

# Minutes of meeting held at the Elan Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 08 Feb 2017 10.30am

## Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Catrin James, Grant Poiner, Emma Chivers, Gill Price, Cathie Robins-Talbot, Steve Drowley, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Tim Opie, Jo Sims, Rachel Burton.

## In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary), Hannah and Rachel (BSL interpreters).

## Apologies:

Ann Smith, Dafydd Baker, Ceri Ormond, David Algie, Sam Evans, Ged Kerslake, Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe.

### 1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members Cathie Robins-Talbot and Gill Price, representing CWVYS and TAG Cymru respectively.

### 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)

Action 11.3: LR/DB to take the issue of categorising YSW qualifications under the 'Health & Social Care' code to the January England & Wales AO's meeting - not followed up as neither had been able to attend.

### 4. CHAIR'S REPORT

GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: attending two meetings of the YW Reference Group; the JNC meeting; and a meeting with the EWC (along with other youth work representatives). Confirmation of Welsh Govt funding for ETS Wales to March 2018 had been received but there would also be a review of our work. GN is about to start a new round of sector specific meetings so will be contacting individuals to arrange dates.

### 5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy / Youth Work Reference Group** – Meetings of the YWRG had taken place in December and January. GN had chaired a session at the first meeting which looked at the impact of the Group and made recommendations to the Minister. The second meeting addressed the recommendations of the CYPE Enquiry, which Welsh Govt had accepted, and how the Minister might respond. Welsh Govt has produced a formal response but it was felt by members of the YWRG that they should act as sounding board for the approaches take by Welsh Govt, and not just act as passive recipients to sign off work. Key actions include the refresh of the Extending Entitlement Direction and Guidance, the Charter, and a new Youth Work Strategy. It is important that these link together and provide a coherent approach. Welsh Govt national youth work conference is on 27 March and likely to be on the theme of outcomes. A seminar/workshop on mental health may also take place. Some concern was expressed about how information is shared across the sector as this does not seem to be done strategically.

**Action:** LR to write to Sam about sharing of information and making best use of their yw bulletin

5.2 **Audit of Local Authority Youth Service** – JS had not been able to attend the PYO working group so had not raised the two issues identified previously, although CJ had mentioned this to Welsh Govt statistics officials. TO said that the EWC will be able to

provide workforce data in future (this will be partial though as only registered workers will be counted). Also, the Data Unit completed a skills audit some years ago which can be circulated.

**Action:** Keep on agenda for future reference

- 5.3 **Other** – The Revenue Grant and YEPF Grant have been merged but not cut. This makes reporting easier. The Families First programme is going through a reframing focus with more emphasis on targeted work, looking particularly at support for young people; parent support; and data management. Some youth services are funded through this process so it is important to be aware of the changes as open access provision is not well understood.

## 6. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

- 6.1 TO, GN, LR and Paul Glaze had met with EWC staff on 31 Jan to hear feedback on progress. To date approximately 1000 individuals are registered. Verification from ETS is being sought about some qualifications. Panel members (who must be registered with EWC) are being sought to sit on the fitness to practise hearings - this is an unpaid role. The Code of Conduct and a series of good practice guidelines were also discussed, - the need to ensure language reflects youth work terminology was noted. Further information and a demonstration on the Professional Learning Passport will be provided at the next meeting. Welsh Govt has approved registration fees to be set at £45 and £15 depending on role.
- 6.2 LR had raised the issued of interim youth work representation on the EWC Board and it is important that youth workers are encouraged to apply when the public appointments next come up for renewal.

**Action:** Keep on agenda for future reference.

## 7 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-17

- 7.1 **Terms of Reference Review** – LR had circulated the updated document and received comments regarding abbreviations. Also, our relationship with Community Development Cymru needs to be determined as their status is not known. However, the QAA Subject Benchmark Statement covers community work so there is a relevant link.  
**Action:** LR to make minor amendments. GN to contact SE in the first instance regarding the position of CDC.
- 7.2 **ETS Chair Appraisal Process** – GN had amended the draft process and it was approved.  
**Action:** Names of those to be involved to be sent to GN by May meeting with report provided at Oct meeting.
- 7.3 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – The longstanding issue of adding UCAS points to the Level 3 YSW qualification can now be addressed as there is a defined process to follow. However, this may have unintended consequences if the tariff attached is too low as this would disadvantage students who currently can apply with no UCAS points  
**Action:** LR /GP to explore further
- 7.4 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – SD and LR still to meet to discuss progress.

## 8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 8.1 **Glyndŵr – BA(Hons)** – The verification visit for a further one-year extension took place on 9 December. JS attended the Academic Validation event in Jan and the full endorsement will take place in summer 2017. JS is chairing and panel members are GP & GP.
- 8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 8.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – A panel chair is sought for the visit in 2017.
- 8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 8.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report.
- 8.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.

8.7 **Community Development** – endorsement situation is not known due to continued uncertainty about CDC.

## 9 APPLIED ROUTES TO QUALIFICATION

RB raised the issue of other routes to professional qualification, such as vocational qualifications at levels 4-6 and Higher level Apprenticeships. CPD training at all levels plus managerial level units were also discussed. While the qualifying levels are clearly defined by the JNC Framework, the delivery routes could be more flexible. Opportunities to move more easily from L3 qualifications to HE also need to be looked at. A wider discussion on whole workforce development needs to be held, including what role EWC might have.

**Action: LR to convene a special sub-meeting to discuss workforce issues and routes to qualification, including applied routes.**

## 10 JNC UPDATE

GN attended the JNC meeting in Jan, along with England ETS reps, where an update on our work was provided. Policy developments in Wales were well received. Consultation on the use made by employers in all sectors of the JNC Qualifications Framework has not had a high response. Staff Side recently reiterated their commitment for the JNC process and provided supporting papers which were circulated to ETS members.

**Action: LR to recirculate JNC qualifications framework survey for completion**

## 11 JOINT ETS / SECTOR SKILLS SPECIALIST BODY UPDATE

11.1 JETS meeting to be hosted by England had still not taken place.

11.2 A tendering process for sector skills work, including the refresh of NOS, has been circulated but full information is not yet known. JETS should explore the options to bid for this work.

**Action: LR/GN to pursue and inform sector of any developments.**

## 12 SECTOR FEEDBACK

12.1 **Local authority** – representatives reported that the PYO group had produced a paper on the contribution of youth work to crime prevention. PYO representatives met with specialists to discuss mental health and had a meeting with Welsh Govt officials to identify outcomes that all local authorities could meaningfully report on.

12.2 **CWWYS** – representatives noted that voluntary organisations need to be clearer on whether or not they need to register staff with EWC. The free system of DBS checks will no longer be offered by WCVA so organisations need to be responsible for this, also the better promotion of 'portability' is needed. Regional meetings are about to take place covering many of the issues discussed but also looking at the Police Young Volunteers scheme. Joint training with local authorities through Adult Learning Wales continues but there is a need to identify additional units. There is some concern that organisations need to change their internal systems in order to apply for the Quality Mark - and if in future they will not be eligible for grant funding without the QM.

12.3 **FAB Wales** – representative not present.

12.4 **TAG Cymru** - representatives reported that numbers of students with late identification of mental health issues seems to be increasing (reflecting the increase in numbers of young people). This doesn't effect the standard of professional qualification but does increase numbers not completing or deferring. Other items include: Joint work with Adult Learning Wales continues; an event for the presentation of ETS certificates is proposed; a research conference for students is planned for 2018; joint Cardiff Met and Unison conference in 2016 has led to better networking and the setting of sub groups to look at specific issues; and, Erasmus inter-cultural workshops are going ahead this year.

12.5 **Colegau Cymru** – RB reported that the delivery of the Youth Support Worker qualifications is going well and good links have also been made with 3 HEIs. There is

particular interest in training to support young people with mental health issues.

**Action: LR to add update on Adult Learning Wales as agenda item for next meeting.**

- 12.6 **Play Wales** – MKS reported that the Qualifications Wales review of health and social care qualifications resulted in a tendering process for childcare, early years and play qualification but Playwork qualifications are outside of this. QW is also running a number of events to consult on the use of better assessment methods. Cache may not renew their play qualifications after 2018 (due to deregulation in England) but there is interest in keeping play qualifications in Wales. MG gave a recap on developments to the registration of childcare workers saying that it was important that regulation closes loopholes but does not stop providers responding to needs. MG is currently working on a FAQ briefing paper.

**Action: Play Wales to bring timetable for developing a process of quality assuring playwork qualifications to Oct ETS meeting.**

**Action: MKS to share link to Qualifications Wales review document and consultation on assessment methods.**

### 13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None

### 14 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 17 May 2017

Weds 18 Oct 2017

Weds 7 Feb 2018