

Minutes of meeting held via Teams, Weds 10 February 2021 10am-1pm

Present:

Steve Drowley (Chair), Catrin James, Emma Chivers, Gill Price, Rachel Burton, Josh Klein, Tim Opie, Andy Borsden, Hayden Llewellyn, Kerry Jenkins.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

Apologies:

Lin Howells, Paul O'Neil, Hannah Wilcox, Donna Lemin, David Algie, Grant Poiner, Jo Sims, Dafydd Baker, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Shaun Watson.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

SD welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting, particularly Kerry Jenkins from Unite who was attending for the JNC Staff Side. The usual agenda and meeting time had been reduced and some items re-ordered for individuals leaving early.

2. NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

These were accepted as an accurate record.

5.0 – Interim Suspension Orders – 70 consultation responses were submitted to Welsh Govt.

7.1 – Mapping the workforce – the specification for research has been revisited but no decision yet on Welsh Govt funding.

10.0 – Joint ETS – next meeting is on 9 March with Wales hosting.

3. UPDATE ON HE & FE SECTOR ENGAGEMENT RE COVID-19 GUIDANCE

SD provided an update. Several meetings had been held with TAG Cymru programme leaders / placement managers over previous months. ETS guidance had been updated (available on website) and a joint letter of support to students produced. Hopefully by semester 3 there will be more opportunities for wider practice opportunities. Although many students have managed to complete their required hours via digital or other means, the picture remains mixed and lecturers are having to deal with student completion on a case-by-case basis using their systems of mitigation. HL reported that teacher training hours had been similarly affected.

Apprenticeships – this item was raised here as it was missed from the agenda.

LR said the lack of progress in updating the Youth Work Apprenticeship Framework to include the new L2/3 qualifications was still ongoing, despite pressure from Qualifications Wales. CJ raised concerns about the lack of infrastructure to grow the apprenticeship programme, namely the lack of qualified IQAs (internal quality assurance staff) and Welsh speakers. As this is fundamental to workforce development, it was agreed to set up a sub group. **Action:** LR to convene meeting to discuss youth work apprenticeships in liaison with WDPG group (18 Mar)

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

DL was unable to attend but had sent the following update:

- Please submit comments / feedback on the Wavehill or IYWBoard reports to the youthworkboard@gov.wales mailbox rather than directly to individuals
- Very pleased with the turn out for the all SPG meeting on 4th Feb, there were some really good discussions and lots for Welsh Govt to take away and consider further

- Following on from the SPG meeting Welsh Govt will be doing a final update and publication of all the SPG plans, to tie this in with the Board and other recommendations so clear links can be seen between the SPG work and that of the Board. This will be really important to help Welsh Govt respond to the Board's final recommendations, and in helping to provide a new Government and new Minister with a clear understanding of what is being suggested.
- Really pleased that 4 Quality Mark Awards have been issued recently, the refresh is going well in readiness for the launch in April.

5. DISCUSSION ON IMPLICATIONS OF IYWB & WAVEHILL REPORTS

In response to the IYWB and Wavehill reports SD had drafted a paper which had been circulated to group previously. SD went through the main points, which identified implications for ETS and invited comments. Discussion included:

- The need to link with PYO and CWVYS responses
- How a new 'national body' might affect existing organisations and how ETS as a distinct entity can retain its functions on behalf of JNC
- Will funding be provided for cover to release individuals, especially for the vol sector and where there are staff shortages
- Importance of not duplicating effort, especially between ETS and WDPG work
- How to get existing employees qualified and what funding is available for this
- Safeguarding remains an issue where many individuals are not registered with EWC
- How research can be used to bolster the case for traditional youth work (group work, social space, outdoor work)
- Youth information wider than just a digital offer and any youthcard is a much more complex piece of work as it crosses policy boundaries
- Importance of not losing functions of existing structures going forward, however these are delivered.

Action: All to send any additional comments by Fri 19 Feb

6. QUALITY MARK

AB shared a presentation and provided a detailed update on progress. This included:

- Report on progress and recommendations submitted to Welsh Govt which has been accepted by Minister
- Revisions to documentation and standards/indicators to be published by Easter
- Numbers involved in process, with an increased interest in the QM of 53%

HL wished to publicly record his thanks to AB and said he is very pleased with progress made.

Action: LR to forwards AB's papers and presentation on Quality Mark to group.

7. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

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

- National Workforce Survey of registrant sectors first conducted in 2016 is being repeated and will include youth work for the first time. The questions have been devised with the sector. KJ will raise the JNC survey with the Employers Side to ensure there is no duplication
- Educators Wales site, due to launch in Feb 2021, has been delayed as filming of practice is not possible at this time
- Personal Learning Passport CMU and USW are piloting access for trainees
- Over 1000 attended the recent 'Professionally Speaking' annual lecture. The next event will be in April with Carol Campbell on education leadership

8. WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (WDPG) UPDATE

- 7.1 **WDPG** – The group has met a number of times recently and updated its workplan. SD went through this, pointing out key areas:
- Producing an overall Workforce Development Plan is now a key aim
 - The final area has been updated to clarify that marketing is specifically about workforce and career development, to avoid duplication with the marketing group which looks at wider youth work issues
 - TO suggested that a rep from the Education Recruitment Forum would be able to contribute. **Action: TO to nominate individual to sit on WDPG recruitment sub-group (James Healan has since agreed to this)**
- 7.2 **Leadership and Management Programme** – SD provided a brief update on progress.

9. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 10.1 **USW BA programme** – preparations for the endorsement panel visit in summer are ongoing. **Action: LR to liaise with PO'N re panel members**
- 10.2 **Trinity Saint David – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – one final piece of evidence is required before sign-off. **Action: LR/EC to follow up.**
- 10.3 **Cardiff Metropolitan University – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – 1-year extension to programmes. **Action: LR to ask for volunteer to chair Cardiff Met extension verification**
- 10.4 **Agored Cymru** - Progression from old L2 Award to the new L2 or L3 Certificate (despite a 95% match) still needs a process to confirm for ALW as they have so many students. **Action: LR to check process with DP**

10. JNC UPDATE

DA was not present but had provided an update covering: pay negotiations; the need to update the Memorandum of Understanding with the NYA and ETS Wales; the forthcoming workforce survey; and, working patterns.

KJ confirmed that a joint Circular is being drafted covering workload and proposing a maximum of 8 sessions a fortnight. Also, evidence is being sought from Staff Side on the effect of violence against face-to-face workers, joint guidance will then be produced for employers.

11. AOB

- 11.1 TO mentioned a [report by Luke Sibieta](#) re pupils falling behind due to missed schooling during Covid and seeking 'radical' solutions to help them catch up. TO has drafted a response with support of the sector on how more use could be made of youth & community provision.
- 11.2 ETS Committee Membership – this needs to be revisited in light of staff changes and to ensure vacancies are filled. **Actions: Add to agenda for next meeting. GP to seek TAG member to replace EC.**
- 11.3 JK asked about routine Covid testing of youth workers as per teachers, as they are included as critical workers, and whether this would include students on placement.

12. Date of next meeting – 19th May 2021 via Teams (10am-1pm)