

Inspire Steering Group Terms of Reference

The Inspire England Steering Group was reconstituted with effect from January 2005 for the 2-year implementation period 2005-2006. It inherits the remit of the Access/Referral Taskforce set up by SCONUL (Society of College, National and University Libraries) with SCL (Society of Chief Librarians) in 2001:

To improve appropriate access to library resources between the British Library, Public and HE libraries by:

- a) Developing an enabling UK-based framework for reciprocal agreements within and across national, regional and local authority boundaries
- b) Promoting the opportunities and mutual benefits of the scheme to users, their service providers and their funders
- c) Encouraging and seeking mechanisms to facilitate awareness raising regarding special collections of benefit/interest to their users among library staff at local, regional, national and UK levels.

The specific role of the Steering Group will be responsibility for:

- strategic decision making
- allocation of resources and financial control
- monitoring and coordinating outcomes
- addressing issues of sustainability
- managing the national rollout
- overseeing national dissemination.

The Steering Group is made up of the following stakeholders:

- MLA Council: Margaret Croucher
- RLAG (Regional Libraries Advisory Group): Chair (Clare Connor) and members of RLAG nominated by the Chair (Fiona O'Brien and Lynn Hodgkins): these 3 members will represent the interest of the 9 English regional agencies and CILIP (Chartered Institute of Library & Information Professionals)
- British Library: Stephanie Kenna
- Learning & Skills Council: Peter Coady Programme Manager, Widening Participation
- SCL: Andrew Green and Roy Knight as 2nd nominee of SCL Executive
- SCONUL: Mary Heaney and Jon Purcell as 2nd nominee of SCONUL Executive
- Devolved Administrations: Stuart James of the Scottish Consortium of University & Research Libraries; Sara Marsh, Deputy Director of Library and Information Services, Swansea University
- National Partnerships Manager, ex officio.

Partners and their roles

SCONUL & SCL

- Steering Group leadership
- Liaison with RLAG

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SCONUL

- Budget holder (Company no 1436951, Charity 278550)
- Formal employer of national partnerships manager
- Expertise on widening participation

SCL

- Expertise on adult learners not in the mainstream education system
- Expertise on Social Inclusion
- Links with information & guidance sector and with community and voluntary organisations

The British Library

- Steering Group membership
- Progressing its regional programme: delivering its national offer at regional level

Learning & Skills Council

- Steering Group membership
- Expertise on skills agenda, lifelong learning and widening participation

Museums Libraries & Archives Council

- Steering Group membership
- Strategic guidance in relation to *Framework for the Future*
- Link to marketing consultancy

Regional MLACs

- Steering Group membership (4 each year)
- Partnership facilitation
- Regional and local knowledge

National Library of Scotland, National Library of Wales, SLIC

- To be explored

Inspire has appointed Sally Curry as National Partnerships Manager to develop and implement the cross-sectoral Inspire service to improve access to library resources for learners. She is working with the Inspire Steering Group and other regional Inspire teams being funded through *Framework for the Future* to assure an integrated and managed library infrastructure service for learners, regardless of their formal learning status.