

Scottish Outdoors Consortium meeting – Draft 1

30.06.2020

Zoom Conference

Attending:

Jane Campbell Morrison – SAAF – Chair
Myles Farnbank – SAAF
Judith McCleary – Scouts Scotland
Bec Raynes – DofE
Ali Dreyer – SAPOE
Neil Wightwick – AHOEC
Victoria Brooks – Wild Scotland
Roger Scrutton – SSA OPG

Apologies

Judith Young – Adventure Tourism lead, Scottish Government
Shaun Roberts – Glenmore Lodge
Rachel Cowper – Thriving Outdoors

1. Acceptance of the minutes from the last meeting – minutes from the last meeting were agreed. JCM to change the status of these minutes on Basecamp.
2. Organisation updates (COVID-19 progress/ developments) – 3 points per organisation.
Ali Dreyer – **SAPOE** – provided by email.

1. Going Out There

- Review and update the Going Out There guidance document as appropriate and in line with the outcomes of necessary research and consultation. This includes updating the guidance document to adequately reflect changes to off site visits brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Review and update Going Out There toolkit materials as appropriate and in line with the outcomes of necessary research and consultation. This includes updating existing toolkit materials or developing new materials that reflect changes to off site visits brought about by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- The development of appropriate online training materials to support implementation of Going Out There guidance.
- Ensure the continued functionality of the Going Out There website and update the website where appropriate in line with user feedback.

2. Teaching Learning Outdoors/Supporting Learning Outdoors

Revise and condense current Take Learning Outdoors course materials ensuring a focus on:

- relevant teacher needs;
- outdoor safety and risk considerations;
- group management in an outdoor learning setting;
- appropriate pedagogical approaches; and
- assessment of outdoor learning.

This work is set in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic and the potential need for learning to take place outdoors more frequently to allow appropriate physical distancing and help reduce the spread of infection.

Revise and condense current Supporting Learning Outdoors Course materials ensuring a focus on helping non-teaching staff with established outdoor expertise to:

- gain understanding of Curriculum for Excellence and the framework for delivering this to pupils; and
- understand key messages on embedding and enhancing taught curriculum content into the real-world context.

3. Development of guidance related to post Covid visits to outdoor education centres

SAPOE were asked by the Scottish Government to coordinate this piece of work. To progress this swiftly the exec committee co-opted Willie White to oversee this project.

Objectives

Establish a short life working group tasked with:

- developing detailed guidance on 'post covid' visits to outdoor education centres for schools and local authorities;
- collating and communicating evidence of the educational value of visits to outdoor education centres;
- publishing guidance on existing Going Out There website; and
- raising awareness of guidance within local authorities and appropriate networks.

Continue to contribute to SG strategy - OL supporting education recovery. Several actions that SAAF are linked into through SAPOE, AHOEC contacts.

SG facilitating meeting with ADES.

Judith McCleary – **Scout Scotland** - liaising a lot with third sector organisations primarily. The news that there won't be a package of support available for outdoor residential centres has been hard to hear. UK level consultation underway within Scouting to establish the impact of COVID-29. 38 staff at risk just now, and have started consultations leading to redundancies. Scout Scotland reaching out to a range of organisations to build relationships and work. Have work coming in from Argyll & Bute Council to deliver hub activity. Big challenge around knowing when residential trips may return. Planning packages for smaller groups to allow activities to be delivered at the centres.

Neil Wightwick – **AHOEC** – Scottish Gov't have confirmed that there will be no funding for outdoor residential centres in Scotland. A liaison meeting will be held with Assistant Directors of Education Scotland (ADES) to share information on how schools might engage with outdoor centres as part of their ongoing schooling. Delegates have been suggested for this meeting. AHOEC and SAPOE are to provide guidance on how outdoor education can work in the current circumstances. Local authorities have not yet provided agreement on how they will approach the delivery of residential trips, for a variety of reasons. Edinburgh Council have decided not to run any residential trips until at least December 2020. AD indicated that there has been representation to COSLA concerning financial support for local authority outdoor provision. NW expressed his disappointment that the residential side of outdoor learning has been left to one side, despite the apparent support from the Scottish Gov't. NW works in Glasgow City Council and will be opening Blairvadach on

Mon 6th July for small collections of individuals in difficult circumstances, and only in their 'bubbles'. He feels that things are very slowly starting to come to life.

Victoria Brooks – **Wild Scotland** – things have been incredibly busy over the last few months. Most recent activity has been supporting other sector organisations and pulling together a signposting document to help tourism organisations find the relevant guidance for the activity that they deliver. This guidance will have to be updated on a regular basis. Have linked in with the 'We are Good to Go' scheme, which is running across the UK, and indicates that tourism businesses can sign up to the scheme and be given recognition that they are ready to open. Generally aimed more towards accommodation and hospitality. Recently had a meeting of the Adventure Tourism Alliance which has a range of outdoor and safety organisations as it's membership. Alan Rankin, Sail Scotland, has been asked to be part of the Tourism Taskforce, which has been set up within Scottish Gov't. Alan appears to be the only outdoor voice on the Taskforce. The Adventure Tourism Alliance can help Alan with this role, and JCM offered support from both the SOC and SAAF. VB mentioned that she felt that adventure tourism was often the poor cousin in the room when measured against other parts of tourism in Scotland. Wild Scotland has also been looking at the social distancing aspect and the impact on the delivery of activity and tourism. Wild Scotland are updating best practice within the sector and are keen to share the work in this area with SOC as it progresses. VB also mentioned that she had been in discussion with Alan Rankin about the representation of the outdoor sector, as it is growing significantly. It may be necessary for the representation of the outdoors to change. VB had also talked to Shaun Roberts about the fragmentation of the sector, as she feels that currently the outdoor sector does not have a strong enough voice when and where required. JCM agreed that the sector does not have a clear voice and is not easily accessed by relevant government departments. It is possible that there isn't a clear enough sense of direction coming from the adventure tourism sector. RS indicated that he agreed entirely with everything that VB had said and could understand the perspective of the Scottish Gov't. Education is one of the bottom lines as far as the Scottish Gov't is concerned hence the focus. RS also suggested that there was a need to group the outdoor world into streams that allow the Scottish Gov't to engage more easily. MF suggested that it would be sensible if Alan Rankin could reach out to SOC to make sure that he is sharing information both with the Tourism Taskforce, and with the sector. MF mentioned the figure of economic impact of adventure activity for Scotland which is currently £785 million per annum (for businesses over the VAT Threshold). VB suggested that a paper should be prepared that describes the strategic direction of the outdoor industry and JCM offered to prepare this paper. MF commented that there is a large piece of research that could be undertaken around the wider picture of the outdoor industry and how it provides support to local and national communities. VB mentioned that the focus from Visit Scotland and the Scottish Government is on 'destination' and she has been pushing the concept that Scotland itself is in fact a destination.

3. SAAF Mapping Update – MF gave an update on the work done to date on the SAAF. The intention behind this map is to provide information for individuals and organisations not involved with the outdoors and help them to engage more directly with organisations and networks where needed, as the outdoor world in Scotland is diverse and difficult to

understand. MF shared the map and sought feedback on the groupings of organisations in a presentation to those attending. Information was shared on the organisations in each of the groupings, and the information stored for them. Deeper dive maps are being considered for each grouping, to allow a lot more information to be shared. RS gave his views on the mapping that had been achieved to date and suggested that there were some UK wide organisations that are not yet included in the map along with some charities that are UK wide. RS felt that the map was a great piece of work and is interested in having a conversation around further research on this area. MF then talked about the mapping outreach plan to engage with the organisations currently listed and to collect their thoughts and to ensure that no organisation has been missed out. Database is being held on a Google Spreadsheet to allow easy updating to take place. BR mentioned the possible need to include disability organisations within the map. RS indicated that Scottish Disability Sport were part of the Scottish Governing Bodies, though there are other organisations that are engaged with disability activity. MF recognised the need for more information on disability organisations. JM asked why the map was being produced, and JCM explained that the map is intended to help more people and organisations to engage and become part of the outdoor world.

4. AOB – there was no AOB provided at the meeting.
5. Proposed future meeting dates:
 - a. Tuesday 14th July
 - b. Tuesday 28th July
 - c. Tuesday 11th August
 - d. Tuesday 1st September
 - e. Tuesday 22nd September