

Media and Information
Literacy Alliance

Seizing the Moment: Collaborating on UK Media & Information Literacy Policy

15 January 2026

Summary of event and next steps



AGENDA



- 2:00PM- 2:20PM *Welcome & setting the scene*
- 2:20PM- 3:10PM *Session 1: Overview of current policy developments*
- 3:10PM- 3:25PM *Speaker: Helen McStravick, Department for Education*
- 3:25PM- 3:45PM *Comfort break*
- 3:45PM- 5:05PM *Session 2: Shaping future collaboration*
- 5:05PM- 5:15PM *Speaker: Merinda Owusu, Infosys*
- 5:15PM- 6:30PM *Networking, canapés and drinks*



EVENT STATS

53 attendees

4 discussions in 3
different groupings

300 minutes of discussion
and networking



From amongst those who registered for the event, the following range of expertise and specialisms were represented:

Academia	11
Education	25
Libraries	6
Media	8
Miscellaneous	11
Public agency	6

Group A



Group C



Group D



Group E



Group B



Group G



Group H



Group F



Groups wrote out the different expertise represented in the room and decided how to group their ideas.



The most common groupings and expertise included...

EXPERTISE: COMMON GROUPINGS



RESEARCH

Children's online safety and digital literacy, MIL content and complexity, evaluation and impact of MIL, books and articles, theory and frameworks, mis and dis-information, media studies, literacy surveys, information literacy of computer gamers, MIL of older people, health literacy, smart phone bans, content creators and influencers, automated decision making, critical thinking, Tik Tok, submit evidence, ethics, publishing, journal writing,

POLICY AND CAMPAIGNS

Financial literacy policy, media literacy policy, national policy-making, advocacy of MIL, public affairs, government bodies, youth insights, stakeholder relationships, votes at 16, Ofcom consultation, thought leadership, platform accountability policy, AGGP on political and media literacy, AI governance policy, DFE, DSIT, open access

EDUCATION/TRAINING/ DELIVERY SCHOOL SUPPORT

Primary lessons, teacher training, ITT training, curriculum resource development, secondary lessons, Post-16 programmes, Media Literacy curriculums, resources for parents, school library support, adult essential skills ESOL, curriculum skills, senior leaders at schools/MATs, targeted and regional delivery, news for children and teens, CPD, media education, global programmes, college outreach programmes, at risk of exclusion and alternative provision, current affairs lessons, media studies, responsible AI guides, adult media literacy, subject specialisms across PSHE and Citizenship, news literacy, teacher confidence, higher education

REGULATIONS

Press regulations, legal protections, content and platform regulations.

CONVENING/NETWORKS

Chair of environment charity, library networks, MILA, cross-sector collaboration, school or teacher representatives, hyperlocal representations, school governors, youth groups, school and teacher networks, International networks, funding, media brands

OUTCOMES

Wellbeing, real-world connection, digital citizenship, global connections, digital inclusion, emerging threats, online safety, political literacy

RECENT POLICY: SWOT ANALYSIS



Groups conducted a SWOT (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats) analysis- reviewing recent policy developments in the MIL space including the Curriculum and Assessment review report and govt. response and the House of Lords' Media Literacy report.

Access the SWOT by copying and pasting this link into your browser:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1eWWvFaVSrZJqOyYPRFhfMeulg6qocpEQQuKuq5sILO/edit?usp=sharing>



Collaboration idea	Notes	votes
Directory	A visual online directory which makes alliance 'members' easy to find, including their expertise, research etc	29
Mapping exercise	This could be done at a conference and as part of the directory work	12
Funding	More joining-up across the space for bidding opportunities	12
Conference	Keeping focus on change/ solutions	13
Youth outreach	For example, youth advisory boards	5
Special interest groups	For example, communication specialists	4
More regular meets, blogs, pods, research presentations	For example, writing reports together like Demos does, presenting research and opinions on new policy	4
Women in MIL group		3
Public awareness campaigns		2
Accreditation	Kite mark for MIL activities	2
Awards		2
Membership model	Generally like the idea of formalising being part of the group, but not a paid-for model	1
International connections		1
A single MIL framework		1

COLLABORATION IDEAS

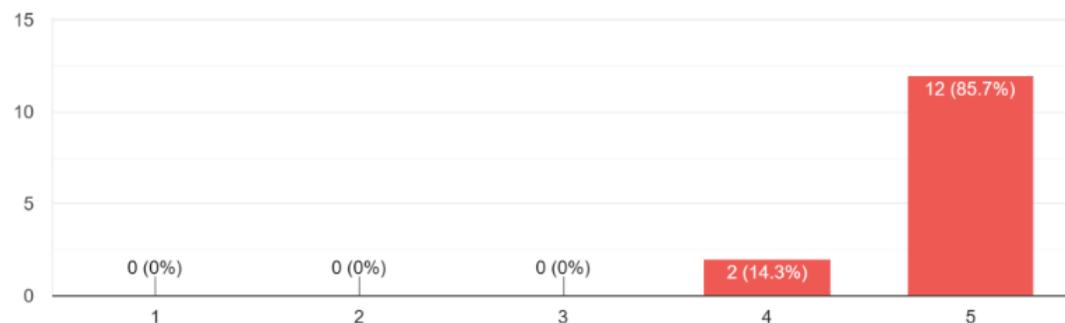
Groups thought through ways we could have collective impact and presented their favourite ideas for future collaboration. Everyone was then able to vote for the 2 ideas they would prioritise.

EVENT FEEDBACK



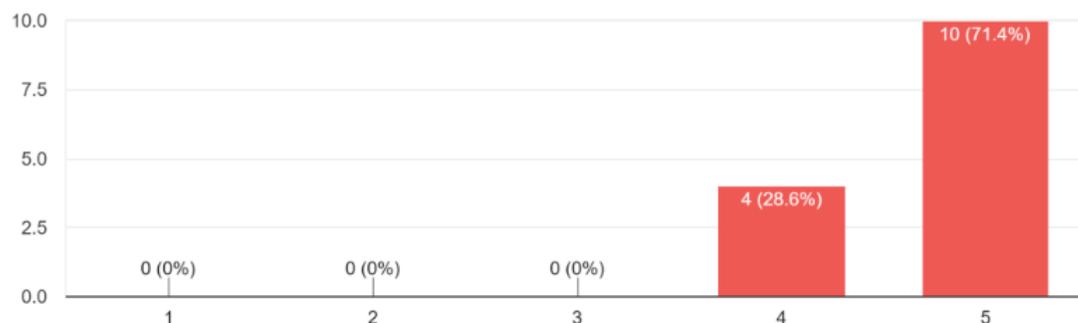
How satisfied were you with the event?

14 responses



How helpful do you think it was for collaboration across the media and information literacy space?

14 responses



Note: 1=not at all, 5=very much

Networking and Collaboration: Key takeaways included new/stronger relationships, excellent networking opportunities, making helpful connections, a sense of momentum, and shared enthusiasm for collaboration.

Policy and Discussion: Respondents highlighted the excellent discussion of current policy/curriculum developments and the opportunity to share and develop ideas about the wider Media and Information Literacy (MIL) landscape.

Shared Expertise and Insights: The event showcased a great amount of expertise and insights in the room, with lots of niche experience and expertise that can be drawn on.

Next Steps and Actions: Key takeaways included the need for more joined-up thinking, channels to speak directly to policymakers, awaiting the report/activities to progress collaboration, and the suggestion of a directory to facilitate idea sharing and testing.

Need for Clarity: One response noted the need to ensure there is no confusion when discussing 'young people' (as the definition varied between 18-25 year olds and teenagers).

Positive atmosphere and execution: Respondents praised the collaborative, welcoming vibe, excellent session convening, and that the event was well run with a great pace and venue. Lots of people noted thanks to Infosys.

Feedback on representation and network expansion: One comment highlighted the lack of representation from community organisations (like religious bodies) or stakeholders such as youth workers, and a lack of diversity, suggesting MILA should expand the network to include more demographics.

Speaker feedback: The presence of DfE was appreciated along with an openness for outreach, continued clarity would be valued.

NEXT STEPS



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|-----------------------|--|
| <i>January</i> | <i>Send summary of event to attendees</i> |
| <i>February</i> | <i>MILA board to discuss collaboration ideas</i> |
| <i>February/March</i> | <i>Write blogs about the event and discussions</i> |
| <i>February/March</i> | <i>Reach out to organisations and individuals interested in collaborations with a suggested plan of action</i> |