

Minutes of meeting held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 15 February 2012

Present:

Liz Kidd (Chair), Alan Twelvetrees, Jo Simms, Sue Trevelyan-Jones, Andy Borsden, Sam Evans, Dafydd Baker, Colin Heslop, Tracey Thomas, Catrin James, Jane Williams, Steve Drowley.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary)

Apologies:

Tim Opie, Lynne Griffin, Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

LK welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Sue Trevelyn Jones who is recovering from illness, and Dafydd Baker of Agored Cymru, attending his first meeting on behalf of the Federation of Awarding Bodies. The order of agenda items was changed.

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)

3.1 Code of Ethics – this has been translated and a workshop on the Code will be offered at the national youth work conference in March. The production of a young people's version will now be instigated

Action: LR to follow up yp version of Code of Ethics with Jo Simms

3.2 The replacement of Keith Thomas as CWVYS rep is being dealt with between JNC (David Algie) and CWVYS (Paul Glaze) and we should be notified in due course

3.3 The report from Estyn's last thematic review has still not been published and there was concern and disappointment about this as members are keen to respond and act upon its outcomes

Action: LR to pursue with Estyn

3.4 Playwork – LR gave an update in absence of MG. The level 3 qualification is now on the QCF and Play Wales anticipates re-engaging with ETS as Skills Active has not had the capacity to initiate an endorsement process.

3.5 Annual monitoring form – LR reported that a copy of England ETS' proforma has been received and will be used as a comparison for updating our version

Action: LR to update proforma and distribute to members for comment

4. ETS WORK PROGRAMME

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.

Most items are on target but a few are falling behind for various reasons. Some items are dependent upon the publication of the Workforce Development Plan,

however, SE reported that this now subject to the approval and publication of the new National Youth Service Strategy Action Plan and is therefore delayed.

Action: LR to send updated plan to members

5. YOUTH SUPPORT WORKER TRAINING ENDORSEMENT

Now that progress is being made on the publication of the National Occupational Standards and the Sector Qualifications Strategy, work on the development of guidelines for the endorsement of youth support work qualifications is now crucial. LR reported that Eileen Roberts had previously carried out some work with Agored and YMCA Community College to look at their quality assurance processes and where ETS may be able to sit alongside these rather than duplicate them. There was considerable frustration that this work appears to be dependent upon progress in England (because certain of the qualifications cross boundaries) and members felt that ETS Wales should now go ahead with developing arrangements that are suitable for use in Wales.

Action: LR to initiate process for the production of YSW guidelines

6. UPDATE TO JESC 166, Appendix IV OF JNC REPORT

LR explained that JNC were updating the qualifications framework which forms an appendix within the JNC Report and specifies the range of minimum qualifications for youth workers. A copy of the latest version was circulated for comment and the following issues raised:

- A **minimum** credit range should be specified as there can be considerable difference in the number of credits provided at Certificate level (ie 13 to 36);
- Level 2 is not sufficient for access onto HE programmes and this should be stated within the framework;
- Should information be included on the link to UCAS points as this will help HEIs and students understand what they are bringing at entry;
- Within Wales there had been lots of consultation on the volume of qualifications and there was consensus that at Level 3 a 'Certificate' was the most appropriate size in terms of manageability;
- It would be useful to have an explanatory note regarding level and volume of qualifications;
- Clarity on how these Level 2 & 3 qualifications could transfer between the local authority and voluntary sector would be useful.

Action: All – to send further comments to LR by end of following week;

DB to provide LR with information on value of QCF qualifications as entry for HE programmes (for circulation)

SD reported that UK TAG is carrying out research on consistency of entry requirements for HE youth work programmes as there have been some concerns.

7. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

6.1 Glyndŵr – Glyndŵr MA programme is currently on hold with a view to developing a wider multi-disciplinary course with an initial qualifying route within it. There is an increasing requirement for replacement staff to hold a PhD which will have implications for the youth work programmes. CH noted concerns about a Sheffield based company A4E that is developing access routes to HE and the implications this may have for youth work qualifications. The HE review of north Wales is ongoing.

- 6.2 **UWIC** – SD mentioned that UWIC has been rebranded as Cardiff Metropolitan University and that ongoing discussions are taking place on their proposed merger with UWN and UniGlam.
- 6.3 **UWN – PgDip programme:** AB agreed to act as Chair of panel for the endorsement of a newly developed PgDip programme. DB and JS will also sit on panel.
Foundation Degree – Although UWN had provided assurances that this programme is clearly marketed as not leading to a professional qualification, ETS members were concerned that there is still a lot of uncertainty about the currency of the programme. There were also concerns about the appropriate supervision of students.
Action: Individuals to contact LR & LK with concerns, which will be followed up with UWN.
- 6.4 **TRINITY** – nothing to report.
- 6.5 **OU** – nothing to report.
- 6.6 **Agored Cymru** – monitoring of Agored programmes will now need to be conducted as part of the requirements of continuing endorsement.

8. HE SUPERVISION MODULE

Welsh TAG developed this 20 credit all-Wales Supervision module with funding from WG in response to Estyn's recommendations. It has been piloted by Cardiff Met with the intention of using it across all HEIs. However, PYOs are concerned that it is not being used by all and some HEIs propose to change some of the assessment elements. There appears to be a need for better communication between the HEIs and PYO group.

Action: SE to speak to Tanis Cunnick about requirements for follow-up and evaluation in terms of WG funding.

The opportunity to develop further core modules was discussed and it was considered that ETS could rightfully look at this. There was general approval for this approach, particularly around core youth work elements but there are some barriers to be overcome. These include module ownership and the need for franchising, size and fit of modules, cost, and lack of ability to APL into final year of a degree.

Action: LR to add codicil to Professional Guidelines noting that individual modules cannot be endorsed but the use of common modules built in to an endorsed programme would be encouraged.

9. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

LK wished to record her thanks to AT for his work and felt that good progress was being made. AT circulated a paper recording activities and issues to address. UHOVI and UniGlam are currently in discussion about approval of their programmes. However, cost is an issue and the debate around the professionalization of community development workers has still not been resolved.

STJ reported that Agored qualifications covering levels 1-3 are now on the QCF, which is an achievement. The linking of community development work to government's anti-poverty funding is also a mixed blessing.

10. REGISTRATION CONSULTATION

WG are currently consulting on options to develop a registration scheme for the wider education workforce. This could include, for example, classroom assistants and youth workers.

LK gave background to this development which had begun some years ago with meetings between WG, LLUK, ETS and wider field representatives to discuss options for the registration based around the model of the General Teaching Council Wales. There was general agreement for a central 'back office' system for managing data provided that there existed specialist panels to make professional decisions for each occupation.

It was agreed that ETS Wales should provide a response and the benefits and risks of establishing a registration system were discussed. LK will meet with Meurig Roberts who is co-ordinating the consultation.

Benefits include: generally seen as a positive development; raising the credibility and status of the occupation; collegiate approach with other 'educational' professions; youth work has existing structures that could be built on ie JNC/ETS endorsement, NOS, QAA subject benchmarks; stronger lobbying voice.

Risks include: dilution of values and youth work being subsumed into dominant cultures; limited levels of registration; field's support for this, ranging from full to against; possible weakening of UK-wide links; as a non-formal /informal education service youth work is not always in education depts. within local authorities; concern that Minister's view of youth work may be limited only to schools youth work or work with young people who are NEET; fees and other costs.

Action: LK will draft a response and circulate it for approval prior to the closing date of 30 March.

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

The latest version of the functional map was circulated. LR reported that the steering/working group had met at LSIS offices on a number of occasions to make amendments to the NOS in line with ongoing feedback. The general principle of a light touch refresh combined with an attempt to streamline the number of standards was the approach being taken. There had been general agreement for the changes made but the continuing difficulty for the steering/working group was the resistance by the faith sector to agree to merge the spirituality NOS with the values & beliefs NOS.

ETS members restated their support for merging these two specific NOS. They also welcomed the change to the functional map, which now included more emphasis on building and developing relationships with young people and now had read-across to the individual standards. Formatting errors were to be addressed.

The draft SQS remained a concern in that insufficient time had been spent on it because of the NOS debate. Its fitness for purpose was questioned as it currently does not take sufficient account of existing structures such as the JNC.

Action: LR to take feedback to steering/working group and provide updates to ETS as necessary.

12. JOINT ETS

Joint ETS forum will meet in Belfast in March. LK requested agenda items.

13. ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

LR reported that the ETS committee currently has a number of vacant places. These include: Vice Chair; Voluntary sector JNC representative; Community Development Cymru representatives (2 spaces); Wider field representatives (3 spaces); and Sector Skills Council representation.

LK reported that Lynne Griffin had tendered her resignation from the committee as she is moving posts within Powys. LK paid tribute to Lynne for her commitment to ETS over the past years, particularly for her role in chairing the group to rewrite the HE Guidelines. PYO group has nominated TT to replace Lynne.

Sadly for ETS, LK reported her intention to stand down as Chair of ETS Wales from the summer. Steps will be put in place to find a replacement and LR is currently working with the HR section of the WLGA to put together a recruitment pack based on the process used originally. It was agreed that a small task group be established to oversee this.

Action: LK will write to LG.

LR will send out one message to ETS members requesting the recruitment or nominations for a Vice Chair, wider field representatives and members of the recruitment task group.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- The national youth work conference will take place in Cardiff on 7 March. ETS Wales will be running a workshop on the Code of Occupational Ethics document.
- The Youth Work Curriculum Statement has been updated into a principles and practice document and is currently being consulted upon.
- AB reported that there are a number of pilots taking place on workforce planning. The research has been conducted and the report is being written which will be circulated when available.

15. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Weds 16 May 2012

Weds 17 October 2012

LK thanked everyone for their attendance and contributions.