

## Minutes of meeting held at the Elan Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 17 May 2017 10.30am

### Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Grant Poiner, Gill Price, Paul O'Neil, Ceri Ormond, Cathie Robins-Talbot, Steve Drowley, Tim Opie, Jo Sims, Rachel Burton, Josh Klein.

### In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary), Hannah and Rachel (BSL interpreters), Courtney Taylor for item 6, Annual Monitoring.

### Apologies:

Emma Chivers, Catrin James, Dafydd Baker, Ann Smith, David Algie, Sam Evans, Colenzo Jarrett-Thorpe, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway.

### 1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members Paul O'Neil and Josh Klein representing Principal Youth Officers' Group.

### 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: (from Nov 2016 meeting) "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 but this was raised at the May meeting. This can be addressed when the qualifications are refreshed/renewed in 2018.

### 4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

**4.1** Generally there is some confusion over the current developments, some arising from the CYPE Committee enquiry into youth work. This includes the review of Extending Entitlement, which covers broader youth support services not just youth work; the setting up of a Welsh Govt youth support services Board (provisionally by summer 2018); the future of the current Youth Work Reference Group and its relationship with the Board; the development of a new Youth Work Strategy; and how all these fit together. SE had provided a timeline paper but this had not provided answers to these issues. Also, there was no indication of involvement from Estyn or how proposals for joint inspections could affect these developments.

**4.2 Extending Entitlement Review** – Margaret Jervis of Valleys Kids has been appointed to carry out a review of EE and various means of consultation are taking place. Children in Wales are running events for young people. GN sought views from the group in order to provide an ETS response. Key messages include:

- Youth work was writ large in EE originally and more needs to be made of its role
- EE is about wider youth support services but it is important to not lose the focus of the CYPE Committee review on youth work in this
- Youth work does not have a lead role in all 10 entitlements but can contribute to all
- Clarity needed on what is being reviewed – the policy document or Directions & Guidance?
- Principle of discrete organisations working together in co-ordinated way is still important, rather than one 'Connexions' type support service

- YW National Occupational Standards clearly define youth work as having a role in multi agency working
- Excitement around the development of EE did not come to fruition for YW, concept that the potential of YW was never recognised at political, strategic or partner level
- Ability of local authorities to apportion responsibility for the various services was not realised
- The voluntary sector role is important as they work with so many young people.

**Action: GN to draft an ETS response to Extending Entitlement review questionnaire.**

**4.3 National Youth Work Strategy** – Welsh Govt commissioned

Glyndwr/CardiffMet/Suzanne Rauprich to conduct a review of the 2014-18 Strategy via questionnaire and focus groups in Cardiff, Swansea and Wrexham. TO offered to share the PYO response. Members raised the following points:

- Positive that a strategy exists, showing Welsh Govt support
- Good introduction around open access work but not followed up in targets which were all about young people NEET and work in schools
- It was developed in a very 'top-down' way so strategic level input was not sufficient, buy-in from the sector would have been better
- In addition to the sector having no input in the development, all the targets were for Welsh Govt so no clear targets for the different sectors
- Although there were good links made to registration and the EWC, links with other key policy drives (such as curriculum development) were not made
- Expectations that LA YS would take on targeted work while Vol Sector concentrated on open access was unhelpful and did not recognise that the two work together on many areas
- In a time of austerity, warm words in the Strategy are not reflected in the reality on the ground where cuts to provision continue
- Greater clarity on the role of the YWRGroup in monitoring the Strategy is needed

**Action: GN to draft an ETS response to the National Youth Work Strategy review.**

**4.4 Youth Work Reference Group** – The next meeting of the YWRG will take place on 23 June where the group will receive reports on the youth work Charter (Tom Wylie), Extending Entitlement (Meg Jervis) and the Review of the National Youth Work Strategy (Glyndwr/CardiffMet/Suzanne Rauprich).

**4.5 Audit of Local Authority Youth Service** – Two workshop sessions on the audit had been held at PYO meetings. The two issues raised previously by ETS were raised and fed back to SE. SE will pull together a working group to look at amending the audit for next year.

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

**4.6 Other** – TO reported that he has been liaising with Adam Muirhead of the Institute for Youth Work in England on the process undertaken in Wales. He will be attending a seminar with them and will provide feedback at the next meeting.

**The Youth Work Marketing Group** – meetings had become less formal and the group is seeking to expand activities outside of Youth Work Week. Working Word company is being used to dripfeed information on social media.

## 5. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

5.1 Under the new Terms of Reference it was agreed to invite a representative from EWC to sit as an observer on ETS. **Action: LR to follow up**

5.2 While the process of registration is viewed positively, members noted there was still confusion by employers and sometimes confusing messages from EWC over the category, role and qualification levels required for registration. **Action: Raise these issues at the next sector meeting with EWC on 13 June.**

- 5.3 Re. interim youth work representation on the EWC Board, Mark Isherwood has withdrawn from the Board and, as he was the closest link to youth work, we should try to ensure a replacement can represent the youth work field. **Action: GN to email Hayden Llewellyn.**

## 6 ANNUAL MONITORING REPORTS (COURTNEY TAYLOR)

- 6.1 Courtney Taylor, who had been contracted to complete the annual monitoring of HE and FE programmes for 2015-16, spoke to a summary report that was tabled. Full reports on BA and PgDip programmes had been circulated previously by email. In summary:
- the Unistats figures were improved, with increased levels of student satisfaction;
  - student numbers had fallen slightly for the BA, more so at the OU as this programme is being discontinued;
  - the trend continues for the majority of BA students to study full time and to be young and female, which has implications for marketing;
  - Only a very small number of recruits are recorded as holding the YWP qualification although these may be included under 'non-standard' entry. Therefore ETS may need to ask HEIs to better define these students at entry;
  - Finance, job changes, personal and health/mental health continue to be the main reasons for deferral or withdrawal of students from programmes;
  - Voluntary and maintained youth work sectors continue to make up 50% of placements provided, with increases in school and private sector placements this year;
  - Dissertation titles show an interesting range of research covered;
  - at PgDip level, student numbers have increased, all study part time and for the first time the majority are aged over 30 (this may be a result of EWC registration?);
  - Student destinations remain difficult for HEIs to identify.
- 6.2 Brief discussion followed, and it was agreed that it would be useful to have a better understanding of those students holding YWP qualifications on entry. At endorsement events, evidence from placement providers shows that students holding the YWP qualification are better prepared for their first placement. However, it would be useful to know how this affects other elements such as deferral/withdrawal and the level of degree awarded. This needs to be explored further with HEIs.
- 6.3 CT had also obtained data from Agored Cymru on the YWP qualifications but further work is needed and data from ABC Awards also needs to be collected. This is ongoing.
- 6.4 GN thanked CT for his presentation and work on this.

## 7 APPLIED ROUTES TO QUALIFICATION

A sub-group meeting had not been convened but it was agreed that this was still needed as the issues involved were too broad ranging to be covered at the usual ETS meetings.

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

## 8 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2017/18

- 8.1 Chair's Report - GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: attending meetings of the YW Reference Group discussing the refresh of Extending Entitlement; National Youth Work Conference; UK TAG meeting; regular meetings with LR; a management meeting with SE; and attending the EWC 'professionally speaking' seminar. GN is in the middle of meeting with a range of sector representatives.
- 8.2 **ETS Chair Appraisal Process** – GN confirmed that GP will be the voluntary sector rep for this process but is waiting for the name of the PYO rep. A report will be provided at Oct meeting.

- 8.3 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – the Assessment Strategy for the qualifications has been finalised (this was circulated prior to the meeting). Following further investigation, the issue of adding UCAS points to the Level 3 YSW qualification will not be pursued as the tariff attached is too low and would disadvantage students who currently can apply with no UCAS points.
- 8.4 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – SD and LR are meeting on 8 June so a final call for any comments was made.

## 9 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 9.1 **Glyndŵr – BA(Hons)** –The full endorsement panel will take place on 6/7 June 2017. JS is chairing and panel members are GP & GP.
- 9.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 9.3 **USW PgDip** – PO’N will chair the panel and the visit will take place on either 20 or 21 July 2017. Additional panel members are sought.
- 9.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 9.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report.
- 9.6 **Agored Cymru & ABC Awards** – Nothing to report.

## 10 JNC UPDATE

Consultation on the use made by employers in all sectors of the JNC Qualifications Framework has not had a high response so had been recirculated and the results are currently being analysed.

## 11 JOINT ETS / SECTOR SKILLS SPECIALIST BODY UPDATE

- 11.1 Concerns about the sector fragmenting mean that a JETS meeting is needed more than ever, but this has still not taken place. Issues of mutual recognition are particularly important in terms of registration.
- 11.2 A tendering process for sector skills work, including the refresh of NOS, is being led by Skills Development Scotland but full information is not yet known. JETS cannot bid for this work as a whole family of NOS would need to be delivered and there is no capacity for this.  
**Action: LR/GN to pursue arrangements for a JETS / JETS officers’ meeting.**

## 12 SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 12.1 **Colegau Cymru** – RB spoke to a short paper circulated which provided an update on Addysg Oedolion Cymru | Adult Learning Wales. A small team is in place based at their new office in Cardiff. Over 200 learners have achieved the Youth Work Practice qualifications this year and a further 88 taking CPD units. Delivery of these in partnership with HEIs has been positive especially for aiding progression for non-traditional learners.
- 12.2 **CWVYS** – representatives reported that a lot of time is taken out of their daily roles by taking part in a large number of consultation exercises. These include Extending Entitlement, Youth Work Strategy, NVYO Grant, CWVYS, Tom Wylie. Positively, CWVYS is celebrating 70 years in existence with an event at the Senedd. GP noted that central support for Erasmus+ projects would no longer be available - this helps organisations apply for international and European activities so could put at risk the £1m that comes into the sector.
- 12.3 **TAG Cymru** – SD reported that cuts to HEIs across the UK (mainly due to falling numbers of international students) is affecting youth work programmes. The situation is worse in England where 10 youth work programmes have closed but all programmes feel under threat to some extent. SD is the Wales rep on UKTAG and said that some initiatives are being held to reinforce their position, including an annual conference. Glyndwr and Cardiff Met are working in partnership to review the Youth Work Strategy.
- 12.4 **Local authority** – representatives reported they too are involved in similar consultation events. They also suggested that the sector might want to make provision for

celebrating 75 years since the 1944 Education Act which first specified local authority duties for the Youth Service.

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

12.6 **Play Wales – MG and MKS** had sent apologies as they had earlier reported that they had nothing further to add to their previous update.

**13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**14 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES**

Weds 18 Oct 2017

Weds 7 Feb 2018

Weds 16 May 2018