems unlikely any changes to Licensing will be possible/in effect by that point.
    - TQS contract extended?
    - Contract put out to tender?
  + June 20th is next HSE board meeting date where Frances will present the review data and comments to HSE board. No date/info as to when the data/review will be publicly available, or when the Home Nation responses will be released.
  + Direction or steer as to option chosen likely to come late July
  + It was stated that option chosen will be based on more than just numbers of responses in favour of each option – suggestion is that the comments in the questionnaire, as well as the non-questionnaire responses, letters and emails received, would inform HSE opinion just as much if not more.
  + HSE expressed caution in any changes to licensing with relation to timing and ministerial approval – with Brexit and Grenfell enquiry progressing/concluding over the next year, it is unlikely Licensing will even get ministerial time regardless of HSE decision.
  + Current numbers suggest current license holders are not renewing due to uncertainty – this must be communicated as the wrong thing to do, as any changes will not be in the near future and if you need a license, you need to renew.
  + 2x UKAIG members attending HSE Board meet 20th June as observers, may have more info to share after that.
  + Have been invited to the next UKAIG meeting Tuesday 4th September – does SAPOE wish for me to attend?
* Attended NNOL meeting in Edinburgh. Various topics and speakers, some highlights as follows;
  + Inspiring Scotland have grant funding of £860,000 for funding Outdoor Nurseries (though I think this is already decided/allocated to LA’s – as with other challenge authority type funding, only certain LA’s will receive this).
  + Early years continues to be a challenge/opportunity with the move to 1140hrs. OL teams are strongly advised to make links with Early Years teams and look at possible joint working/training. Suggestion is that Scotland needs 6000 – 12000 new early years practitioners to cope with likely demand.
  + Learning for Sustainability appears to have absorbed much of Outdoor Learning themes and benefits, and the discussion seems to be based more around how OL can aid LfS, as opposed to being something in its own right. Alongside Global Citizenship and Sustainable Development Education, OL is seen as a key tenet of LfS. We may need to hitch our OL wagon to LfS more formally, as this seems to be where Scot.Gov. and Education Scotland are throwing their weight and resources.
  + Strong theme was the need for changes to teacher training to adapt and include significant aspects of LfS and OL – without change at teacher training level it is going to continue to be difficult to embed these areas into schools.
  + Projects you may want to look at;
    - Take Me Out (Grounds for Learning) [www.takemeoutproject.en](http://www.takemeoutproject.en)
    - Canal College, Scottish Waterways Trust <https://scottishwaterwaystrust.org.uk/project/canal-college/>
    - Remind schools/teachers about the <http://outdoorlearningdirectory.com/>
    - Green Tree School Award – free trees and resources for schools - <https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/get-involved/schools/green-tree-school-award/>
  + Suzanne Hargreaves (Ed.Scot) announced at the end of the meeting that by the end of the year there should be a full time Learning for Sustainability Officer for Education Scotland. I’m hoping Natalie White may have more info about this, and assume there will be discussion about what this means/what contact we wish to have with this…?