

**Minutes of meeting held at the Elan
Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 18 May 2016
10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Jamie Jones Mead, Grant Poiner, Steve Drowley, Dafydd Baker, Catrin James, Gillian Wilde, Tim Opie, Jo Sims.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

Apologies:

Emma Chivers, David Algie, Ann Smith, Jane Williams, Sam Evans, Ged Kerslake.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and reported that he had had a busy few months. Activities since the last ETS meeting included meeting jointly with England ETS and the JNC Employers' Side to discuss their proposals to withdraw from joint negotiations; SE regarding the ETS grant and work programme; sector colleagues to discuss potential for a joint bid for the Quality Mark; and with Hayden Llewellyn from the Education Workforce Council. He had also attended the national youth work conference on youth work & schools; the Joint ETS meeting in Edinburgh; the youth work reference group; and a seminar on the Welsh Government outcomes framework. GN also submitted a response to EWC consultation on registration fees and has made revisions to the job description of the ETS Chair post.

2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

With amendments to items 4.1 (Cara to Kara) and 11.5 (National Play Council to National Playwork and Education Council) the minutes of the previous meeting were approved as a true record.

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

None

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

4.1 National Youth Work Strategy / Youth Work Reference Group – Those who attended the YWRG reported that these have become information-giving meetings rather than discussions about the current plight of youth work. Welsh Govt presentations were organised to include: Vanessa Rogers, youth work in schools report; Maneg Consultancy on Welsh language provision; the outcomes framework; Huw Bowen on the new Public Service Boards; Kara Richards on the Pupil Offer and enrichment experiences; and ERYICA. The UWTSD research on the voluntary sector is still ongoing. It was suggested that we invite the Minister or senior official to the ETS meeting to provide an update and better opportunity for discussion

Action: GN & LR to explore.

4.2 Outcomes Framework – a meeting was held in April and the Framework is now out for consultation until 30 June. There were concerns noted about the terminology used, which tended to describe 'outputs' rather than 'outcomes', some of which were beyond the gift of the Youth Service.

Action: GN will draft a response to the consultation and circulate for approval.

4.3 Quality Mark tender – GN led a discussion on members' views about ETS joining with other organisations in a joint bid for the Quality Mark tender. After discussion it was agreed that, because of its wide representation, ETS should work jointly with CWWYS in submitting a bid.

Action: GN will liaise with Paul Glaze in the first instance.

4.4 **Education Workforce Council – Hayden Llewellyn of EWC had held** a number of individual meetings with representative organisations in preparation for the registration of youth workers from April 2017. EWC staff appear very open and welcoming and keen to engage with the sector. Issues raised include the extension of New Deal provision to youth workers and the ability for youth work to have input at strategic levels. Responses to the Welsh Government consultation should be available at end of June. LR reported that in their discussions with EWC it was noted that those coming in to schools to deliver specialist sessions (eg music, substance misuse, sexual health etc) would be required to be registered. This raised a subsequent query about the category of registration if these individuals were not JNC qualified.

Action: LR to seek clarification with EWC.

4.5 **Other – YEPF** regional co-ordinators meetings have been held, current focus is on youth offending. Welsh Govt is looking at the relationship between youth work and youth offending services with the Carmarthenshire merger as a model. Future meetings will take a thematic approach. The Revenue Grant and YEPF Grant have contained references to each other, which aids closer working.

Successful Futures – TO met with Kara and other officials regarding the roll-out of digital literacy with Pioneer schools from September. It has been difficult persuading officials to involve youth work in these discussions but this has now improved somewhat. The challenge now is to find ways of gaining input to schools via school conferences and existing forums and to challenge the view that youth work has only a school support role to play. PYOs have produced a number of relevant papers and these are available on the WLGA site. HEIs who train teachers and youth workers could also have a role to play by ensuring there is better contact between the two sectors. The EWC New Deal should also help.

5. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-17

5.1 **ETS Chair Appraisal Process/Job Description Review** – GN thanked TO and JS for working with him on reviewing the job description and outlined the amendments and additions made. However, the Terms of Reference need to be reviewed to better reflect current arrangements and any appraisal process would need to be based on this.

Action: LR to work with DB and GW on reviewing the Terms of Reference.

5.2 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – LR reported that, following discussion at the last meeting, further amendments have been made to the qualifications' Assessment Strategy but there is ongoing discussion on the requirements for tutors and assessors. Work also has to be resolved on mapping 'total qualification time' (TQT) and on establishing any additional option units.

5.3 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – SD and LR have met to agree a way forward on this as it has been difficult to establish a sub-group. LR has been involved with the update of the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Youth & Community Work which are currently out to wide consultation in the UK

Action: LR to liaise with SD on progress.

6. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

6.1 **Glyndŵr – BA(Hons)** – Following their one-year extension, the date for the full endorsement has been set for 28 June. JS is chairing but there are currently some ongoing discussions about developments which may result in a delay.

6.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – endorsement of the BA and PgDip programmes took place on 15 March 2016. CJ chaired panel and the programmes were endorsed with conditions. These were read out and will be circulated to group.

6.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – Nothing to report.

6.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.

6.5 **OU – BA:** LR confirmed that this programme is not continuing to recruit in Sept 2016 and will seek further information on how students will be supported in future.

6.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.

6.7 **Community Development** - Nothing to report.

7. ANNUAL MONITORING OF HEI PROGRAMMES

LR confirmed that Courtney Taylor had finalised these reports.

Action: LR to make reports available.

8. JNC UPDATE

DA provided a written update which covered: the Staff Side pay and conditions claim; the 2016 workforce survey; an update re Teachers' pensions to the 2012 JNC Agreement; and, discussions to explore the issuing of guidance on work life balance.

JNC Staff Side and others continue to challenge the proposal by JNC Employers' Side to move away from joint negotiating and for youth workers to move to local government / single scale terms and conditions. GN and LR, and England counterparts, had met with Employers' Side officials in Feb to discuss the implications and assurances were given that JNC would continue to support the professional qualifications framework and requirements regardless of the final decision on terms and conditions. A note to this effect was issued by the Employer's Side.

Action: GN and LR to continue to provide feedback on developments.

9. SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

9.1 LR had attended (as an observer) the Qualifications Wales meeting about their review of health and social care qualifications. The youth work qualifications were not included in the review.

9.2 North South ETS provided information on how they have negotiated UCAS points for their Youth Support Worker qualifications.

Action: LR circulate NSETS information on UCAS points.

10. JOINT ETS

10.1 The Wales-specific JETS leaflet on professional qualifications has been circulated widely.

10.2 Scotland hosted the recent JETS meeting in May. Discussion covered: JNC developments; Individual Recognition processes for use across the UK and Ireland; sector skills and NOS future work; the need to update JETS Terms of Reference and agree a future work programme in light of the changing landscape.

11. SECTOR FEEDBACK

11.1 **Local authority** representatives noted that there are ongoing restructures in light of continued cuts and attempts made for young people to influence political decisions on cuts. Andy Borsden and Tracey Thomas, current PYO Chair and Vice-Chair are due to step down so information on the new postholders will be circulated once agreed. The revamped WLGA website should be available in June and contains useful papers from PYOG. Youth Work Week is 23-30 June and merchandise will be available this year. Excellence Awards ceremony in north Wales is on 24th and there will be showcase event in the Red Dragon Centre (near the Senedd) on 28th.

11.2 **CWVYS** representatives said there had been discussions on membership of their committees and subsequent representation on bodies. The implications of EWC and CSSIW continue to be key agendas; many students are progressing through training; and consultation on the new QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for HE has been circulated.

11.3 **FAB Wales** - DB noted that the Qualifications Wales review of Health & Social Care qualifications was ongoing and it was important to maintain appropriate sector control of the youth work practice qualifications.

11.4 **TAG Cymru** - SD reported that Cardiff Metropolitan's Foundation Year programme in health and social care has been reorganised to contain the L3 YSW qualification.

11.5 **Colegau Cymru** - GW reported that the WEA/YMCA college is working with Cardiff Met on mapping the Level 3 YSW qualification into their Foundation Certificate as they have

been delivering this with Glyndwr for some time. They are also offering CPD units in youth information and sexual health to Glyndwr and UWTSU students and their wider contacts. Staff visited Croatia regarding youth information work and can now deliver L2 qualifications in youth information which are approved by ERYICA – these fit well with Family Information Services.

- 11.6 **Play Wales** – MG gave a recap on developments to the registration of childcare workers, the implications for youth workers working with under 11s and the range of qualifications available to meet these requirements. CSSIW is taking a phased approach and their initial priority will be on those who are currently regulated and running open-access playwork. Play Wales is organising three seminars on the CSSIW inspection framework. In terms of qualification development, the Qualifications Wales review of health and social care qualifications is worrying in that it may propose that a set of restricted qualifications are developed to avoid proliferation. Play Wales wants to look again at developing the endorsement process to strengthen occupational competence and need to persuade Welsh Govt officials to fund this work.
Action: LR to arrange meeting with MKS and DB to look at the process used for YSW qualifications.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 GW raised concerns about how the value base of potential Youth Support Worker students is assessed. There is guidance on fitness to practice and professional suitability in the ETS Guidelines for Professional Qualification but nothing for FE level. The ETS/YMCA Code of Ethics and the EWC Code of Conduct should be of use.
- 12.2 CJ reported that the annual peace and goodwill message from Urdd Gobaith Cymru had been widely circulated.

13 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 12 Oct 2016 (now Tues 29 Nov 2016)
Weds 8 Feb 2017
Weds 17 May 2017