

**Minutes of meeting held at the
YHA Cardiff on 18 Oct 2017
10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Emma Chivers, Catrin James, Dafydd Baker, David Algie, Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe, Grant Poiner, Paul O'Neil, Ceri Ormond, Steve Drowley, Tim Opie, Rachel Burton, Josh Klein, Hayden Llewellyn.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary)

Apologies:

Jo Sims, Cathie Robins-Talbot, Gill Price, Donna Lemin, Ann Smith, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly David Algie and Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe representing JNC. The change of venue to Cardiff YHA was an attempt to attract more attendees and save on travel costs - most were happy with the change but it will be kept under review to ensure members from north Wales are not disadvantaged.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

3. MATTERS ARISING (which are not included on the Agenda)

Actions 4.2/4.3: GN had drafted and submitted ETS responses to Extending Entitlement and National Youth Service Strategy reviews;

Action 5.1: EWC had been invited to nominate an observer to sit on ETS and we were pleased to welcome Hayden Llewellyn to the Committee;

Action 5.3: Only named bodies can nominate for the EWC Board vacancy – WLGA and Unison are the organisations closest to youth work.

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 Extending Entitlement Review – GN & TO gave an update and confirmed that Margaret Jervis of Valleys Kids was carrying out a review of EE policy rather than the Directions and Guidance document. There will be a debate on the review in Plenary in spring 2018 which should inform further developments. There is a sense that the Youth Work Strategy is delayed until the EE review is finalised.

4.2 Youth Work Reference Group – Meeting of the YWRG had been held and had proved more positive and strategic with a new set of WG officials. It is anticipated that the Youth Support Services Board will be set up in spring 2018 and the advert for Chair is imminent. Evaluations of all youth work funding streams have taken place but reports not yet published. Youth work sufficiency assessments could be published by autumn 2018 and the Youth Work Charter by autumn 2019. Sufficiency assessments are normally rooted in legislation but this is not the case for youth work, especially as the EE Directions and Guidance are not being reviewed.

4.3 GN confirmed that he had informed WG of the views of ETS members about the question of ETS involvement in the moderation of the Quality Mark work. Views were varied and included: supportive if sufficient resources are made available; possibility of conflict of interest as some ETS members are QM assessors; and that the current contract holders should carry out this function as part of their contract. GN has not yet had a response from WG.

Action: LR to circulate current list of relevant Welsh Govt officials

4.4 Audit of Local Authority Youth Service – The 2016-17 audit will be published at end of October. Data is collected in May so any potential changes to the data gathered would need to fit these timings. There is also potential to link workforce data held by EWC, although it is recognised that this would give only a partial picture.

Action: Keep on agenda for future reference

4.5 Other – Parliamentary Committee on Youth Violence - SD reported that he had attended the first meeting of this committee on behalf of UK TAG, and thanked ETS members (TO in particular) for providing background information. The cross-party Commission is looking at the root causes of youth violence in England, Wales and Scotland and wanted to explore the impact of ongoing cuts to youth services. It's at an early stage so SD believes the focus of the Commission will become more strategic and also better identify who should be involved as there were key organisations (such as NYA) missing from the first meeting. The Commission runs until 2019 and there will be events held for the wider involvement of the Youth Service.

Action: SD to keep group up to date with progress.

5. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

5.1 GN noted that EWC would be kept as a standing agenda item and that EWC staff's willingness to engage with the sector was very much appreciated. EWC holds regular meetings with youth work lead bodies, which were proving useful.

5.2 HL was pleased to be invited. He circulated a table listing the number of registrants across the local authority and voluntary organisations, which now total over 1,000 individuals. There have been some teething problems and clarification of particular qualifications is ongoing with some local authorities. HL thanked ETS for help with confirming some of these cases. He noted that not all expected voluntary organisations have yet registered their workers and that some follow up is needed to ensure legal requirements are met.

5.3 HL stressed that the sector should ensure that they get the full benefits of registration and said the EWC welcomed approaches about this, particularly in light of the services available to other registered sectors.

5.4 There was a short debate about some of the issues and anomalies that have come to light in these early stages. These include, certain valid qualifications not included in the legislation EWC strictly has to abide by; options for trainees to register; youth workers employed in other sectors not included; no distinction of Assistant Youth Support Workers. HL confirmed that WG is very unlikely to make any changes to legislation for some years. However, as these issues are affecting the sector, the following action was agreed (this had also been identified at the EWC meeting with youth work leads).

Action: ETS and EWC to identify a list of issues that have come to light since the registration of youth workers and to take to Welsh Govt officials for further discussion.

6 APPLIED ROUTES TO QUALIFICATION

A sub-group had been set up and met on 2 Oct. Discussion covered the following points:

- Youth work as a profession is well placed in comparison with some related occupations as it has a range of appropriate structures and key documents - many of these have been instigated and developed by the sector itself over the years rather than provided by government;
- Therefore, where possible, the sector should be confident in developing further the things it needs rather than waiting for instruction from WG;
- Level of CPD that is available to teachers is not equivalent for youth workers - EWC has pressed WG for parity among the family of sectors that are now registered with them;
- It is recognised that the quality of leadership has a direct influence on the quality of learning in schools so leadership training is important. There needs to be parallel recognition and provision for LA and Vol sectors for youth work;
- Training grant spend which used to be clearly defined has gone from £1.9m in 2002 to £227k in 2016 (now part of wider Youth Service grant);

- Two main issues of concern:
 - CPD framework for all staff and qualification levels
 - Ease of progression especially from Level 3 to Level 6
- The latter is seen as too big a jump from L3 to L6, especially for voluntary sector workers. However, this may not be necessary as many workers are graduates who could take the one-year L7 programme instead;
- Although Joint ETS acts as the Sector Specialist Body, there is no funding for research on Labour Market Intelligence or the development of a Sector Qualifications Strategy. However, EWC may be able to offer some resource to carry out research.
Action: LR to write up notes and circulate.

7 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18

- 7.1 **Chair's Report** - GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: attending meetings of the YW Reference Group; regular meetings with LR; a range of sector meetings over the summer; Joint ETS meeting, and attending events for CWVYS 70th celebrations. GN also drafted a number of responses to consultations.
- 7.2 **ETS Chair Appraisal Process** – JS is the PYO appraiser nomination along with GP for CWVYS and LR. GN has completed the appraisal form for their comment and the group is hoping to meet shortly. LR noted that the Chair's second term is due to end in August 2018 and that we need to think about a future replacement. However, ETS currently has a 4-year grant tied to the life of the Youth Work Strategy and this ends in March 2018 so there is uncertainty about future funding terms as the Strategy will not be published before summer 2018.
Action: LR to add to agenda for Feb 2018 meeting.
- 7.3 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – the last meeting of the Awarding Organisations group for Wales and England agreed to extend the current L2 & L3 qualifications by two years, to Feb 2020. A framework for guidelines for the endorsement of these qualifications has been drafted but further work is needed. DB offered to share a sample memorandum of understanding used by Agored that could inform the Guidelines.
Action: DB to send sample memorandum to LR.
- 7.4 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – SD and LR had met twice to discuss amendments to the Guidelines. Some were minor changes to terminology but some sections, particularly on policy, need to be rewritten. Changes to Section 3 'Criteria and Evidence' were presented to the group and discussed. The main issue focussed on the requirement for a block placement of 30 hours per week. This is not always achievable as some projects are not open full-time. The issue is more about the student being immersed in the life of the project rather than just dipping in and out so LR & SD will reword this to better reflect the requirement.
Action: LR & SD to reword and send out Section 3 for further comment.

8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 8.1 **Glyndŵr – BA(Hons)** – JS as panel chair was not present but the panel event took place in June and the programme was endorsed with conditions, which LR outlined. The endorsement period for the PgDip programme expires in October 2018 but Glyndwr may suspend this programme. **Action: LR to follow up with Glyndwr as endorsement process should have now started.**
- 8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 8.3 **USW MA/PgDip** – PO'N reported that the panel event took place in July and that the programme was endorsed with conditions, which he outlined. The main condition was to make the PgDip an explicit exit point.
- 8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 8.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report.
- 8.6 **Agored Cymru & ABC Awards** – NYA/ETS/AO group had agreed to extend life of current L2 & L3 qualifications by 2 years to early 2020.

8.7 It was agreed to remove Community Development from the endorsement agenda.

9 JNC UPDATE

9.1 DA reported that the Employers' Side committee had been renewed and that Cllr Poole from Caerphilly was now representing Wales. The new Employers' Side Chair is also the Chair of the Children and Young People LGA Board so this may bring a higher profile. The Employer's side will discuss details of their survey into use of JNC Pink Book or NJC Green Book T&Cs along with the use of the JNC qualifications framework prior to discussion with the Staff Side and the issuing of a joint statement. The move away from JNC T&Cs has slowed somewhat. A pay claim from the Staff Side is expected in 2018 as the current two year agreement ends in Sept 2018 and a joint meeting is due to be held - CJ asked if future JNC meetings could include video-conferencing or reimbursement for travel costs as these are so high. LGA and the NYA are holding a joint conference in Dec on the role of councils in youth work/youth service provision (TO is attending).

9.2 CJ-T gave an update on unions' pay negotiations which cover the wider public sector. Pay rises are sought which are paid for by Govt rather than via cuts to other services but the public sector pay cap remains and affects all services. CJ-T restated that the Staff Side remains against any moves away from JNC T&Cs and felt that the position in general was more secure in Wales, partly because of Welsh Govt policies and the move to register youth workers. Concerns around de-professionalisation continue, with some evidence of workers holding L3 qualifications expected to carry out the work of professionally qualified workers. CJ-T reported that Unite had launched a report at the Labour Party Conference in Sept which called for a range of measures to support youth work. The inclusion of Wales representatives on the Staff Side was queried and needs to be explored further.

Action: DA to circulate details of joint LGA/NYA conference to be held in Dec;

Action: DA to check with LGA re possibility of travel expenses for voluntary sector attendees at JNC meetings;

Action: CJ-T to circulate details of Unite report launched recently at Labour Party Conference

10 JOINT ETS / SECTOR SKILLS SPECIALIST BODY UPDATE

10.1 A JETS meeting took place on 13 Oct in Leeds attended by ETS reps from Wales, England, Scotland and (Republic of) Ireland. Northern Ireland was not represented. Ireland's Dept for Children and Youth Affairs will now fund the role of adviser/secretary to NSETS - this was previously done by Youth Council for Northern Ireland but cannot continue after YCNI was taken into a government department.

10.2 Discussion included: updating the JETS Terms of Reference; marketing the role of JETS and youth work in general; an offer by CLD Scotland to act as JETS secretariat; and, the lack of progress on the NOS review given they should be owned by the field. CLD Scotland reported there was insufficient capacity for organisations to take on the whole family of NOS therefore the future of the Youth Work NOS is unknown.

10.3 CLD Scotland also reported that discussions are underway to change the GTC Scotland into an Education Workforce Council and that CLD Scotland will be included in the merger. There are some fears about this process, which could take 3-4years to complete.

Action: LR to follow up Skills Development Scotland decisions on NOS tendering process. LR to circulate link re. CLD Scotland and EWC development.

**<http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/CLDSCPositionStatement.pdf>
<http://cldstandardscouncil.org.uk/>**

11 SECTOR FEEDBACK

11.1 **Colegau Cymru** – RB reported that Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales currently has 120 learners taking the Youth Work Practice Award and that all HEIs with

youth work programmes are hosting courses. They are also taking learners from England.

- 11.2 **CWVYS** – CWVYS and voluntary sector organisations are involved in all major initiatives; members are being encouraged to apply for the QM; regional meetings are about to be held and these are very well attended; a full refresh of the Stepping Stones training course is being undertaken; NVYO grant applications are due to be submitted in November; voluntary sector involvement in joint planning for LA training grant element needs to be strengthened in future.
- 11.3 **TAG Cymru** – SD reported that recruitment to programmes appears to be doing well - this may be due to the decline of programmes in England - but there are staffing challenges in some institutions. TAGPALYCW (the UK and Ireland group of youth work universities) is holding its annual conference at Glyndwr next year and a number of regional policy & practice seminars are being held, including at UWTSD and USW.
- 11.4 **Local authority** – TO reported that various speakers had attended or would be attending PYOG, covering: Home Office Prevent programme; Children’s Commissioner; and how ALN Bill might affect the sector. The latter covers young people up to 25 years so schools will not be able to meet the needs of those over 18. Welsh Govt should be making a decision on the Youth Work Strategy Grant at end Oct. The review of partnership working between the LA and Vol sectors by Tom Wylie has not yet been published. TO will be attending the LGA/NYA conference in December and delivering a workshop on policy in Wales.
- 11.5 **FAB Wales** – covered under previous discussions at 7.3/8.6.
- 11.6 **Play Wales** – **MG and MKS** had sent apologies.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Welsh Govt. EOTAS Conference is taking place on 1 Dec in Metropole Hotel.

13 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 7 Feb 2018
Weds 16 May 2018
Weds 17 Oct 2018