

**Minutes of meeting held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 8 May 2013 10.30am**

**Present:**

Gareth Newton (Chair), Grant Poiner, Jo Sims, Tracey Thomas, Steve Drowley, Ann Smith, Gary Foreman, Andy Borsden, Jamie Jones Mead, Alan Twelvetrees.

**In attendance:**

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

**Apologies:**

David Algie, Sue Trevelyan-Jones, Catrin James, Jane Williams, Colin Heslop, Clive Phillips (Estyn), Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs, Liz Noble, Dafydd Baker, Sam Evans, Tim Opie.

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Jamie Jones Mead, attending his first meeting as the CWVYS representative. The level of attendance needs to be considered as a high number of apologies had been received.
- 1.2 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: Joint ETS; CWVYS officers; and Teresa Holdsworth, where he had restated the value of open access youth work as a protective and preventative force. GN had also attended the Welsh Government Youth Employment and Progression seminar. Forthcoming meetings are to be held with PYO officers and Play Wales.

**2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record with the amendment to change the meeting venue.

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

- 3.1 Annual Monitoring Reports can now be distributed more widely. The updated report on commonality of modules will be discussed at the next meeting;
- 3.2 The ETS 'endorsed' and 'approved' logos are now available but brief guidance on their use needs to be drawn up.  
**Action: LR to write and distribute.**

**4. SECTOR FEEDBACK**

- 4.1. Local authority and voluntary sector representatives raised concerns as noted at the previous meeting about cuts and the targeted nature of grant programmes.
- 4.2. PYOs reported that they are currently working in a very challenging environment in terms of balancing Welsh Government's policy agenda with cuts in services, particularly as LAs are structured differently in their location of the Youth Service.
- 4.3. The launch of the Youth Engagement & Progression Framework was welcomed but there remains confusion around the role of 'key worker' due to a lack of both role description and meaningful strategic involvement from the Youth Service. Findings from the 'trials' around the 8 areas of the

framework are being discussed but 'brokerage' which has implications for the Youth Service appears to have provided the least learning and seems to be the least developed.

- 4.4. The role the voluntary sector is expected to play in the delivery of the framework is of concern to both sectors, with the perception that LA is being driven towards more targeted work with the voluntary sector expected to cover generic open access work. There appears to be a lack of strategic involvement of the voluntary sector. The increasing role of private sector organisations was also noted.
- 4.5. CWVYS was pleased to report that their workforce Quality Mark has been launched and is currently being piloted with a number of organisations.
- 4.6. TAG group noted that student interest in endorsed programmes remains strong but actual recruitment numbers are not matching the levels of interest. TAG also noted an increase in support needed for students with literacy problems and that bite-sized access programmes are popular as a stepping stone to HE.

## 5. WELSH GOVERNMENT YOUTH ENGAGEMENT & PROGRESSION FRAMEWORK

- 5.1 GN and LR had attended the Welsh Government seminar to report progress on the YE&P Framework. It was not clear whether 'brokerage' was viewed as a youth work skill or as a Youth Service responsibility but this is potentially a very powerful role for youth workers. Many of the concerns are as outlined in points 4.2-4.4.
- 5.2 The concept of a 'youth guarantee' is welcomed but there needs to be recognition by Welsh Government that this should not be too formalised but should allow for spontaneity, group work, and opportunities for social interaction and association.
- 5.3 The need for the development of short, in-service training courses or modules (e.g. data collection, interpretation of data) was mentioned to help existing workers deal with their changing role.

**Action: GN & LR to continue to remind WG of the protective and preventative role of youth work at every opportunity.**

## 6. LSIS UPDATE

Future arrangements for the delivery of work covered by LSIS are still to be determined although LSIS will close in July 2013. There are a number of UK-wide and country specific meetings being held, including the UK-wide CLD Panel meeting in Glasgow on 21 March which established a temporary working group chaired by Rory MacLeod of CLD Scotland. Rory had posed the following questions which were discussed:

1. Which parts/sub-sectors of CLD do you represent?
2. Do you think there are benefits in continuing activity as a CLD panel?
3. Do you think that panel should be representative of all areas of CLD (as at present)?
4. Do you think links should continue with other sectors of lifelong learning?
5. Do you think that panel should be representative of all nations of the UK (as at present)?
6. If a destination SSC/B/O was available (from the listings) what would be the preferred option for the CLD sector you represent?
7. Would you be interested in on-going CLD panel activity if activity was outside a direct relationship with one of these bodies?

The full response is included at the end of the minutes. The main issues were: interest in keeping the CLD footprint together but only if possible and not to the detriment of the youth work sector, a keenness to maintain UK-wide systems such as NOS which help with the portability of qualifications; and, concern that none of the proposed SSCs were a good fit, Universal Skills agreed as the most appropriate.

The Joint ETS meeting in March had discussed the options to work together as a Sector Specialist Body to take on some elements of the work, such as the NOS and SQS (particularly in light of Community Development arrangements) but there remains considerable uncertainty. Any such arrangement would require a mandate from local authority and voluntary sectors. Again, the main concern is that the interests of youth work are met and not diminished.

**Action: GN & LR to formulate response to questions as discussed and ensure that ongoing developments are communicated widely to the sector.**

## **7. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012-13**

7.1. Terms of Reference amendment – Following on from discussions at the last meeting re the approach by YMCA Wales Community College to join ETS, GN recommended that ETS Terms of Reference be changed to accommodate representation from Colegau Cymru/Colleges Wales. This was agreed and a nomination will be sought.

**Action: GN to write to Colegau Cymru.**

7.2. Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines – LR reported that a meeting with Awarding Bodies in England is being arranged by the NYA to discuss progress. Agored Cymru and ETS will also be represented. A concern noted in England is the limited observation of practice. However, this was considered to be sufficiently robust in Wales where a more pressing concern is the consistency of the programme – the same course can be taught very differently in two places.

**Action: LR to follow up with NYA.**

7.3. Quality Mark Induction day – Preparations are being made for this event. Organisations will be sought for two pilot events to be held by March 2014 and a report of recommendations about the process will be produced for Welsh Government.

7.4. ETS Website – The website has never been fully finalised and has now moved to a new system and provider in line with the wider WLGA system that hosts it. Ideas for the site's development were discussed, including the purpose of the site – information, communication or both? Ideas include: a members' blog, allowing ETS members to keep in touch; glossary of terms; information about CD and a link to the CDC page; and the ability to post information/comments about the agenda items prior to a meeting.

**Action: LR to seek membership of a sub-group to work via email to develop the site.**

## **8. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY**

8.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** Proposals for a new programme shared with the Education Dept are being developed as a pathway within an existing MA

programme. Panel visit to take place on 23/24 Sept 2013. TT will chair panel, Grant Poiner and Ann Smith agreed to sit on panel.

8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.

8.3 **UWN** – Letter received notifying ETS of implications of merger with University of Glamorgan to become the University of South Wales. This will involve a change of assessment and award regulations. This is not a major change so should not affect the endorsement status of the programmes but it was agreed that GN and JS would meet with UWN staff to discuss further. The wider issue of the Foundation Degree will also be mentioned as concerns were noted that students may move straight on to the PgDip in order to qualify.

**UHOVI – Foundation Degree Community Development:** AT reported on the approval process which had taken place recently, chaired by CH. The programme is practical in nature and builds on the Qwest L1-3 programme; it is intended to add on L6 in future. The programme was approved conditionally and with recommendations.

8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Jane Williams will act as panel Chair and panel members are now sought for the endorsement of the BA and PgDip programmes for 2014.

8.5 **OU – BA:** Due for re-endorsement by Joint ETS in 2014 and a panel member representing Wales is sought.

8.6 **Agored Cymru** – DB was not present but had reported that the L2 & 3 qualifications, which were due to expire at end 2013, have been granted a one-year extension.

## 9. REGISTRATION OF PROFESSIONAL YOUTH WORKERS

Update requested from WG officials who stated there is nothing further to report while underpinning legislation is still being drafted.

**Action: Watching brief**

## 10. JNC UPDATE

DA had provided an update prior to the meeting which covered:

- an agreed 1% rise on all grades and allowances from Sept 2013;
- the England development of an Institute for Youth Work is supported by the Employers' side but not the Staff side;
- the 2013 workforce survey had a 50% response rate. Findings included an 8% reduction in posts across the sector, moving of staff from JNC onto NJC scale, and significantly more women than men employed.

## 11. JOINT ETS (JETS) MEETING

The meeting held in Cardiff on 19/20 March covered many of the issues discussed today: future of SSC work; registration of workers and the Institute for Youth Work; parity of guidelines; joint endorsements; and individual recognition. A proposal for JETS to act as the sector specialist for youth work was considered pending further meetings to discuss the future of SSCs.

## 12. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

AT provided an update:

- CDC's tender to WG was successful for Lot 2 – Workforce Development Element and the inception meeting has been held. There are some resources for approval;
- The main need identified is for short courses to upskill the staff currently in post across the sector as some have very little training;

- While Welsh Government is continuing the Communities First Programme, it is crucial that they give some direction in terms of minimum requirements for staff training;
- Bangor University runs CD programmes and is interested in approval but has no money available to pay for the process;
- AT provides updates to CDC on the progress of approvals.

### **13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- 13.1. The workforce development audit, piloted by a number of authorities, is hoped to be rolled out to all authorities. Need to agenda for future ETS meeting.
- 13.2. Blaenau Gwent Youth Service has been working with young people's groups and schools to produce a young person's version of the Code of Ethics. This has looked at the wording and the medium used and will be taken to regional and full PYO meetings for further comment.
- 13.3. It would be useful to have an indication from Welsh Government about their support for the all-Wales supervision module as a CPD module. A possible amnesty for existing supervisors should also be considered. A wider discussion on this will be put on the agenda for the next meeting.
- 13.4. It was proposed that Jo Banks and Sam Evans be invited to the next ETS meeting with the agenda reduced so that a full discussion on workforce development issues could take place.

### **2. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Weds 16 Oct 2013

Weds 12 Feb 2014

**Post meeting action: AGENDA ITEM 6 – LSIS UPDATE**

**From:** Garethnewton@aol.com [mailto:Garethnewton@aol.com]

**Sent:** 21 May 2013 21:35

**To:** Sue Gill

**Cc:** sdrowley@cardiffmet.ac.uk; elizabeth.rose@wlga.gov.uk

**Subject:** CLD - information requested in CLD Panel Minutes

Hello Sue,

In light of your email of 10 May, please see below the response of ETS Cymru Wales to the questions posed.

**Which parts/sub-sectors of CLD do you represent?**

ETS Cymru Wales represents youth and community work (and, to a lesser extent, the play and community development sectors).

**Do you think there are benefits in continuing activity as a CLD panel?**

Yes - at least in part. We think there is a risk that the footprint may be too broad. We would not wish to see the youth and community work sector at risk of being marginalised were bigger sectors to capture the agenda.

**Do you think the panel should be representative of all areas of CLD (as at present)?**

No - for the reason identified above. There are strong and obvious links between some sectors - particularly those represented by the Scottish CLD Standards Council - but links with other sectors originally established through Lifelong Learning UK are more tenuous.

**Do you think links should continue with other sectors of lifelong learning?**

We think such links should be subjected to an "appropriateness" test. Maintenance of links is unlikely to be as important as working with obvious CLD partners. In any case, we are aware that current relationships are already fracturing as sectors seek to transfer to new arrangements.

**Do you think the panel should be representative of all nations of the UK (as at present)?**

We emphatically support this. The essential portability of professionally-recognised qualifications in youth and community work depend on the maintenance of UK-wide structures and arrangements. The UK-wide dimension is also critical to NOS.

**If a destination SSC/B/O was available (from the listings) what would be the preferred option for the CLD sector you represent?**

The listings reveal there is no "natural" home for the sectors ETS Cymru Wales represents. We believe that, on the limited options available to us, the Universal Skills SSC is the most appropriate home. On a separate, but allied note, the UK-wide JETS (Joint ETS) considers it has the skills, knowledge and capacity to function as the Sector Specialist body for youth and community work.

**Would you be interested in on-going CLD panel activity if activity was outside a direct relationship with one of these bodies?**

Until we know the outcomes of discussions currently taking place, we find it difficult to answer this. If there were to be no direct relationship with a SSC, ETS Cymru Wales would only see value in supporting such an arrangement if there were clear and compelling benefits to the youth and community work sector arising from engagement.

Regards,  
Gareth  
Gareth Newton  
Chair: ETS Cymru Wales