

Minutes of meeting held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 19 October 2011

Present:

Liz Kidd (Chair), Keith Thomas (Vice-chair), Jane Williams, Tim Opie, Sam Evans
Colin Heslop, Andy Borsden, Lynne Griffin, Catrin James, Steve Drowley,

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary)

Apologies:

Jo Simms, Tracey Thomas, Mark Isherwood, Sue Trevelyan-Jones, Alan Twelvetrees,
Gerard Kerslake,

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

LK was sorry to report that Sue Trevelyan Jones is very poorly and agreed to write to Sue on behalf of ETS members to pass on their good wishes.

2. MINUTES

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

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

The meeting scheduled for May had been cancelled due to an unprecedented number of apologies. LK gave an update on activities for items not on the agenda:

- 3.1 Code of Ethics – this will now be translated and dissemination taken forward. Need to explore how it is aligned with other key policy documents such as the YS Strategy and Workforce Development Plan;
- 3.2 LR is now employed as ETS Wales Adviser on a part time basis by WLGA after leaving Welsh Government;
- 3.3 Training day for panel members has not been conducted but group considered that acting in an observer capacity on live panels may be a better approach.

4. ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

LK reported that this would be the last meeting attended by Keith Thomas, who is retiring from Youth Cymru. His role as voluntary sector representative on JNC will need to be considered by CWVYS and JNC.

Action: LR to follow up with JNC/CWVYS

LK wished to record publicly her thanks to Keith for his hard work on behalf of young people. She acknowledged his commitment to youth work and the JNC and particularly valued his support as Vice-Chair of ETS Wales and wished him well for a long and happy retirement.

Action: LK to write to KT

Following other staff changes, there are a number of other vacancies on ETS Wales that need to be filled.

5. Operational Plan

LR reported on progress on the operational plan which is agreed with Tanis Cunnick and forms the basis of the WG grant to ETS Wales.

Some items are subject to the approval of the draft updated action plan for the Youth Service Strategy and the Workforce Development Plan. However, SE reported that the Workforce Plan can now be actioned and that the latest draft has been shared with HEIs for comment.

Certification of students – paper needed on options and costs of providing ETS Certificates for HEIs and individual students.

Action: LR to draft

6. HEIs (STANDING ITEM)

- 6.1 **Glyndŵr** – Glyndwr is considering suspending entrance for MA students.
- 6.2 **UWIC** – TT had chaired event but in her absence LR gave an update on the panel event and the summary report circulated. Endorsement to both BA and PgDip programmes had been granted with no conditions and 5 recommendations.
- 6.3 **UWN** – LR had met with representatives from UWN to discuss the Foundation Degree as there remains some level of ambiguity by employers regarding its status as providing a youth work qualification. As a level 5 programme it carries no professional status and it is not possible to 'top up' to the final year of UWN's professionally endorsed programme as the module structure of the Foundation Degree is broad based and does not match that of the first two years of the endorsed programme. Modules common to both programmes may provide students with credit via the APL process. UWN had provided assurances that the programme is clearly marketed as not leading to a professional qualification.

Action: LR to write to Jan Jones, PYO Chair, providing clarification of the status of the Foundation Degree.

PgDip programme: Volunteer/nomination was sought for Chair of panel for the endorsement of a newly developed PgDip programme, along with those interested as panel members.

QWEST – community development approval. SD, who had chaired the panel, provided an update on the event, which had approved the QWEST CD programme at levels 1, 2 and 3. The programme is provided as a partnership between UWN, UHOVI and QWEST. This was the first panel event of its kind, conducted as part of the pilot activities funded by WG and CDC. LK paid tribute to SD on taking on this challenge and providing leadership.

- 6.4 **TRINITY** – nothing to report.
- 6.5 **OU** – joint endorsement procedures and their effectiveness continue to be discussed at JETS meetings and a decision will be made shortly on

whether these events can be conducted jointly or by individual countries in future.

- 6.6 Agored Cymru** – Level 2 Certificate in Youth Work – LR met with Dafydd Baker and the relevant submission papers for the endorsement of this qualification have been received (using the current NYA procedures).

Representation on ETS Wales by the FE sector was discussed and agreed in principle. Further information will be sought from Dafydd on how the Federation of Awarding Bodies could best be represented.

Action: LR to contact DB and make subsequent arrangements for nominations.

Welsh TAG Supervision module – this 20 credit module at Level 6 has been developed by WTAG with funding from WG and could in future become a required qualification for placement supervisors. UWIC is leading on this and has started to deliver the programme, which has a 3-day input, followed by practical element and a final 2-day activity. It can be seen as CPD but can also count towards a top-up from the DipHE to Degree level. However, this module is not currently being rolled out consistently by HEIs across Wales.

Action: LK/LR discuss at Welsh TAG meeting

7. NATIONAL OCCUPATIONAL STANDARDS (NOS) AND SECTOR QUALIFICATIONS STRATEGY (SQS) UPDATE

LK reported that the consultation on the update of the NOS was taking place with a very tight timescale and was being co-ordinated by the Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS). A number of representatives from Wales are on the LSIS steering and working groups and there are two consultation events for Wales. Group discussed some of the main points regarding the development which included:

- Preference for functional map to be displayed as a circle with values at the core (rather than a grid table)
- Dislike of concept of some functional areas applying to some but not all workers
- Approval for reflective practice to be incorporated
- Some contest over the key purpose statement
- Keen for workers' role as advocates for young people to be incorporated
- Concerns about addressing young people's health as this implies specialist issues, prefer to reference well-being instead
- Concern of skewing towards England's integrated services agenda

The draft SQS has not received as much attention as the NOS. LR had some concerns that it seems to be more of a description of 'what is' rather than a strategy of actions for the future.

Action: LR/SE to provide updates as available

8. ESTYN THEMATIC REVIEW OF HE INSTITUTIONS

After speaking with Ged Kerlake, SD gave an update, reporting that the results of the Estyn survey from Feb/Mar 2011 had not yet been published but were going through Estyn's publication processes. The next survey is scheduled for early 2013 with nothing in 2012 and is likely to focus on teaching, learning and work placements.

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LK said that a report listing the achievements of the pilot project had been submitted covering the writing of endorsement/approval guidelines and the one approval event. A response to the WG consultation on proposals for Communities First programme was also submitted. In the second year, ETS has been granted £8,000 to take this area of work forward.

10. PLAYWORK UPDATE

Although Mike and Tillie's were not present they had provided an update on Playwork. Liz reported that Play Wales are currently mid-contract on the development of a Level 3 qualification to complement the existing Level 2. The level of cuts to SkillsActive's budget means they may not deliver on their proposed endorsement framework and in due course Play Wales may pick up where they left off with ETS. However, currently their focus is on the actual development of the qualification. They are also pursuing the financial contribution from Children and Families Division towards ETS but uncertain of the outcome, despite Welsh Government commissioning research to find that there are over 2000 prospective learners whose need for access to playwork qualifications are not being met. Tillie and Mike are continuing to explore alternative avenues for funding.

11. JOINT ETS

Joint ETS forum had met the previous week in England where the following issues were discussed:

- JETS relationship with any future arrangements for a Sector Skills Council and LSIS as the current body taking on work from LLUK;
- Registration of youth workers in light of the funding for a feasibility study to set up an 'Institute for Youth Work' in England as part of the wider NCVYS 'Catalyst' alliance;
- Each ETS jurisdiction's ability to establish a 'register of qualified workers' as a pre-emptor of any move to establish a registration process (Scotland already has the Standards Council);
- Updating of Appendix iv of the JNC Report, which provides the qualifications framework for youth workers.

12. ANNUAL MONITORING FORMS

LR circulated draft report and went through headline figures. These included:

- An average of 80% of the supervisors are JNC qualified across the institutions;
- The majority of students at each university are studying on a full-time basis, although the ratio of full time to part time students varies considerably across the institutions;
- The majority of students at each institution are female who outnumber male students by a ratio of just over 2:1
- Just over 90% of students are white. Almost 19% of students are reported as having a disability;
- Almost 24% of students failed to complete at Level 4 but this figure drops to approximately 7% and 11% for Levels 5 and 6 respectively. At post graduate level, 24% of students fail to complete the programme. This appears to be a high figure but is due to the smaller number of students in the cohorts.
- The statutory and the voluntary sector youth service continue to be the main employers of newly qualified students.

The form used to collect annual data needs to be updated and the views of ETS members are sought.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- TO reported that there was no further information available on the response to the House of Commons Committee Report on the Youth Service (Tim had attended a seminar on this on behalf of ETS)
- TSD University hosting a student-led conference on 1 Nov
- Showcase/marketplace event at Llandudno Junction office on 11 Nov
- South Central regional conference on 11 Feb

14. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Weds 15 February 2012

Weds 16 May 2012

LK thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.