

Minutes of meeting held via Teams, Monday 19 October 2020 10am-1pm

Present:

Steve Drowley (Chair), Grant Poiner, Gill Price, Rachel Burton, Josh Klein, Tim Opie, David Algie, Lin Howells, Hannah Wilcox, Andy Borsden, Paul O'Neil, Donna Lemin, Hayden Llewellyn.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

Apologies:

Jo Sims, Dafydd Baker, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Catrin James, Emma Chivers, Shaun Watson.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

SD welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting. The usual agenda and meeting time had been reduced.

2. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

These were accepted as an accurate record.

3. MATTERS ARISING

AOB – TO noted that things are improving re strategic involvement. Together 4 Young People has asked for a YW rep for their neurodiversity strand. Also TO is mapping PYO membership of /representation on national groups and YW seems to have a better profile currently.

3.3 – Covid guidance for FE sector – this has now been produced and is on ETS website.

6.0 – QM – AB requested a copy of the Play Wales paper on quality assurance.

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

4.1 **Reopening Guidance** – DL thanked all those involved in drafting Welsh Govt guidance on reopening services and acknowledged it has been a terrible year for some YW organisations, particularly in the vol sector. YW has been able to deliver limited work but an announcement on a further lockdown is imminent.

4.2 **Interim YW Board / Strategy Participation Groups** – the strategy participation groups have restarted. A successful all-SPG meeting was held recently where it was agreed to revisit the activity and timings of the respective workplans and look at their inter-dependencies. IYWB is continuing to meet with a sharp focus on getting a draft report to the Minister by Christmas.

5. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

HL gave a presentation on latest registrant figures and other issues:

- Number of registrants has increased slightly
- New Good Practice guidance has been produced on being open and honest as an education professional
- Educators Wales site, due to launch in Feb 2021, has been delayed
- 197 YWs are registered for the Personal Learning Passport and discussions are ongoing with HEIs for access for trainees

- Issue about HEIs admitting individuals with spent convictions (as often make good youth workers) and any potential conflict when later registering with EWC. HL suggested HEIs speak to Liz Brimble for advice on a case-by-case basis
- TO has submitted a response to Welsh Govt consultation on Interim Suspension Orders for EWC and SD will provide one from ETS
- The workforce mapping proposals in the WDPG workplan are still to be resolved in terms of Welsh Govt funding. **Action: HL, SD and LR will meet to revisit the specification and liaise with Welsh Govt.**
- DL reported that officials are still pressing to resolve ongoing issues about registration identified by EWC and the sector but legislative time is currently taken by Covid pressures.

6. QUALITY MARK

AB provided a detailed update on progress. This included:

- details of new and renewal assessments
- assessor recruitment, and training for existing and new assessors
- marketing initiatives, including a website, videos on the assessment experience, presentation on an introduction to the QM for trustees and managers and a young-people-friendly version
- report for Welsh Govt drafted, including how the QM could be developed in future and how it can meet the needs of a diverse sector

Discussion followed the presentation where positive views were shared on how this work was being taken forward. DL noted that it was good to see some of the earlier concerns being addressed and that it is important that they can report to the Minister that the QM is valuable and worthy of support.

7. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (WDPG) UPDATE

7.1 **WDPG** - As per item 4.2, the WDPG held its meeting in Sept and agreed that the content of the workplan remained relevant with timescales adjusted to show what can be achieved in time for the IYWB's interim report, final report and in the longer term. The following points were raised:

- AB noted that CWVYS colleagues are frustrated by the lack of progress on apprenticeships
- DL reported that funding for next year is not finalised so any funding for commitments in the plan for this year should be requested now
- TO raised the issue that the workplan could be perceived as narrow rather than encompass the whole sector but this was not the intention so will need to be addressed.

7.2 **Leadership and Management Programme** – SD provided an update. The programme has been refreshed by the consultant Kevin Ford and the steering group is now looking at ways to deliver the programme in 2021, including sources of funding. Blended learning approaches are being considered with online learning currently having to replace face-to-face sessions, though all acknowledged this is not as desirable or successful. SD is meeting with NAEL to consider if they can endorse the programme. GrP noted that many individuals find themselves in managerial positions with little or no preparation - 10 voluntary sector staff are currently taking the CLORE social leadership programme and finding it very useful.

8. YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER QUALIFICATIONS UPDATE

8.1 Apprenticeships – the youth work framework needs to be updated and the new Level 2 & 3 qualifications included

- 8.2 Progression from old L2 Award to the new L2 or L3 Certificate - discussion was held on this. JK reported that for him it was a simple conversation with individuals to check knowledge and competencies are up to date and with a 95% match this just needs to be signed off by Internal Quality Assurer. However, RB reported this is not a simple process for them as they have so many learners all over Wales so cannot be done on an individual basis. Further guidance would be welcomed.
- 8.3 Covid guidance for FE sector – confirmation is needed that the guidance from March 2020 is still acceptable for 2020-21 academic year. **Action: LR will arrange a meeting with DB, RB, JK and SD to finalise.**

9. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 10.1 **USW BA programme** – further to the conditions set, USW has been proactive in keeping ETS informed of developments to ensure sufficient staff resources. They will be recruiting a JNC qualified manager before December.
- 10.2 **Trinity Saint David – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – evidence in response to the panel's conditions has been provided by TSD and is currently being assessed.

10. JOINT ETS

SD reported that a productive meeting of JETS had been held recently which: updated the Mutual Recognition paper (important for transportability of qualifications); finalised joint validation/endorsement guidelines (for HEIs covering more than one country); discussed challenges caused by COVID, where placement availability and recruitment to programmes were more positive than expected.

11. JNC UPDATE

DA reported the following:

- a new pay agreement has been reached. This includes a pay increase of 2.75% across all points and the removal of pay points 3 & 4 meaning that salaries start from £19k which is above the minimum wage and minimum income guarantee;
- joint discussion is ongoing regarding workload, job security and definition of evening sessions;
- work around race and gender pay gaps will be undertaken via a joint workforce survey before end of 2020;
- there will be a joint review of violence against employees in the sector;
- next JNC meeting is on 4 Nov 2020.

Po'N noted that although wider LA sector pay increase was 2.75%, teachers' pay increase is 3.75% despite youth workers proving their worth in schools.

12. AOB

There was insufficient time for sector updates so SD requested bullet points from organisations, these could then be circulated.

13. Date of next meeting – 10th February 2021 via Teams (10am-1pm)