

**Minutes of meeting held at the Pavilion,
Llandrindod Wells on 13 May 2015
10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Dafydd Baker, Grant Poiner, Ann Smith, Jane Williams, Jamie Jones Mead, Chris Davis, Tracey Thomas, Jo Sims, Tim Opie, Steve Drowley.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

Apologies:

Catrin James, David Algie, Emma Chivers, Simon Brownsill, Mike Greenaway, Sam Evans, Ged Kerslake, Alan Twelvetrees.

GN apologised, as he had to leave to attend a funeral so the agenda was rearranged and SD took over as Chair from item 5.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1.1** GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that he had had a busy schedule. Various meetings since last ETS meeting included: Ministerial Reference Group; Alison Mawby at KPC Youth to write a media release for the pilot quality mark; SE regarding the ETS grant and workplan; and Welsh Govt and NYA consultant regarding a single quality mark, building on CWVYS and ETS versions. He had also attended a conference on outcomes for looked-after children, where social workers and education workers were very complimentary about the role of youth workers, and the ASH Wales Filter project, an interesting smoking cessation project using youth work principles and methods. He had also met with TO and would be attending the TAG Cymru meeting on 11 June. A meeting with the FE sector needs to be arranged.

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** Colegau Cymru replacement rep – GN had written regarding a replacement for Mark Isherwood and suggested that Gillian Wilde be invited as a co-option if no-one else was proposed. It was agreed to wait until the proposed merger between YMCA Wales Community College and the WEA and ask again then. It was noted that some FE colleges are bidding for ESF funding to deliver youth work projects so it is important to have a Colegau Cymru rep. **Action: GN to write to Colegau Cymru emphasising the role and importance of using qualified youth workers.**
- 3.2** Invitation to Hayden Llewellyn EWC – this was sent but Hayden was unable to attend this meeting but will attend the October ETS meeting. **Action: GN to circulate and agree questions for HL to address.**
- 3.3** HE Guidelines sub-group – TT interested in attending but had not received emails. **Action: LR to re-send.**
- 3.4** Media releases and certificates for ETS QM – in hand, certificates have been produced and GN has prepared the media releases.
- 3.5** Meeting with Natalie Williams Hunt – this is still to be arranged. **Action: LR to complete.**

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1** **National Youth Work Strategy / Ministerial Reference Group** – GN was pleased to note that Ged Kerslake represented Estyn at the recent Reference Group meeting,

although this may be a temporary arrangement. The group had discussed the outcomes framework and the new quality mark, and had received the report on youth work in schools and the report of the feasibility study. The schools report mapped provision but did not make qualitative judgements. The feasibility study proposed four options for the delivery of youth work in future but no recommendations were allowed to be made and there will be further consultation in future, although the format this will take has not yet been released.

4.2 TT noted that many had concerns about paperwork being received too close to the meeting so that it was impossible to consult with constituent networks. There is a worrying potential for disengagement by the sector as members were concerned that the Youth Service is seen as awkward and inflexible. In reality it is flexible and responsive to meeting young people's needs and there is a feeling that, while the outcomes of the meetings are accepted, the process does not sit comfortably with youth work principles of engaging fully with young people and the sector. The sector supports the NYWS and wants to help WG deliver it but feels its voice is not being heard.

4.3 The PYO group will be discussing how to address these concerns at their next meeting and GP agreed to take this to the CWWYS Exec committee. The role of Youth Work Alliance Wales was discussed, as this group has not met for some time. It would be useful to draft a common letter that could be subscribed to by all organisations.

Action: TO/CD - draft bullet point list of concerns regarding ongoing work with the Reference Group and TT and GP to raise with respective committees;

Action: TO/TT - ask Andy Borsden and Paul Glaze to discuss status and progress of Youth Work Alliance meetings

5. REVIEW OF POST OF ETS WALES CHAIR (GN NOT PRESENT)

5.1 The first 3-year term of the ETS Chair was coming to an end in August. LR had drafted and circulated a paper outlining the options available, which included renewing the contract of the current post-holder for a further three years or seeking to appoint a new Chair. In the paper, LR as ETS Adviser recommended that the current post be renewed as this met with WG's system for Public Appointments and was the process adopted for the previous post-holder. This option would also provide considerable continuity. A discussion on the proposal was held and the group noted they had a role to play in keeping the Chair up to date with information if he is to represent their views at strategic meetings. The majority of members supported an extension of the current contract, however, PYO reps wanted to discuss this further with their wider network when they met in June.

Action: All members to take options paper back to their constituent bodies as necessary and provide decisions to LR by end of June.

6. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS contd

6.1 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – TO reported that a formative evaluation of the whole YEPF to date is about to be published. Arad and ICF were the consultants.

6.2 **Registration of Professional Youth Workers** – there is no formal representative from youth work on the EWC council so how youth work can influence the EWC prior to the proposal to register youth workers in 2017 needs to be addressed. This and other issues, such as registration for youth support workers, can be raised with Hayden Llewellyn when he attends the October ETS meeting.

6.3 **Registration of Childcare Workers** – WG is currently consulting on the need to register childcare workers and this may affect youth workers. A special consultation meeting for youth work has been arranged for 21 May in Cardiff. This brings into question whether youth work fits the education or social care paradigm and the

general view was that youth work should be added to the current list of exempt roles.

Action: GN to draft a response and circulate to members for comment prior to submission.

7. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015-16

- 7.1 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – LR and DB provided an update after recently attending a meeting with all Awarding organisations, arranged by the NYA. The new Youth Work Practice qualifications are now in use and a bilingual information paper is available on the ETS website. The Assessment Strategy that accompanies the qualification is being rewritten. England have changed the age range from the original proposals, reducing the age limits to 14+ for the L2 and 16+ for the L3 qualification. Wales was happy to keep to 16+ and 18+ respectively but have agreed to consult with the sector. The need for additional CPD units was also discussed and further consultation will need to be held.
Action: LR & DB to consult with the sector re. a reduction in the age limits as per England and to seek suggestions for additional CPD units.
- 7.2 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – Sub group still to be established. TT expressed an interest in this.
Action: LR to write to wider field for group membership.
- 7.3 **Quality Mark Update** – covered in earlier items
- 7.4 **Certification** –further to the request from HEIs to provide ETS certificates to qualifying students, LR circulated a number of draft copies. The version with the red side-bar was approved with a number of minor amendments to the text.
Action: LR to make arrangements for certificate to be amended and printed.
- 7.5 **Other work** - LR attended a meeting with Gillian Wilde and SE to discuss the Coherent Training Package work. GW has produced a draft report but it is not yet finalised. The main issues identified related to the need for CPD.
Action: LR to check on availability of old CPD document produced by Courtney Taylor; LR to check with SE about the evaluation of the training element of the revenue grant.

8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 8.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** TT reported that there is still one condition to be met and that ongoing arrangements are being made to finalise this endorsement.
BA(Hons) – A one-year extension has been requested for this programme so a verification visit will be arranged with LR and JS. The full endorsement panel will take place in summer 2016.
- 8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – LR has met with staff to discuss the timetable for the endorsement of their BA and PgDip programmes which will take place in summer 2016. A panel chair is sought.
- 8.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2015. AS is Panel Chair.
- 8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 8.5 **OU – BA:** LR and SD took part in a joint endorsement event in April led by NYA. The quality of the reading materials, staff and IT systems were praised and the programme was endorsed with a number of minor conditions.
- 8.6 **Agored Cymru** – Now that the new qualifications are in place, a process for data collection needs to be developed.
- 8.7 **Community Development** - Nothing to report but there has been some interest in seeking joint endorsement with youth work. CDC/ESB guidelines would have to be used for the CD element of the programme.

9 JNC UPDATE

Nothing further to add. Evidence is still being gathered on the way the service is currently delivered before a decision can be made on the Staff Side's request in relation to evening sessional working.

10 SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

LR reported that no information has been received from UKCES in terms of future activity. The role of ETS as a potential SQAP (Sector Qualification Advisory Panel) for youth work needs to be discussed with Natalie Williams Hunt. SQAPS are theme based and linked to qualification development.

Action: LR to arrange a meeting with GN and Natalie Hunt Williams to discuss sector panel arrangements in Wales. LR to keep members informed of progress and seek their full engagement in any forthcoming developments.

11 JOINT ETS

11.1 At the last JETS meeting LR agreed to draft some text for students explaining the principles of professional endorsement and that their qualification was transportable across the UK and Ireland due to JETS' mutual recognition protocol.

11.2 Consultation is currently taking place on the NI government's proposal to close the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) which hosts the North-South ETS function.

11.3 Cardiff is hosting the next JETS meeting in October.

Action: LR to circulate JETS leaflet in its draft form.

Action: GN to draft and circulate a response re YCNI closure.

12 SECTOR FEEDBACK

12.1 **CWVYS** representatives noted that Promo Cymru is no longer running the Clic project but has a WG grant to set up a 'family information' portal so there is now no youth-specific information service. CWVYS is now the ERYICA affiliate. The 22 local authority web pages have been returned to the LAs. LR has been approached by National Library of Wales re a project to archive web pages which may be of interest. **Action: LR to circulate details.**

12.2 **Local authority** representatives noted concerns as mentioned previously regarding cuts across the service and a lack of meaningful engagement in strategic developments. JS reported that a European funding bid between LAs and FE sector for SE Wales region may be approved. Called 'Inspire to Work' and 'Inspire to Achieve' these projects will link to the YEPF and add capacity. **Action: JS to circulate further information.**

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 LR reported that unfortunately the Pavilion would be closing and so not available for future meetings. Ideas for venues included: Broneirion; Elan Valley Hotel; Workhouse; Media Resource Centre.

13.2 Youth Work Week starts on 23 June and there are a number of events taking place to showcase youth work.

13.3 WG are proposing to hold a national conference in Dec/Jan in Cardiff and are seeking themes and workshop ideas.

13.4 LR agreed to circulate immediately the list of actions from the meeting.

14 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 14 Oct 2015

Weds 10 Feb 2016

Weds 18 May 2016