

**Minutes of meeting held at
the Pavilion, Llandrindod
Wells on 12 February 2014
10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Tim Opie, Tracey Thomas, Jo Sims, Steve Drowley, Alan Twelvetrees.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

Apologies:

David Algie, Jane Williams, Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs, Sam Evans, Gary Foreman, Catrin James, Grant Poiner, Jamie Jones Mead, Dafydd Baker, Mark Isherwood, Ann Smith, Colin Heslop, Sue Trevelyan Jones.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting the low attendance due to a CWVYS event at the Senedd and other individual circumstances.
- 1.2 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: the initial sift judging of the Youth Work Excellence Awards; the National Conference planning meeting; the Community Development Cymru interim endorsement forum; Youth Work Alliance Wales meeting; Joint ETS; and CWVYS training event.

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 It was noted with regret that Andy Borsden has resigned from the ETS Committee due to additional responsibilities. A replacement PYO will be sought.

Action: TO to seek nominations.

4. SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 4.1. **Local authority** representatives raised concerns as noted at the previous meeting about the severe cuts proposed to the service across Wales, which have been out for public consultation. There is a lot of upheaval in the service with changes to personnel and uncertainty about government reorganisation in light of the Williams Commission report.
- 4.2. **Community Development:** AT provided an update. The interim endorsement forum has been established to endorse training programmes (GN attends as an observer). A process for the individual recognition of workers who have a lot of experience but no qualifications is also being explored based on the England Standards Board process. How both systems will be resourced has not yet been established and there remains some tension in the sector about qualifications versus experience and ability.
- 4.3. GN confirmed that ETS has written to CDC about necessary changes to the ETS committee membership and the need for reciprocal arrangements to

be established. Derith Powell will confirm who will attend after their next meeting on 27 February.

Action: Members agreed the change in membership and the removal of the term 'community development' from the ETS logo.

- 4.4. **TAG group:** Group has not met but SD reported that issues mentioned previously remain relevant. Cuts to services mean there are fewer placement opportunities and fewer qualified supervisors but conversely there is a rise in full time students at times of austerity.

Action: Add placements as agenda item for next meeting.

- 4.5. **Additional item on local authority cuts:** GN has been approached by concerned members of one local authority Youth Service for an ETS Wales view about proposed major changes there; because of prior involvement with the authority he therefore asked SD to chair this item. Discussion focussed on the apparent removal of all community-based provision in favour of provision on school sites plus concerns around the removal of requirements for youth workers to hold relevant qualifications. While the issue of terms and conditions is rightly a matter for the employer, ETS does have a duty to promote the value of national youth work qualifications and the strong relationship between qualifications and quality. Even though the term 'youth worker' may not appear in the job title, the role and job specification should require an appropriately qualified worker. The danger of Welsh Government policy not being met adequately was also considered, particularly in light of the new national youth work strategy, the youth engagement and progression framework and the registration of youth workers. Young people's rights under the UNCRC must also be upheld. It was agreed that a **generalised** letter to the Education Minister be sent on behalf of ETS, setting out the issues as discussed and requesting that the Minister remind local authorities of their duties to provide adequate youth services.

Action: GN & SD to draft letter to Education Minister.

5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy** – this will be launched at the national conference event in north Wales on 20 February. There was concern around the limited ability to comment on the earlier draft and that closer work with schools will come at the expense of community based provision. There was cause for optimism on the re-emphasis on open access provision and support for the voluntary sector.
- 5.2 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – the Youth Guarantee document has been published and regional meetings held for the rollout of the programme. The lead-worker role will have implications for the Youth Service. Welsh Government is seeking a response to its early implementation but it was agreed that ETS Wales would not contribute at this stage.
- 5.3 **Registration of youth workers** – The Education Bill is progressing through the legislative/committee processes and reaching the final stages but youth workers will not be included in the first phase of registration. Sam Evans has requested a representative from Youth Work Alliance Wales sit on Education Workforce Council, TO was nominated for this role.

Action: Watching brief. Need to ensure youth work input into discussions and decisions.

6. SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

6.1 The National Youth Agency was successful in its bid to UKCES (on behalf of Joint ETS and the Federation for Community Development and Learning) for work related to the orphan 'youth & community' SOC code. Initially for Wales this is limited to updating the youth work Apprenticeship Framework. Apprenticeships have not been widely used in Wales due to financial and capacity reasons and further strategic direction on their use needs to be sought from Welsh Government. Employer engagement in all areas of the SOC code work is essential.

Action: LR to keep members informed of progress and seek their full engagement in forthcoming developments.

6.2 CLD Scotland hosted the UK-wide CLD Panel meeting in Birmingham on 11 Nov and have agreed to establish a virtual forum open to anyone in the youth work and community development sector.

7. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2012-13

7.1. **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – LR & DB have attended a series of meetings with Awarding Organisations from England arranged by the NYA. There is agreement to produce one qualification at Level 2&3 for England and Wales that can be delivered through an agreed group of AOs only. A timeline for the process has been developed and the new qualifications will need to be available by October 2014. The structure and content of the new qualifications is currently being discussed and it is envisaged that they will comprise core and optional units in order to suit the needs of different policy environments and settings. Employer engagement is key and consultation on the current qualifications and changes needed is currently taking place.

Action: LR & DB to keep the sector informed of progress.

7.2. **Quality Mark** – As planned, two organisations have been identified to take part in the piloting of the QM, namely KPC Youth in Bridgend and Monmouthshire Youth Service. Work has started on the process and chairs and panel members identified. However, Sue Coleman, the consultant who has been leading on this, has been taken ill and a replacement to complete the process needs to be found at very short notice. LR suggested Courtney Taylor or John Rose and TT suggested Keith Thomas. CJ and LR are also delivering a joint workshop at the national youth work conference on 20 Feb.

Action: It was agreed to approach individuals mentioned to take on this work.

7.3. **Refresh of Higher Educations Guidelines to Endorsement** – the current Guidelines were written in 2010 and therefore need updating. A sub-group needs to be established for this work and the findings from the annual monitoring need to be considered in the process.

Action: LR to seek a chair from ETS members and write to wider field for group membership.

8. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

8.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** The panel visit took place on 28/29 January 2014 and the programme was endorsed with conditions. TT had chaired the

panel and gave an update on the process and conditions placed. TT thanked AS and GP for their support as panel members.

- 8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 8.3 **UWN/USW** – Nothing to report
- 8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2014.
- 8.5 **OU – BA:** Joint ETS endorsement will take place in 2015.
- 8.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing further to report.
Action: LR to add endorsement dates to HEIs on the agenda to raise awareness of timings. Note to be sent seeking volunteers to act as panel members.

9. JNC UPDATE

DA had provided a written update prior to the meeting, which confirmed that a pay agreement of 1% rise on all grades and allowances from Sept 2013 had been reached and new payscales announced.

Action: LR to circulate information and payscales.

10. ANNUAL MONITORING OF HIGHER EDUCATION ENDORSED PROGRAMMES

Courtney Taylor has again been contracted to complete the work on annual monitoring of BA and PgDip programmes. The collection this year was conducted using an Excel spreadsheet, which allowed data to be displayed and collated more effectively. Initial findings were tabled but a fuller discussion is needed once the reports have been finalised.

Action: CT to be invited to present reports at next meeting.

11. JOINT ETS (JETS) MEETING

There has not been a meeting since Oct 2013 but officers have been liaising on the bid to UKCES for the SSC work for JETS to act as the sector specialist.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 The all-Wales Supervision module, which is delivered as part of endorsed programmes, needs fuller discussion so will be included on the agenda of the next meeting. There are questions around whether it is a compulsory requirement for all supervisors.

13. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Weds 14 May 2014

Weds 15 Oct 2014

Weds 11 Feb 2015

Items for next agenda:

Workforce development audit/pilot

Supervision module

Student placements

Trinity investigating options for individual recognition process