I C E B E Coalition for Evidence-based Education

CEBE Workshop December 2014:
Taking our learning of 2014 into action in 2015

Feedback to participants

At the CEBE event held in December 2014 at the Wellcome Trust event, six groups of participants considered six different themes. The purpose was to develop ideas for collaborative activity that CEBE might seek to stimulate.

A number of suggestions emerged from the event, which was subsequently considered by the CEBE secretariat and steering group. This paper summarises the outcomes.

In terms of next steps, the role of the CEBE secretariat, as for previous projects (e.g. the Education Media Centre), will be to set up a collaborative working group and get the ball rolling. The development of the project after that point will be the responsibility of the members of the working group. In the case of proposal 3 (support for the College of Teaching (CoT) start up company), secretariat members are likely to take the lead going forward, with the support of a small working group.

Proposals for CEBE action

1. **Guidance for schools and teachers on *how to be a research-engaged school***

    Several groups suggested aspects of work that needs to be done to encourage the development of research engaged schools. These have been merged into a single proposal, titled *'How to be a research engaged school.'* The project, as it stands, would outline some clear and actionable guidance for schools around how to create an environment in which evidence-informed practice can flourish.

    A Development Group should be set up by CEBE including organisations interested in developing this idea. It would consider issues such as:
    - creating a culture of staff reflection
    - integrating evidence into SLT thinking and aligning to long-term school priorities
    - setting out roles and opportunities for different staff as part of an evidence-informed school
    - appropriating the role of action research
    - knowing where to look for external research inputs and information
    - tools to help around implementation

There are a number of existing relevant resources on these topics, so part of the work could involve integrating these into a practical and accessible resource with an emphasis on research-engagement.

2. Invited workshop for research funders to explore research funding into Knowledge Mobilisation for educational practice

One group working on infrastructures came to the conclusion as there is little evidence about evidence use, a serious research effort was needed to identify the structures that are most effective in bringing research and practice together. This has led to a proposal that CEBE sets up an invited workshop for research funders and experts in research use, in which key contributors discuss commissioning research into the most effective means of using research evidence to develop practice. Discussion would focus on issues such as:

- What does effective research commissioning for the benefit of practice look like?
- When commissioning research, what are the key questions that need to be asked, so that we can understand knowledge mobilisation better, and ensure research has real impact?
- Which funders might be interested in collaborating, both in finding out more about knowledge mobilisation and impact, and in co-ordinating the commissioning of research for the benefit of practice?

3. Support for the CoT start-up company on issues of research engagement

Several groups suggested that CEBE should seek to support the planning and development of the evidence functions of the proposed CoT. As CEBE is a network which engages with many of the key players concerned with the use of research evidence, it can act as conduit for advice/a platform for activities of the emerging College. CEBE can offer to engage people within the network to act as a 'sounding board' for the start-up company, exploiting our independence as neither an organisation nor a company.

To take this forward, the secretariat will approach all four members of the *Claim Your College* (CYC) coordinating group to offer CEBE's support. These are the current College of Teachers, the Princes Teaching Institute, SSAT, and the Teacher Development Trust.

We will be recommending an initial meeting with CYC to discuss what an evidence *strategy* for the CoT should look like, focusing on issues such as: how to best stimulate professional dialogue and expectations about research engagement; what the College's specific role and remit should be in relation to supporting research engagement (e.g. commissioning vs. signposting vs. producing); and how to work through the relationship between individual teacher and whole school research engagement.

This initial meeting may result in some events or activities that could involve the wider CEBE consortium.

Other suggestions from the event

Network of Research Leads across all schools

As this is already being organised by ResearchEd it was felt that CEBE should contact the ResearchEd leadership to indicate that people in the CEBE network support the idea and that CEBE is ready to help.

Research Hub or "cloud" for schools with a local and national perspective

As several organisations are already working on similar initiatives there does not seem to be a particular role for CEBE in this.

Career-long teacher development

There is a huge issue about becoming a certified research engaged professional. It should be part of any action CEBE takes in relation to the College of Teaching.

Challenge Ofsted on its use of evidence

Given the academic critiques of the role of Ofsted, it is not clear whether CEBE could add anything to this.

A kind of CLAHRC for education

This is a big and expensive idea, based on the *Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research and Care* initiative. It is understood that plans are afoot for such an initiative in education. CEBE should publicise this initiative via its newsletter and keep up to date with its progress.

Mapping evidence-use initiatives

A number of challenges arise with previous mapping projects, for example:

- how is the quality of initiatives judged?
- given its rapid turnover, how would it be continuously updated?
- who would the users be and what would they do with it?
- to do it rigorously is a large task and would need thinking through.

An initiative to do such a mapping is curently under discussion so it seems inadvisable for CEBE to take this forward.