



Mercian Conference Group

Monday 15th January 2018

De Montfort University

In attendance

Carol Barker, Jen Brotherton, Claire Browne, Matt Cunningham, Helen Curtis, Liz Kennedy, Lydia Matheson, Emma Walton (chair)

Apologies: Gaz Johnson

1. Welcome to two new members, Claire Browne (B'ham Uni) and Lydia Matheson (Aston Uni)

To note we received another expression of interest from Jo-Anne Watts from Keele and as Rob Davies stepped down recently the group were in agreement to ask Jo-Anne to join the group.

ACTION: EW to contact Jo-Anne and add her to the group etc

2. Matters Arising
3. Sponsorship policy

Some concerns were raised about the specifics of the policy and that there was some risk involved.

ACTION 1 : EW to talk to GCJ and Steering group about policy and risk.

ACTION 2: EW to set up meeting between Carol (CB) and GCJ to discuss further before the next conference meeting

4. Venues – information from all about venues across the W.Midlands. Aston and B'ham University were top choices. CB and LM to discuss further with the conference units of their respective universities. For speed it was decided that when further information was gathered a decision would be made before the next meeting.
5. Conference Report. For information. The conference will be included in the Mercian Annual Report.
6. Conference date: the group agreed that the timing, if possible, should be the same as last year i.e. Tues 11th Sep 2018
7. Theme – a general discussion was had with lots of great ideas this will be continued and decided upon in the next meeting.

ACTION: To think further about this discussion -ALL

8. *Plan for the year* and group management

Further to discussions after the last conference we need to find a mechanism through which to manage some of the work of the group outside of email.

ACTION: HC to look at creating a group using Microsoft 365 tools to see if this works for all group members

9. *Group roles*

Plan for the year and group roles will be rolled over to the meeting scheduled for March 2nd.

Next meeting

March 2nd 10am -1pm at the University of Birmingham (details tbd)