# CFVI CPD Event (3) Transcript: 7th February 2024

Host: Caireen Sutherland (CS)

Presenters: Linda James (LJ) & Mike MMcLinden (MMcL)

CS: Welcome everybody to our CPD session this afternoon, which is on the curriculum framework. I am really very pleased to have Linda James and Mike McLinden here again hosting the session and guiding you through this afternoon’s activities. As I say this is on the curriculum framework so if you were expecting something else you clicked the wrong link in your calendars, and its not too late to jump out, but please stay, this is going to be an excellent session and a real opportunity to talk to your peers and hear what people are doing in different areas. We hope this session will be very useful and we look forward to hearing your feedback as ever. The plan for the session is that I am going to hand over to Mike and Linda imminently, they are going to do an introduction to the session in the main room here. I will then put you all into break out rooms, randomly and rather roughly as Microsoft does it, I’m afraid, where you will be put in a group for discussions. In that group you will get a link via the announcements at the top of the screen, so somebody who is using Teams on a laptop is best, you will see the announcement pop up and in that there will be a link to a Microsoft form. That Microsoft form will guide you through your activities in the session. If you have any problems accessing that or accessing the announcements, just message in the main chat and we will be able to support you. Alternatively, if that is not working, please email CYPF@RNIB.org.uk and we have someone in the mailbox ready to assist. Just wanted to say thank you very much to my back-room team who we literally could not do these events without and make everything run so smoothly. Do pop yourselves on mute as you join, quickly so we don’t hear your private phone call. And I am going to hand over to Mike and Linda who are front of house and taking you through this afternoon. Thank you both so much. Over to you.

MMcL: Thank you, are you going to be able to share the PowerPoint slides Caireen from your end?

CS: My backroom team have that.

MMcL: Thank you for that. I will wait until they come up. Right thank you for the introduction Caireen. My name is Mike McLinden, and my colleague Linda will be introducing herself in about 10 minutes time or so in my part of the presentation, I am going to give a little bit of context for what we’re doing and a little bit of context for how what we are doing fits into the broader CFVI project itself. First of all a welcome from all of us, you will probably be aware now, this is the third CPD event of the academic year with a continued focus on getting started with the CFVI. So some of you would have come to the first training event in September last year and in that session we launched the training manual and 12 PowerPoints one for each area, plus an overview of the CFVI. The good news is, as of this afternoon, we have had over 2300 downloads of those materials, so it shows that there is a need out there for high quality training materials, and thanks to all those who were involved in the consultative group who helped develop those materials with us. So that’s great, so we have finally got some emerging resources we can all draw on. The second training event focused on a case study of a pupil, it had to be a fictitious one because we don’t have any real-life ones yet to present. And in that case study we thought about how the various areas of the CFVI received either greater or lesser focus over the course of the child’s educational journey. And we also presented a retake on the dual access model underpinning the CFVI and highlighted within that the constancy of area 1 for a child/ young person’s educational journey.

In this training the focus is very much in response to feedback we have had from the field that includes previous events as well as our own conversations with colleagues and its this desire for greater opportunities to share materials, listen to experiences of implementing the CFVI and have an opportunity to come together to share/ showcase the sorts of resources you are developing. So that’s how we have structured it and if we can have the next slide please.

So following a brief introduction – the first part of the session is going to look briefly at the outcomes of phase 2. So what we are going to do briefly in this session is just one part of a much broader project and we thought it would be useful to remind ourselves of how all those bits fit together. So you are aware there is a broader nature of what the CFVI project is. We will also present what some of the main feedback points that came out of the last session in November as they have very much driven the focus of this session today. And then the main part of the session today is to give you the opportunity in small discussion groups to share your practice and experiences of working with the CFVI and then will all come back together to talk through next steps. But the structure is very much about you having the opportunity to talk to each other and hopefully be able to share and showcase resources.

If you haven’t got any resources to show, that’s fine, we understand that not all of you will be at that stage yet, so as Linda will be explaining later on, we have put together some alternative activities as well. So hopefully everyone will be able to contribute something to this small group conversation. If we could have the next slide please.

So just to highlight again, in the previous sessions, Linda and I took a ore front of house role where we were doing presentations and sharing our ideas and thoughts, Today we are much more stepping back and handing it over to the field if you like. One of our guiding principles with the project has very much been ‘with the field, for the field, by the field’ and this will be an opportunity for the field to come together and talk about the sorts of activities going on. So, we are going to sit back and facilitate those events but we wont actually be directly coming into the groups to listen. We will wait for the feedback and collate that at the end of the session. But we thought it would be helpful to remind ourselves before we start, where this event fits in to the CFVI project as a whole and its useful for us to remind ourselves of the 4 outcomes. So, what I will do briefly is just run though those outcomes so we can see how together, they provide us with the direction of travel for the CFVI project going forward. So, we are actually inn phase 2 of the project, Phase 1 as many of you will be aware, had a focus on designing the CFVI with the field. That was a long and drawn-out process, but it was very effective because when we are talking to people now as part of the case studies, we are getting some very positive feedback about the areas of the CFVI. It is really resonating with people - in that this is what we are doing anyway, or this is a way of verifying or confirming the sorts of activities we are doing with these children and young people. So, it seems to be resonating in very positive ways with people within the field.

The focus of phase 2 which runs until 2025, has the focus of embedding the CFVI in both policy and practice. So that is really what we are all focusing on together in terms of implementing these outcomes over the next year and a half or so. So, this specialist training strand that we are talking about today is just one of the 4 outcome strands, so I will run thorough very quickly each of those outcomes because I think it is useful to see how these broader events fit into the wider project. So, for this outcome, outcome 1, project team is being led by VIEW and has been focusing on developing the suite of professional development resources that I mentioned before and those are now available on the CFVI website and on that website, you will also find videos of the previous training events which we have been involved in running. Just to remind ourselves, there is one more training event as part of this outcome which will be taking place in May.

Outcome 2 focuses on Policy and Influencing – this is being led by Thomas Pocklington Trust (TPT) and this is work going on in all 4 nations. And the main focus is to raise awareness of the CFVI at a strategy, local authority and government level. There is a lot of very powerful work going on there which at some point we will be able to share with you!

Outcome 3 is a fascinating one, because this is the case study one as well as the evaluation of the CFVI. Many of you will be aware of the case studies across the UK but you may not be aware of the breadth of them. We have over 20 case studies going on and within each case study there will be several participants – maybe 4,5,6 in some cases 7 participants all given different perspectives. We are interviewing all those participants and collating that and so at the end of that outcome we have a wealth of resources as well as examples of practice to share so that will be a very powerful outcome for the field. It also gives us an opportunity to feed into future iterations of the CFVI itself, so we are getting a lot of very useful feedback about what’s working well but also potential gaps where we may need to rethink either the areas or offer some tweaks to areas to make more relevant to the field. So that's ongoing and some of you here today will actually be part of those events. So, we'll have spoken to you already about your own perspective of using the CFVI and then the final outcome of this project, has a focus on developing and sharing resources and. many of you would be familiar with where you can find them, but just in case you're not, they're available on the RNIB CFVI website. There's a wide range of free to download resources there, which are collated under each of the area headings, and currently the project team is looking at a redesign of the platform to allow for the upload of resources and a greater variety of formats. So that offers us a brief overview, so we're very much focused on outcome one but just to be aware of the other three outcomes that are taking place and if we have the next slide, please.

So if we think back to November 23, feels like a long time ago now, but our focus there was very much getting started with the CFVI and it was sharing good practices, experiences and what we did there was allow you the opportunity to work in small groups to start conversations about various questions to do with the use of this CFVI.

What we asked you to do was think about what worked well in your practice, what particular barriers have you encountered and if you have met and identified barriers, how you reduce these or how you're planning to reduce them? And then we put those individual responses into a summary document for reference purposes.  And as we'll say towards the end, we're collecting all this information from these events and they'll all form we hope a very useful document at the end which will be able to share with the field, but for now, if we could just go through to the next slide and we can see some of the sort of key headlines that came out of that when we asked you for ideas for future training sessions.

So the question we asked was what would you suggest as a future focus for training sessions on the CFVI scheduled in February and May and what came through loud and clear was this notion of collaborative resource development.

So many of you said you wanted opportunities to exchange materials, forms, developmental profiles, materials created by professionals that have been adapted to meet CFVI requirements. And that's what we've responded to, so that really has been the driver for what we've and how we've created the focus of today. Quite a few of you also asked for the setting up of working groups so that you can begin to sort of collaborate on various ideas for developing resources. And you ask for support for the development of these working groups through each CFVI area to develop ideas collaboratively.  So, we've taken note of that and that's something that's very much, is at the sort of forefront of our minds as we think about next steps as we move forward.

Another common theme was the notion of case studies and practical examples and there was a strong desire for focus on practical examples and sharing good practices around CFVI.  And again, when we are able to report back on the case studies that we're involved with as that part of Outcome 3, we'll have a lot of information and a whole suite of good practice resources to share within the field.  So that's coming.  And you know, this time next year, I think we'll be in a much stronger position to offer some sort of practical examples that been taken from practice as well as some very powerful case studies.

The final sort of common theme was this request for more detailed approach and thinking about some of the points that people said is really about a further breakdown of the framework to enable a more detailed understanding. And again, we're very sort of tuned into that and we're giving that thought and we'll be talking through our ideas for that at a later point, OK. If we can have the next slide for now.  And for this slide, I'm gonna hand over to Linda, so Linda, over to you.

LJ: OK, so think about the objectives for today.  We can split them into two and we can say there are our objectives as the people hosting the training and there are your objectives and all of those objectives, you'll be able to very soon and clearly see link to that feedback that might covered on the previous slide. So yeah, we're hosting it.  We're giving you the opportunity to collaborate, to share good practice. That was a very strongly expressed desire and so the backbone of this is all about that. We've provided a few additional activities, so we've got the core activity, which was to bring some resources and case studies to share and then we've tagged on a couple of additional activities that you might dip into. I'll go into those in a little bit more detail in a second, but that picks up some of this idea of breaking down interventions, breaking down the framework And that sort of aspect of the feedback and as Mike said, the whole aim is this information that we gather from you from previous CPD's but I I suspect particularly this one because I'm hoping it will bring out lots of practice ideas. We'll put together in a document at the end of this academic year, probably launch it the beginning of next, but some sort of summative document that brings all of your good practice together.  And again, you know the underpinning ethos of that is collaborative working and the fact that you want to share good practice, could I have the next slide please?

And just drawing on that, you obviously have objectives from today's session and part of it is about that sharing - when you signed up for the training, you're advised to bring something to share and if for some reason that doesn't work or you have a lot of time in the breakout room that you can't fill with, that there's a couple of additional activities that I’ll break down a little bit more in a moment, but also they're broken down on the Microsoft form that Caireen spoke about earlier. And finally, you're objective really is to capture your discussion from the breakout rooms and provide us with feedback. We are so committed to sharing your good practice and offering you that collaborative platform and also some sort of collaborative examples, ideas that come from this training and what we produce is as good as the feedback we're given so that feedback is a vital importance from today.

OK. Can we move on to the next slide?  So, coming into those. Activities in slightly more detail, you don't need to internalise particularly what I'm about to say or write copious notes. They are also detailed on the Microsoft form, but the core activity, the key focus today is the sharing of resources, documents, case studies that you are bringing to this training to share with each other.

If for some reason that doesn't work, there aren't enough to share the two alternative activities also fulfil this desire to be collaborative.  And the first one is about looking at an intervention or in fact an outcome in two specific areas and breaking that down and the two areas we've chosen are Area 1, where those bulleted points in the documents are referred to as outcomes and actually Area 9 where they're referred to as intervention.  So, we're giving you a bulleted point from each of those two areas to break down by breaking down, I guess what we meaning is, how do you work with this intervention? What are the sorts of activities that you do within it?  What resources are you drawing on?  Are they inhouse?  Are they external resources? Are there external websites that you find particularly useful external resources that you find particularly useful that you can share in a group?

So that's one of the alternative activities and in fact it's some work that will be taking to the workshop part of the View Conference. If you're attending that and the second alternative activity is about thinking about future development, if you haven't got resources to share, you can use this as an activity. So you talk about what you're intending to do to implement and embed or the sort of future development you would like us as a project team perhaps to develop, to support your practice.

OK. Can we move on to the next slide?  The logistics? Luckily done by people other than me, you'll be popped into break out room shortly.  You'll have access to the Microsoft form, which details what you're going to do.  You need to, in that room, p perhaps all introduce yourselves very briefly, giving you name the role that you do and the perhaps hopefully volunteer, or allocate a chair, who will keep the discussion to time and a scribe who fills in the questions on the Microsoft form on behalf of the group. You won't be expected to verbally feedback at the end. Coming back to the chair and that role of timekeeper, we think probably approximately 5 minutes or so per participant who has something to share or something to contribute to either the core activity or the additional ones? So, we're aiming to return to the main room.
You'll be pulled back, I'm presuming you'll get a few minutes warning that you're gonna get pulled back to the main room at about 5:15, but just now I'm handing over to the people who support us technically to pop you into those breakout rooms. Fingers crossed you don't all disappear. Well, you do disappear, but to the right place. OK, take care.

[Breakout sessions followed by welcome back to participants and presenters from the host]

MMcL: Thank you very much, Caireen.  Well done to you.  That was quite an achievement, so you managed to send people out and allow them back in again. So well done, I only was able to listen very quickly to some people having the chat, but it sounds like it went well, and I suppose what would like from you is to know if that's the sort of format that you would like us to do again in some form. So, when we're putting together a future events - would you like opportunities for these small breakout sessions? So again, we'll be guided by yourselves.
What we're gonna do now, very briefly, I'm going to talk about our next steps.  That's us as the project team and then Linda's going to talk through your possible next steps.  That's you as sort of colleagues in the field in terms of where you might go next.

So first of all, thanks to everyone for their active participation in those groups. I think one of the things that comes through loud and clear when I talk to people as part of the case studies as well as colleagues in the field, these are very much early days and I think, no one’s expecting quick fix solutions. No one is expecting a sort of Bank of resources to be developed straight away, but things are emerging, things are happening slowly and I suppose part of what we want to do now is collate a lot of the key points that have come through from this session so far into a document which we made reference to earlier on and that hopefully reflects all the work that's going on as well as some of the challenges faced and the solutions offered and Linda's got the unenviable task of collating all the information from today and into 1 Excel spreadsheet and then that will help us sort of start putting together some of those themes.  So as a way of capturing the good practice challenges faced and solutions offered and then that's going to provide us with a sort of a document that we can add to the key points that come through from the other CPD sessions and then that's something we can share with the field.

We're going through the RNIB CFVI website, so look out for that - we'll give more information about that. As we mentioned as well, we got one further training session on the CFVI this academic year that's on the 15th of May.  So you might want to make a note of that and further information is going to be sent after about that and again we haven't decided yet about that, but would be very interested in your ideas and your views about the focus and the structure of that last session for the year.

So do you feed that back to us? And in case you're not aware, you know we're very welcome to receive any inputs, comments, thoughts and we have a dedicated website.  So keep communicating with RNIB and view about training ideas and the link for that is cypf@rnib.org.uk We've had quite a lot of unsolicited feedback already from people just telling us how they're using the CFVI and the sort of experiences they've had of that, and that's been very useful, very valuable for us.  So again, please feel free to communicate and provide us with ideas, resources, things that you find working well or ways in which you've addressed particularly challenges.

And then finally, as we said, it's an ongoing project and we're working through to 2025.  We haven't decided on the focus of the training for the next academic year, but again, that's going to be based on feedback from the field. I suspect probably when it comes to the May session, will include a start in there to liaise with you about where you think the focus should be in terms of training for next year.  So we've got quite a lot to do now, so most of our job is gonna be collating and now putting together all the ideas, the resource that come through so far and then beginning to share that with you.  But what about your possible next steps?  Well, I'll hand over to Linda who will talk through some of the key points about that.

LJ: Yeah. OK. So we just need to move on to the next slide, I think. I don't think there's any going to be any great revelations here but certainly what I think when we were trying to do this training is give settings and services, perhaps a little idea of something that you can take from this, and perhaps use to raise awareness or use as an activity within a team. So I think you know, particularly as a QTVI, if I were in practice, I think I would probably take the activity about breaking down and into intervention to a team meeting.  So in that way you begin to gather what you do as a setting as a service and share resources, share ideas from within a team because sometimes people do things in slightly different way and it's nice to pool those things, but I think the important thing is keep the CFVI as an agenda item in meetings, in schools, settings, services.

As Mike said, anything that you want to share, please do send it through on to that CYPF email address, and particularly if you had documents that maybe you couldn't share today or you have shared, then do send those through to us.  We wouldn't share them in our summative document of good practice without your permission.  We wouldn't put them up onto something like Bookshare CFVI site without your permission, but it is nice to see what people are doing out there and I know from the case studies work that there is some very, very good documentation that captures what you're doing on CFVI.

The last two I just sort of tentatively suggest I'm very well aware of the constraints.  I'm very, very, very well aware of how life in services, in schools is very busy, but I would consider, if you don't if you're not already part of a regional, or perhaps even a national group that meets about vision impairment that you might consider just reaching out to neighbouring services, settings, schools, to create a local or regional group where you can get support not just on the CFVI actually, but on the world of VI in general. There are some very, very strong groups that I'm aware of in in different parts of the country, so I know they exist, I know they work and I know that what you reap from being part of that?  At what is the effort that you have to put in to create that?
So do consider it but I do realize there are a lot of people want might want to shoot me at that point because it's time and you might want to set up a group that perhaps reaches out to similar providers, doesn't necessarily have to be regionally, does it?  So if you're in a resource base in the South of England, you could reach out to resource base in another part of the country.  And I think that list of resource bases is probably held at Victa. Now I think that from recollection, that's the last place that I saw it.  Technology now allows us those connections.  What I feel I think as I'm QTVI and an ex service manager, is it can be quite an isolating profession and the more that we can get these links together and collaborate and talk, the less isolated it is and the less onus is just upon you to come up with those good ideas.  You can pool them if you have that sort of a grouping.  Can we move on to the next slide please?

Very, very quickly. I'm not gonna labour this point.  It's the end of every session that we do.  Here's where all the resources are.  There are the links to them, but actually by far the easiest thing to do and what I do is just put RNIB CFVI and it takes you up to our homepage and everything can be accessed from there. Bookshare CFVI site, the specialist resources stuff we've done in the past.  It's all there and it's being added to all the time.

Could we move on to the next slide, please?  Why do we keep hammering home about the history of this and also about the research that and sort of underlies it?  It's important that we are aware of it, it's important that we know it, because from that is where we gather the strength of this both as aprofession but also in terms of representing the CFVI in terms of policy at much higher levels, government level for example. If its not based in research, if there is not a lot of evidence and what you gave beedn discussing tonight is part of that evidence to. So if you ever want to remind yourself of how this thing came to be, its birth, that's a very good article to remind yourself and the next slide please.

If you ever need to reference the document, that's the reference. So as Mike says, I've got the task of looking at all of those Microsoft forms and and the sort of information that we're getting from that. It might seem onerous, I don't know how many breakout rooms we have there, but probably was it about 40 or 50 Caireen, something like that. OK. So 43 things to look at and to try and correlate and get my head around.
But do you know what I'm looking forward to it because it's so good to hear what people are doing in the field.  It's so nice to know where you're at, and it also gives us a direction moving forward.  So yes its onerous, I know it's gonna be time consuming. All of those things? None of us have enough time, but actually it's gonna be a lovely task for me and I think it's worthwhile will, umm, moving forward.
So I'm gonna hand back to Caireen and really good that you all came tonight and hopefully had a good discussion.

END