

Minutes of meeting held via Teams, Tues 8 Feb 2022 10am-1pm

Present:

Steve Drowley (Chair), Tim Opie, David Algie, Catrin James, Grant Poiner, Andy Borsden, Darrel Williams, Donna Robins, Gill Price, Rachel Burton, Hayden Llewellyn, Paul O'Neil, Dave Rees, Mark Isherwood.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

Apologies:

Hannah Wilcox, Daf Baker, Jo Sims, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Emma Chivers, Josh Klein.

3 WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

SD welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting, especially Darrel from University of Wales Trinity Saint David and the new TAG rep.

4 NOTES FROM PREVIOUS MEETING & MATTERS ARISING

These were accepted as an accurate record. Most actions had been achieved.

5 WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE (IYW Board / Strategy Participation Groups / Other)

DRO provided an update:

- The Minister had met with IYWB members on 31 Jan. Keith Towler, Chair of IYWB, had written to the Minister in a personal capacity saying he would have liked the Minister to have gone further in his response to the IYWB Report. The Minister provided assurance that he is totally committed to the recommendations as evidenced by the provision of £11.4m new funding. Work has started on all recommendations, with five prioritised immediately. The advert for the Chair of the new Implementation YW Board has gone out using the Public Appointments process. The new Chair will support the appointment of additional members and the young people's committee will also be involved.
- Lots of actions from the Workforce SPG are being progressed, such as the route for training and using Educators Wales for recruitment. SD asked if WDPG should now be focussing on drafting a workforce development plan – DRO supported this.

6 ETS WORKPLAN / MEMBERSHIP

Workplan – SD was delighted that Welsh Govt have confirmed a 3-year funding round and a workplan has been developed around that. LR shared the main objectives and a copy will be available on the ETS website once the final grant letter has been issued.

Membership – this has been confirmed and an [updated list](#) is on the ETS website. There remain two unfilled places for wider field representatives and it was agreed that these should be filled by increasing diversity. A short discussion took place on how young people could be involved and ideas included establishing a special 'focus group' or working with the Young People's Committee. If the latter, then a brief would need to be provided along with the purpose of the discussion and outcomes desired.

Action: SD LR/SD to follow up appointment to the two 'wider representative' unfilled places, with particular focus on increasing diversity

7 JNC UPDATE

- DA reported that the JNC Employers' Side pay offer of a 1.75% increase for 2021 has been rejected by the Staff Side. Some of the unions have balloted on industrial action and others intend to. The pay offer is aligned to wider local government negotiations (Green Book) and the claim for 2022 is due shortly but discussions are at a standstill currently.
- The JNC has recently approved the Level 6 Youth Work Apprenticeship in England.
- DRe had to leave the meeting so no report was available from the Staff Side.

A wider discussion was held on apprenticeships and the need for a range of vocational and academic training options in Wales in light of recruitment/retention issues. Currently, higher level apprenticeships for youth work are not viable in Wales but HE distance-learning, franchise arrangements and part time training options need to be explored. Also there are no longer any discrete local authority training funds.

8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY / COVID GUIDANCE

LR raised the issue that USW academically validates its programmes for six years while ETS endorsement covers five years. After discussion it was **agreed that ETS retain its five-year period and offer a one-year extension at the end of that period.**

- 6.1 **Cardiff Metropolitan University – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – A panel chair is sought for the full endorsement event in summer 2022 plus panel members – LR asked volunteers to contact her.
- 6.2 **USW PgDip/MA programme** – a one-year extension is sought to match their six-year academic validation period. LR to liaise with PO'N as previous chair.
- 6.3 **Trinity Saint David – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – nothing to add.
- 6.4 **Wrexham Glyndwr – BA programme** - a one-year extension is sought with the intention to then bring forward endorsement of their PgDip/MA programme so that full endorsements of both will be completed in 2023. LR to liaise with JS as previous chair.
- 6.5 **Agored Cymru** – As discussed previously, the old Award is valid for progression for 5 years (with continuous practice) and 3 years (without practice), RB confirmed that this had been communicated to employers. A one-year extension may be sought from Agored Cymru.
LR confirmed a meeting held between RB and DB on how best to clarify the L2/L3 qualifications and progression as there was still some confusion across sectors, particularly at managerial level – FAQs and a brief overview to be produced.

9 WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SPG

- 9.1 **Training Infrastructure** – Further to previous discussion, RB, DB and LR met to discuss training of tutors and quality assurers (IQA) for the L2/L3 qualification and RB has submitted a funding proposal to DRo for this work. Two units are covered and take two years to complete so there is no quick fix for the bottleneck identified but the IQA qualification is of use to workers in a range of wider roles.
The difficulty of recruiting those with suitable qualifications to deliver and assess training through the medium of Welsh continues to be an issue. SD proposed a meeting be convened to explore creative, specific and short-term amendments to the Assessment Strategy relating to Tutor/Assessor/IQA requirements. **Agreed.**
Action: LR to convene meeting of SD, RB, DB, JK, CJ to look at wording within the Level 2/3
- 9.2 **Mapping** – SD gave an update saying the report had been amended and resubmitted following initial comments from Welsh Govt but there was no indication of when the information could be made public and what caveats should be included.
Approximately 100 responses have been received from across 270 LA, Vol and wider sectors. Discussion took place about the complexity and diversity of the sector, which makes its measurement an inexact science. Links to the research conducted by CWVYS were discussed.

- 9.3 **Leadership & Management** – SD reported that a good balance of individuals across the LA and Vol sectors took part in the first two modules held in October and November 2021. The final module has been postponed until 3/4 March and evaluation will then take place. As a pilot project there are things to fine tune and not all will want to proceed to a formal ILM qualification but this was a positive development for the sector and a huge achievement in bringing this to fruition. Funding for future courses is being discussed.

10 EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

HL gave an update:

- AB is very busy as progress on the Quality Mark continues with expressions of interest from 21 orgs, training events, assessor recruitment and online resources. SD mentioned that this is the last year of the tender so discussions with Welsh Govt will be needed on future delivery
 - EWC Registration numbers were circulated and members asked to check for and report any anomalies
 - Positive work with Welsh Govt officials has taken place on formal consultation to amend gaps in registration – due out in spring
 - EWC events include a session on adolescent brain development with Ronald Dahl (via TO) on 27 April
 - Educators Wales – please make use of the site to advertise job vacancies and events
 - EWC has an endorsement role for ITE and is about to start monitoring programmes.
- TO asked if workers from 3rd sector organisations used for school enrichment need to be registered. Yes if within school core hours and regular and ongoing (as LSOs), No if outside core hours. Further guidance is available from Liz Brimble.

11 PHD RESEARCH GROUP

DW gave an update saying there is a growing number of active researchers at Levels 7 & 8. It is important to grow the data and research available for and of the sector and young people. DW and John Rose are planning a blended meeting at UWTSO campus to discuss what can be learned from existing pieces of research, how can this be shared/published, how can it inform the sector in a practical way, issues and ideas for research, what is youth work's position on central issues, how do we grow capacity. Discussion covered how often research has been instigated by Welsh Govt with no reference point, how direction could be given to under/post-graduate students on dissertation topics, and how better use could be made of ESRC (Economic Social Research Council) funding. DW will update on progress.

12 AOB

- 12.1 PO'N suggested we invite Gareth Kiff, Estyn, to the next meeting to provide an update on the pilot inspections they have conducted recently on a number of Youth Services. Lin is already on group so may be able to do this. **Action: LR to follow up.**
- 12.2 TO noted that adverts for Estyn inspectors still require QTS status when YW qualifications should be held for those completing YW inspections. **Action: TO to send details to SD and contact details of who to write to.**
- 12.3 TO noted PYOs have collected evidence relating to shortfalls in EU replacement funds for young people NEET / Youth Employment & Engagement projects. **Action: TO to provide SD with details.**
- 12.4 CJ reported that the 'Stepping Stones to Youth Work' qualification has been revamped and details can be presented at the next meeting. **Action: LR to add agenda item to May ETS meeting.**

13 **Date of next meeting** – 4 May 2022. Oct 2022 & Feb 2023 dates tbc