

# SIGBI President's July 2019 Blog



Hello everyone,  
I want to take this opportunity to bring you up to date with the work that is being done on Organisational Development and on the projects I lead.

First of all, School Clubs. I am pleased to say that we have 3 School Clubs in operation and a further 3 in the pipeline. In addition, there is a new development; we have had schools approaching us!

I believe that School Clubs offer us, as an organisation who work to educate, empower and enable, the opportunity to mentor and encourage these young people in service and action projects and, perhaps, through our friendship links, work on projects in other countries. The objective is to support young people to develop leadership, organisational and social skills through these projects.

Secondly, we have Campus Clubs. SI Plymouth is still working with Marjon University to establish a Club and I know of 3 other Clubs who are liaising with Colleges to explore the idea of setting up a Campus Club. This is a good time to emphasise that both Campus Clubs and School Clubs are open to all genders.

Now onto the working parties that I am involved in as lead:

## 1. The Mediation Policy

This policy was used for the first time last year when a formal grievance was made. Following this it was felt that the policy needed reviewed. In addition, it was decided that the Code of Conduct and the New Club Process would need to be reviewed to address some of the issues that the organisation faced. All of these Procedures have been completed and are going to the Board Meeting in July for approval.

## 2. SIGBI Website

The website has been one of the biggest sources of aggravation for members.

The working party has been in place since October 2018 and has made tremendous progress. A website company has been appointed, the creative design brief has been agreed, a contract is about to be signed and we are now progressing to mapping out the website journey. I will keep you informed as we move towards completion.

## 3. Growth Plan Phase 3



The main focus of this was to bring the development and training in house and have the training materials online to allow access by all members. [The materials are online](#). Some further development work needs to be done in the way of creating video instructions for those who did not attend the 2018 workshops and for those Regions/NA/Networks outside of the UK and Ireland where it was impossible to attend due to cost.

Membership is still declining. This makes the Growth Plan work tremendously important to our future. I encourage you all to use the materials online and contact me if you have any builds on how we attract and retain members.

I am off to Kuala Lumpur to the SI Convention. I am looking forward to the international experience of Soroptimism and getting ideas from and networking with our sisters from around the world.

In Friendship,  
Isobel Smith  
SIGBI President Elect and Director of Organisational Development