

Minutes of meeting held at YHA Cardiff on 15 May 2019 10.30am

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), David Algie, Cathie Robins-Talbot, Josh Klein, Jo Sims, Rachel Burton, Grant Piner, Gill Price, Steve Drowley, Mike Greenaway, Tim Opie, David Algie, Hayden Llewellyn.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

Apologies:

Catrin James, Dafydd Baker, Paul O'Neil, Donna Lemin, Emma Chivers, Ged Kerslake, Martin King-Sheard.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting which was his last as Chair as his term of office ends in August.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved with the following amendment:
4.3 'Whole School Approach' to improving mental health – will have a share of £7m.

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

Actions had been achieved except for 5.5 (EWC letter to Welsh Govt) and 7.6 (Agored data) which were ongoing.

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 **Interim Board** – JS, as a member of the IB, gave an update on their activities. Early development has included getting a baseline understanding of youth work agreed as members have different backgrounds. A key focus is the development of the new Youth Work Strategy and how to ensure meaningful involvement of the sector at all levels, based on a concept of 'distributive leadership' rather than the IB acting as experts. The Strategy will be launched on 22 June in Youth Work Week and the Implementation Plan in October.

Jo also gave an update on the IB's visit to Scotland where, although they face similar funding challenges, there is a sense of coherence and co-ordination of services. The issues of sustainability, marketing, the need for research and good communication with the sector are central to the IB's work.

Jo offered to take any issues from the sector to the IB as necessary and where possible.

5. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

5.1 HL reported that there was still no response to the letter sent to Welsh Govt last August and that the issues raised are getting more problematic.
5.2 HL circulated latest figures on registrants at end of Mar 2019. There has been a fall in some numbers, particularly for the voluntary sector.

- 5.3 The Code of Conduct has been finalised and sent out to registrants taking effect from September.
- 5.4 SD and David Williams, PYO, are on the EWC Board so HL encouraged the sector to use them to provide feedback on EWC and to influence its agendas.
- 5.5 As previously reported, EWC has received funding from Welsh Govt to promote teaching as a career but also hope to extend this for the other registrant categories. Formal procurement will begin shortly and will also include a national jobs database.
- 5.6 HL gave an update on forthcoming EWC events, including their annual lecture and other speaker events.

Actions: HL to speak to Keith Towler (as IB Chair) about concerns that there has not been a response to HL's letter. TO also to raise with Chris Llewellyn, WLGA CEO.

HL/LR to further explore options to update the existing Code of Occupational Ethics for Youth Workers in Wales.

LR to encourage HEIs to think about the titles of their programmes in future endorsements because of the inability to change the list of regulated qualifications in the Schedule for registration with EWC

6 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2019/20

- 6.1 **Chair's Report** - GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: meeting with Huw Foster-Evans of Nael, whose funding of leadership training for youth workers is not guaranteed; attending the national YW conference; meeting WG officials regarding the ETS work programme where workforce, CPD and Quality Mark issues were discussed; regular meetings with LR, EWC and sector, and with WG/IB regarding the implantation plan. Employer-identified issues around recruitment and retention (discussed at last meeting) led to further talks and GN will host a round-table open event to discuss these further. GN had also completed his appraisal statement, met with appraisers and submitted supporting documents.

Action: TO offered to share PYO minutes to inform the round-table meeting.

As this was his final meeting as Chair after seven years, Gareth thanked everyone for their support and extended his appreciation of all the members for making the work so enjoyable. He said it has been a pleasure to work with such supportive colleagues who are committed to the importance of youth work in the lives of young people. Steve Drowley, on behalf of members, paid tribute to Gareth for his able work in maintaining and developing the ETS Committee. He listed Gareth's many achievements, particularly his inclusive way of working and his engagement with the sectors within ETS. Gareth wished members well for the future.

- 6.2 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** –a joint meeting of ETS Wales, NYA and Awarding Bodies will be held shortly to begin the forthcoming review of the Level 2 and 3 qualifications.

RB raised the possibility of developing a Level 1 entry qualification to youth work, which would also be suitable for young people as this would not require registration with EWC. If this is written to the requirements of the current L2/3 Assessment Strategy this could be badged as 'ETS Approved' as a route of progression. The benefits of this development were discussed and it was agreed that further enquiries should be made.

Action: RB to explore with Agored and colleagues the options for developing a Level 1 introduction to youth work course

- 6.3 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh / Endorsement Costs** – The final published version of NOS is still needed in order to finalise the Guidelines. LR had received a query from Glyndwr University about the possibility of varying the fee charged for endorsement with a sliding scale based on the student cohort size. After full discussion it was considered that the sector was too small for this to be easily viable as the four HEIs do not all go through endorsement in the same year. Also the variation in student numbers meant only minor savings would be made for those with smaller student numbers as a baseline amount would still need to be charged. The most cost-effective way to achieve professional endorsement is to align the dates of the BA and PgDip programmes so that they are endorsed at the same time.
- Actions:** LR to follow up NOS publication. LR to report back to Glyndwr.

7 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 7.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip** – Preparations for the panel visit in summer are being made, to be chaired by JS. GU has been advised that another 1FTE staff member is needed to meet requirements. They have indicated an ability to fund a 0.8 post in the first instance, which may be acceptable in the short term but is for the panel to decide. A discussion on this took place and the importance noted of meeting requirements due to strain put on existing staff.
- BA programme** – Nothing to report.
- 7.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 7.3 **USW MA/PgDip** – Nothing to report.
- 7.4 **Trinity Saint David** – GN and LR will be visiting to conduct a verification visit in order to grant the requested one-year extension to these programmes. However, UWTSD has now indicated that they plan to withdraw the BA programme after one year and replace it with a generic 'children and young people' degree with individuals progressing to the PgDip/MA if they wish to gain professional qualification. This is a European model of training so could work but ETS members were disappointed for a programme to be lost, especially because of the geographical area covered by UWTSD and that it specialises in Welsh language provision. The importance of students being briefed at the outset that the programme would not confer professional qualification was noted.
- Action:** LR to write to KT/IB about how the demise of the BA programme could affect their ambitions outlined in the list of 'pillars'.
- 7.5 **OU – BA**: Nothing to report.
- 7.6 **Agored Cymru & ABC Awards** – Nothing to report, ongoing data collection.

8 JNC UPDATE

- 8.1 DA reported that there has been little activity as this is still the first year of a two-year pay agreement. There are no further plans to withdraw from negotiation arrangements regarding salaries, terms and conditions. LR asked if there are any Wales reps on the JNC Staff Side following a query from a local union rep. The All-Party Parliamentary Group for Youth Affairs' inquiry into youth work report has been published. It covers England and contains 6 recommendations, including issues of sufficiency, statutory basis and workforce, including establishing a register of qualified youth workers. <https://nya.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/APPG-Youth-Work-Inquiry-Final-Report-April-2019-ONLINE.pdf>
- Action:** DA will check who (if any) are Wales reps on the Staff Side of JNC

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

- 9.1 LR reported that a final draft of NOS had been circulated with a very tight timescale for response. An additional standard on mental health had been included which caused concern in Wales as it was deemed too specialist and clinical. This was rewritten, thanks to the help of colleagues JS and JK, and resubmitted. The NOS have now been approved but not yet translated or published.
- 9.2 Skills Development Scotland are now tendering for work on updating Apprenticeship Frameworks, including the Wales version which is now out of date.

10 SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 10.1 **CWVYS** – a range of activities were reported, including: meeting with Keith Towler and WG for the Strategy implementation; CWVYS awayday to develop an action plan; regional meetings. CWVYS is co-ordinating a fund from 3 of the 4 police forces to help prevent serious violence. Positive feedback was received from a workshop on youth work stories at the national conference. GP is resigning as chair of the workforce committee.
Action: CRT and GP to check with Paul Glaze about the possible clash of dates for the 16 Oct ETS meeting.
- 10.2 **Colegau Cymru** – RB reported that 450 learners had achieved the L2/L3 qualifications last year. Most delivery is through local authorities in partnership with the voluntary sector who make up two thirds of the learners. Some are delivered through HEIs which provides good signposting to HE courses.
- 10.3 **Local authority** – reported ongoing recruitment issues (as discussed at previous meeting), meetings regarding the strategy implementation, PYO meetings where a member of the Centre for Public Policy gave a talk on homelessness. Also held regional events for managers and practitioners (open to vol sector) on good practice in homelessness work. All LAs have submitted their bids for additional funding, there was a lot to complete in the timeframe, especially with sign-off from lead directors from housing and mental health. A demonstration of digital services from Promo Cymru has been received.
TO reported that he is now WLGA rep on the Curriculum and Qualifications for Wales (CQFW) Board which is looking at mapping against European qualifications frameworks, apprenticeship frameworks and RPL/APL.
- 10.4 **TAG Cymru** – group had not met since last update so nothing further to report.
- 10.5 **FAB Wales** – DB had sent apologies.
- 10.6 **Play Wales** – MG reported there would be a special symposium for local government leaders at the Play Wales Annual Conference. Julie Morgan AM has called for evidence regarding regulated play and childcare in relation to exemptions and loopholes. As youth work organisations regularly work with under-12s they could be drawn into this and there is insufficient overlap between play and youth work. ETS is the only youth work body that formally engages with Play Wales. The Employers' Side of JNC are supportive of including Playwork in their remit but there is a cost implication for endorsements.
Action: MG to send LR any relevant updates regarding regulation of work with under 12s that may affect youth work, LR to circulate to members

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

SD reported that a youth work book he had contributed to, 'Global Futures' is now available.

12 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 16 Oct 2019

Weds 12 Feb 2020

Weds 13 May 2020

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