

## **Learning Outside the Classroom Sectors Working Group**

### **Statement of Purpose**

The Learning Outside the Classroom (LOtC) Sectors Working Group is comprised of representatives from the sectors, their agencies and independent specialists.

#### **Background**

This group has been formed in direct response to the recommendations emerging from the CLOtC Board of Trustees following a stakeholder engagement survey of members in January 2015, the feedback from which identified a need for:-

- greater coordination and communication between sector groups
- closer links to the academic and research community

#### **Purpose of the Working Group**

To enable greater coordination and communication across the sectors and with the research community in order to achieve one clear and collective voice for LOtC to maximise reach and influence

#### **Objectives**

- to identify and understand the key challenges for increasing the uptake of LOtC drawing on the appropriate evidence and insight
- to work collaboratively to develop and implement a programme aimed at tackling the key challenges and advocating the benefits of LOtC to government, key influencers and schools
- to work with the Strategic Research Group for Learning in the Natural Environment (SRG LINE) to enable the sector to be effective in sharing, influencing and shaping future research in this area and to support evidence led policy and practice. The Working Group acknowledges the need for a similar Research Group to help improve the coordination of research across the heritage sector.

Natural England will facilitate meetings and provide the Working Group with a secretariat to help coordinate and manage the Group's day-to-day work. CLOtC will Chair the meetings. Outputs from the Working Group will be shared with the CLOtC Board of Trustees however the Group is not part of the formal structures of the Council for Learning Outside the Classroom. All Working Group members are equal partners so decision making will be by consensus or, if necessary, a simple majority vote.

## **Roles of the Working Group members**

Working Group members will be asked to:-

- attend meetings/join telecons up to 4 times per year
- support the two-way flow of information between the Working Group and the respective Sectors Partnership Groups/SRG LINE. Chairs of Sector Partnership Groups will communicate key outputs and actions from the Working Group and enable the contribution of specialist advice and evidence from their networks to help shape and inform the scope, direction, design and development of any proposals.
- If necessary, and by agreement, lead or participate in specific pieces of work commissioned by the Working Group.

## **Membership**

Chair - Elaine Skates, Chief Executive, Council for Learning Outside the Classroom

Secretariat - Caroline Emmerson, Senior Adviser, Outdoor Learning, Natural England

The Working Group will comprise representatives from:-

- CLOtC Sector partnerships:
  - Natural Environment, Claire Fowler, Director of Operations, Field Studies Council
  - School Grounds, Juno Hollyhock, Executive Director, Learning through Landscapes
  - Adventurous Activities, Martin Smith, Chair, English Outdoor Council
  - Farming and Countryside, Gary Richardson, Chair, Access to Farms
  - Heritage, GEM (TBC)
  - Study, Sports and Cultural Tours, Ian Pearson, General Manager, School Travel Forum (STF)
  - Expeditions, Chaired by the Expedition Providers Association (EPA), Contact TBC
- Other LOtC sectors as relevant, with the aim to include in the future:
  - Arts and Creativity
  - Sacred Spaces
- Relevant government agencies
  - Natural England, Jim Burt, Principal Adviser, Outdoor Learning
  - Historic England, Sandra Stancliffe, Head of Education and Interpretation
  - Public Health England, (TBC)
- Relevant individuals
  - Anne Hunt, Development Manager for the SRG LINE
- Other individuals by invitation as relevant