SCEC meeting
Wednesday 17th February 2021, 9am, online
Attendees:

Kate Farrell (KF)
Fiona McNeill (FMc)
Judy Robertson (JR)
Peter Donaldson (PD)
Quintin Cutts (QC)
Greg Reid (GR)
Alastair Irons (AI)
Tommy Lawson (TL)
Robbie Paterson (RP)
Claire Gillespie (CG SDS)
Iain Thomson (IT)

Nicola Taylor (NT)
Rachel Menzies (RM)
Greg Michaelson (GM)
Julia Adamson (BCS)

Guest:
Christine McMellon (CM)

Apologies:
Karen Petrie (KP)
Claire Griffiths (CGr)
Mark Zarb (MZ)
Alasdair McGregor (AG)

Meeting Notes:

Childrens' Advisory panel
Christine McMellon (CMc) introduced the young people's consultation project with the University of Edinburgh. 8 young people will be selected and will then work with other learners in their school to find out views on Computing Science. Advisory group guidelines will ask that young people have a mentor/supporter in their school. They are at the recruitment stage currently, P7-S5. Consultation will be co-produced by the young people. The first meeting with young people will be in the middle of March

Judy Robertson (JR) added that the grant proposal included some seminars. The proposal was in response to the Logan report.

Quintin Cutts (QC) offered support from the University of Glasgow

Fiona McNeill (FMc) it would be good to get names from SCEC of people who are interested in being involved

Peter Donaldson (PD) It would be good to get views from young people on types of CS education, not just what they're taught currently - what would they like to learn/do (in school and post school).

Claire Gillespie (CG) would be interested in being involved and adding in a careers question for the young people. Happy to contribute where she can. She would like the SCEC committee to have sight of questions beforehand if possible

QC asked about the selection of the young people. We don't just want to hear from the young people who have 'got' it, who are immersed in CS. We need views of others

CMc - we need a wide group of young people including a mix of genders, locations, and including those who have NOT selected to study CS.

JR - posted the application questions in the chat window. We are looking for a representative mix of young people.

Rachel Menzies (RM) said it is interesting the number of students doing CS in university but who didn't do CS at school

CMc said it was probably outwith scope but very interesting

FMc said she has an MSc student studying this, so it would be good to bring the results together afterwards.

CG suggests contacting Young Scot

Kate Farrell (KF) agrees with Young Scot suggestion - they have a young people data panel they're setting up

Actions:
KF is going to pass the recruitment advert onto CS teachers
CMc will pass the advert on to Scottish Young Parliament young people.
FMc will collate and pass round questions to the SCEC members
CMc and KF to approach Young Scot about their data advisory panel

Future aims of SCEC

FMc - last year was mostly spent responding to consultations, but what do we want to focus on this year and beyond?

Logan Report

Greg Michaelson (GM) read extracts from a letter on the Logan Report from John Swinney to GM's MSP. GM will share as it is public.

QC suggests we ask Mark Logan (ML) to come and talk to us.

CG said SDS work closely with the Digital Directorate. ML gave her team an update including on the further paper that has been written. Mapping exercise to make sure effort isn't duplicated. Funding announced this year has been around the tech startup sector.

PD discussed increasing capacity in teacher education. If we can do something more to support teacher education it could potentially have a huge impact. UoG work on technologies areas (inc CS) has had a good response in confidence and comfort of trainee teachers. PD suggests we could do more in this area.

FMc suggests we invite ML to come and speak to us.

Action:
CG / SDS to invite ML to meet with the SCEC

BCS Update

Julia Adamson (JA) gave an update to the work the BCS / CAS have been doing recently.

QC, Simon Peyton-Jones (SPJ), Toni Scullion (TS) and JA met with Mark Logan, exchanged ideas in community activity can be supported (not just CAS). They suggested using CAS infrastructure in Scotland.

Reviewed CAS membership in Scotland:
900 members, 30% active (a little higher than in England), slightly more Secondary than Primary, 50/50% gender split same as England, members downloading resources, attending virtual events.

BCS in the lead for the national centre. JA / BCS is talking to Education Scotland (ES) on how to support and help teachers using resources from the National Centre for Computing Education (NCCE). There are 500 hours of learning content online and open source, for ages 5-16 for English curriculum. Hopefully we can pick that apart and do a mapping activity. BCS did an activity mapping Barefoot to Scottish curriculum. That's the next step to make resources attractive and accessible to teachers in Scotland.

Mapping of NCCE resources to Scottish Curriculum

KF said that the University of Edinburgh (UoE) bid for Scottish Government (SG) funding to do mapping but were likely unsuccessful.

JA was going to talk to QC about mapping, but is happy to include UoE
QC suggested the group should include Greg Reid (GR) from SQA
GR suggested including Kirsty McFaul as the ES contact

CG said SDS possibly have funding available for this project.
SDS has co-funded with KMc at ES before.
JA said she has spoken to ES before and they're on board

Tommy Lawson (TL) said the quickest way is to get a group of teachers together, half a dozen teachers and give them a payment for their out-of-hours time.
QC suggested we could approach teachers through CSS
JA is happy to have a group of teachers but with a little governance - such as QC/UoG or KF/UoE to support them and oversee the project

JR suggested a formal application would needed to SDS/ES
CG said this funding application couldn't be the SCEC as it is not formally constituted, but could be from a SCEC member like the UoE with a note of support from ES/KMcF. Would need to be spent by the end of March and most of the work completed or decent evidence of progress. She will check if it is possible to have a group convened and progression plan for teachers working in the Easter holidays (first two weeks of April).

Actions:
JR, KF, FMc, JA, PD, GR/SQA to talk and plan a funding bid to CG / SDS
CG will check if it's feasible for the work to be done in Easter by teachers

Covid and promoting CS and Technologies

FMc - how can we react to all the fallout from Covid? Claire Griffiths (CGr) said families are now working digitally. We should use this as a way to promote CS and technologies

QC said Muffy Calder (MC) and QC have written a poem about 'Where would we have been in this pandemic without computing' that is being turned into a teaching tool. This will be promoted via BCS and UoG

FMc suggested we should push the video to schools and beyond

JA mentioned a talk by Jess Enwright about inspiring 13-19 year old girls about computing, about epidemiology (she normally works with cattle but now Covid19). She is doing a careers inspiration film with her. JA is talking to her about doing a teaching resource on the spread of disease on how you couldn't do it without computing. BCS are trying to collect these interesting people on the website, finding relevant stories
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9uCG8WVvpdA
https://www.computingatschool.org.uk/careersinspiration

PD suggested maybe we could do some work on the CS behind the tech issues that families have faced when troubleshooting tech at home (eg wifi dead spots)

CG said SDS are always working on a range of videos on careers. Their digital comms team can help. SCEC could develop content and SDS can share.

GR said TS/CSS has an industry group that meets once a week. They are discussing video promotions.
CSS have a magazine too https://issuu.com/cssreads/docs/cssreads_issue_1_v_final

Actions:
SCEC and **SDS** to promote MC and QC's poem video

Learners 'catch up' following Covid

JA said BCS are looking at 'catch up' lost learning. At Primary there will no catch up on computing, it'll be digital skills. At lower secondary it will be computing to ensure pipeline of learners continues. The digital literacy and digital skills side will be used to keep computing front and centre.

FMc suggested we follow up about the issue of learners being behind in another meeting. Hopefully we'll have a meeting soon with ML.

Action:
All - Supporting learners after covid to be discussed at next meeting