

**Minutes of meeting held at  
YHA Cardiff on 17 October 2018  
10.30am**

**Present:**

Gareth Newton (Chair), Paul O'Neil, Steve Drowley, Tim Opie, Jo Sims, Dafydd Baker, Josh Klein, Hayden Llewellyn.

**In attendance:**

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

**Apologies:**

Catrin James, Grant Poiner, Cathie Robins-Talbot, Gill Price, Emma Chivers, Donna Lemin, Rachel Burton, Ged Kerslake, David Algie, Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway.

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS**

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**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)**

None

**4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS**

**4.1 Youth Work Reference Group / Interim Board** - the Interim Youth Work Board is being established with Keith Towler, the Chair, working with Welsh Govt to appoint members. There are high expectations of the Board but these must be matched against what is reasonable given their time/resource capacity. The YWRG may become a Stakeholder Group to support the Interim Board but the functions and relationship between the two groups are not yet known. GN reported that he had drafted a workforce development plan towards the development of the new National Youth Work Strategy for the YWRG but nothing further has been heard so far nor any decision. This needs clarification as it would have implications for the work of ETS.

The Marketing group has fresh impetus and is attempting to keep youth work on the agenda throughout the year. Jo Branders, a marketing specialist is now in the youth work team which helps. Welsh Govt will lead on the National Conference on 20 Feb in north Wales, Youth Work Week and the Excellence Awards process and ceremony.

**Action: GN to write to Welsh Govt (DL) about the draft Workforce Development Plan and how proposed actions in this may affect the work programme of ETS Wales**

**4.2 Estyn Report** – this was generally welcomed. Paragraphs 88-91 relating to training contained positive findings but members felt that some of the comments warranted a response from ETS. For example, concerns on whether training was fit for purpose and about expecting youth workers to deal with young people with complex needs. Members felt it is not reasonable to expect

initial qualifying training to cover this as it is more of a CPD issue. Also, youth workers cannot substitute for trained specialists. The issue of ALN reforms, including statutory requirements for up to age 25 will impact youth workers. There is an 'ALN readiness' toolkit but there is no strategic approach for the youth service.

GN mentioned the small proportion of the youth work revenue grant that is spent on training. In some cases it has been reduced to plug gaps in other spending but for some LAs their staff are already qualified to required levels (this is not the case in all LAs where some have significant staff churn). The need for CPD is important but LAs also make use of ongoing training funded from other sources or departments.

**Action: GN to collate feedback from ETS members and provide response to Estyn**

- 4.3 Audit of Local Authority Youth Service** – Audit should be published shortly. No news on a WG sub group but PYOs have discussed the need for an overhaul. The need for an audit is not at issue but the content and design need rethinking in light of the CYPE enquiry and the review of Ext Ent in terms of outcomes frameworks, sufficiency assessments and mapping of services across local authority and voluntary sectors. Possibly something to take to the Interim Board.

**Action: GN to liaise with TO on contacting Welsh Govt re the LA Audit and the wider mapping of youth work provision**

- 4.4 National Academy for Education Leadership** – TO reported that he is now on the Strategic Stakeholder Group of the National Academy for Educational Leadership. NAEL is funding ad-hoc specific pieces of work but this is all for schools. TO may wish to push for similar initiatives for youth work. PYOs had met with Huw Foster Evans (CEO) but the meeting had no positive actions. HL reported WG is working on a 'professional learning offer' for schools which is more about CPD than leadership (although links to NAEL) but it is important that youth work is also included.

**Action: TO invited members to liaise with him on any issues to be raised**

**Action: GN to write to Welsh Govt (DL) on the Professional Learning Offer for schools and what plans exist to extend this to youth work**

## **5. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL**

- 5.1** HL circulated latest figures on registrants and raised the following issues: applications for the £2000 research bursary are invited; data on registrant sectors has been published; the letter to Welsh Govt on registration issues for youth workers has not yet had a reply – perhaps raise with Keith Towler; eight panel members from the youth work sector have been recruited to sit on code of conduct hearings; 10 programmes of teacher training in four HEIs have been accredited; there are two consultations to respond to – the refreshed Code of Conduct and Welsh Govt consultation on extending powers to EWC to implement interim suspension orders. The latter is important and it is hoped that ETS will support this move as it will give EWC parity with other regulatory bodies. Welsh Govt is also in the process of appointing eight new EWC Board members as public appointments. ETS, PYO and CWVYS can nominate as many individuals as they wish. Finally HL appealed to the youth work sector to make full use of EWC facilities and opportunities.

**Actions:**

- LR to circulate link to EWC research bursary
- LR to circulate link to EWC data reports which were published recently
- GN to draft response to Welsh Govt consultation in support of allowing EWC to issue Interim Suspension Orders
- GN to draft response to EWC consultation on the review of the Code of Conduct for registrants
- LR to email ETS members seeking volunteers to be nominated to the EWC Board

## 6 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2018/19

- 6.1 **Chair's Report** - GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: attending meetings of the YW Reference Group and completing a draft paper on workforce development; regular meetings with LR; attending the Excellence Awards evening; EWC meetings and with various sector leads and with Keith Towler. He will attend the forthcoming TAG meeting in Glyndwr. GN also followed up actions from the last meeting, including writing to NAEL and Estyn - responses were received which GN spoke to. Neither addressed the concerns satisfactorily.
- 6.2 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – Joint NYA and Awarding Bodies had met recently and agreed minor amendments to the Assessment Strategy. This mainly covered relaxing the requirement from JNC qualified workers to 'aligned professional qualification' to act as External Verifiers as this is such a specialist role. Data collection was also discussed as there is a reluctance to share data due to commercial confidentiality but this is required as a condition of endorsement. A review of the structure of the qualification and the range of option units available will start in 2019 as the qualifications expire in 2020.  
**Action: LR to follow up data collection with ABC (Agored has already provided their data)**
- 6.3 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – The sub group met early Oct and agreed some further changes. However, the policy context is difficult to finalise due to current plans for refreshed NOS and the new YW Strategy.  
**Action: LR to make changes to ETS Professional Endorsement Guidelines and send to sub-group members for initial comments before circulating to ETS members**

## 7 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 7.1 **Glyndwr – PgDip** – JS is chairing the panel. Jo and LR met with staff in Sept to go through the draft programme and endorsement timetable where the need for 4 FT staff was emphasised. Academic validation takes place in Dec (LR to attend) with the panel event planned for spring.  
**Action: LR to email ETS members seeking panel members**
- 7.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – CMU wrote to ETS to confirm that a FT member of staff has now been appointed so they are meeting ETS requirements.
- 7.3 **USW MA/PgDip** – Nothing to report
- 7.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Both BA and PgDip/MA programmes are due for re-endorsement in 2019. Panel members and a chair are sought. (EC volunteered)  
**Action: LR to email ETS members seeking panel Chair and panel members**
- 7.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report, very quiet, students are seeing out programme.

7.6 **Agored Cymru & ABC Awards** – annual monitoring data has been received from Agored.

## 8 JNC UPDATE

8.1 DA was unable to attend but had sent an update on the Employers' Side response to the Staff Side claim. LR went through the main points, which include: a 2% pay increase in scales above Point 6; higher percentage increases across the lowest scales; and the agreement to explore further the endorsement of Playwork qualifications. The formal JESC Circular containing pay increases and scales will be circulated by JNC shortly.

**Action: LR to circulate JNC Employers' Side response to Staff Side claim**

## 9 JOINT ETS / SECTOR SKILLS SPECIALIST BODY UPDATE / WELSH GOVT PRIORITIES RE NOS & APPRENTICESHIPS

9.1 JETS Officers had met recently. There are some new officers so sharing information was important. Also looked at updates to Terms of Reference, the Mutual Recognition Protocol and Individual Recognition.

9.2 LR provided an update on NOS developments. CLD Standards Council Scotland will lead on this work on behalf of JETS and will be holding consultation events in each country. It was agreed that a specific event was needed for Wales.

**Action: LR to liaise with CLD Standards Council Scotland , PYOs and CWVYS re NOS consultation event(s) particularly opportunities to comment on changes proposed following initial survey**

## 10 SECTOR FEEDBACK

10.1 **Local authority** – Quality Mark is embedded now and a useful part of a professional youth service. PYO group has discussed learning from these and how this could affect any restructuring they may do. Some concern expressed by LAs about DofE award (which is now managed by schools) and pilots around lowering standards of the Bronze award where less rigour provides insufficient grounding to move on to Silver and Gold levels. The YW Wales Principles and Purposes document has been refreshed and will be published shortly. ETS will pay for extra copies to be distributed to FE and HE students.

TO reported that work with WLGA is varied. He is keeping in touch with colleagues in England about registration via the Institute for Youth Work and with Youth Access who are bidding for youth information/advice work covering England Wales and Scotland. He said the agenda on mental health is complex with a range of initiatives that are not always joined up. He continues to liaise with the ACE hub and the Trauma Recovery Model training is now in its third round.

10.2 **CWVYS** – no representatives were available from the voluntary sector as they were attending a CWVYS meeting.

10.3 **TAG Cymru** – SD was sad to report the death of their colleague Yvonne Wigg from Cardiff Met; there would be an event held to celebrate her life. GP and EC had submitted updates. Although programmes in England are closing, the number in Wales is holding and student numbers remain reasonable. This is due to EWC registration, with an increase in PgDip students and those at L6 wanting to top up their DipHE to Degree level. UWTSD noted issues securing placements for students. PO'N reported this can be helped by a more deliberate use of student placements by employers who are using

students to help prevent closure of services. PO'N asked if there are opportunities for L4 students to complete their L3 training and use their L4 placement hours towards this qualification. The forthcoming TAG meeting at Glyndwr Uni will be asked to look at this. There were concerns that the National Student Survey, which reports through Unistats, can provide disappointing results for programmes. USW - ongoing issue with students enrolled on the U/g course not being able to apply for jobs due to the requirements of applicants having to have a Level 2/3 qualification, despite training for a Level 4/7 qualification. Kate Haywood at USW has secured monies to conduct research into child sexual exploitation and the role of youth work in the prevention agenda. A seminar will be organised to disseminate findings later in the year.

**Action: LR to explore the better embedding of L3 training into L4 programmes, requesting this be raised at the November TAG meeting in Glyndwr University**

10.4 **Colegau Cymru** – RB had sent apologies.

10.5 **FAB Wales** – in addition to items at 6.2 and 7.6, DB reported that Agored is involved with the ACE Working Group to develop ACE Awareness accredited training.

10.6 **Play Wales** – MG and MKS had sent apologies.

## **11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

11.1 There was no other business.

## **12 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Weds 15 May 2019

Weds 16 Oct 2019

**Action: LR circulate dates of next meetings and add to ETS web calendar**