

Minutes of meeting held at the Elan Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 10 February 2016 10.30am

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Steve Drowley, Tim Opie, Grant Poiner, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Catrin James, Nadia Stanton, Jamie Jones Mead, Chris Davis, Jo Sims, Emma Chivers, Gillian Wilde.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary) Courtney Taylor for item 7.

Apologies:

David Algie, Dafydd Baker, Ann Smith, Jane Williams, Sam Evans, Ged Kerslake.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly Nadia Stanton who is the PYO rep replacing Tracey Thomas, and to Mike Greenaway and Martin King-Sheard representing Play Wales. GN reported that he had had a busy schedule. Various meetings since the last ETS meeting included: Joint ETS; annual JNC event; Ministerial Reference Group in November and January; and LR regarding the ETS grant and workplan. He had also attended the PYO meeting to give a presentation on the work of ETS; a South Wales Police 'Early Intervention' summit, and had written a blog for the Education Workforce Council website. He has also started a round of meetings with ETS representative organisations but is still to meet with the FE sector. The planned CDC endorsement forum meeting was postponed.

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 (point 3.1 from previous meeting) CJ was thanked for locating a hard copy of the draft CPD process that was developed by Courtney Taylor some time ago. It will be scanned and copied to SE for information.
- 3.2 (point 4.1 from previous meeting) GN noted that the Youth Work Alliance Wales is still in abeyance. It is a useful forum for sharing information but has little capacity to achieve tasks.
- 3.3 (point 5.4 from previous meeting) GW is meeting SE in April to pursue the publication of the Coherent Training Package report.
- 3.4 (point 7 from previous meeting) The actions agreed from the EWC presentation have been completed. TO noted concerns that the New Deal for the Education Workforce is focussed on teachers and schools rather than wider education workers, more so by Welsh Govt officials than EWC staff.

Action: TO to provide copy of email to GN; GN to send note to EWC on behalf of ETS expressing view that the New deal must embrace whole education workforce.

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 **National Youth Work Strategy / Ministerial Reference Group** – GN reported that Tom Wylie has been commissioned to chair the MRG sub group looking at options for taking forward the youth work 'offer'. Tom has been consulting with the sectors and published two sheets (as circulated) on the offer and funding options. Members were happy with the content of the offer but felt that some of the funding options were not achievable, also they were not mutually exclusive.

Action: GN will draft comments to Tom Wylie.

In relation to the work of the MRG, the following was discussed:

- Relocation of youth work branch into Kara Richards' team

- National conference on 17 March focussing on youth work in schools
- Commissions provided on youth work in schools, Welsh language, voluntary sector work. Concerns expressed about what happens to these reports and how they contribute strategically. Also about work being outsourced to England rather than using competent individuals in Wales.
- Quality Mark will go out to tender in the spring. Sixteen QM assessors have been appointed and taken part in training. Conwy and RCT local authorities and the Scouts and Cwmbran Centre for Young People will be the first organisations to go through the QM process.
- The next MRG meeting will take place in April.

4.2 Education Workforce Council – the Welsh Govt consultation document on the registration of youth workers was discussed, particularly focussing on section 6.2 which defined the categories of worker proposed to be registered. It was agreed that, for parity, the term ‘voluntary sector’ should be added to the list of employers named for those of Youth Support Workers. Discussion also covered the timing of registration as youth workers are only required to register if they are in certain employment. However, there was a question on whether qualifying teachers are added to the list immediately. Parity for the different professions is important. Members also discussed the implications of registration, which may result in a demand for fast-track qualifying programmes with RPL, particularly at PgDip level. Also, could BA students request registration as a YSW prior to graduation and at what point would this be achieved.

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

4.3 Registration of Childcare Workers – MG outlined the history of the development of these regulations that come into force in April 2016, which are designed to close registration loopholes for those working with under 12yr olds. Youth work with under-11s may fall under the category of ‘open access play’. A three-day Level 3 qualification for playwork managers has been devised which satisfies the registration regulations and could be undertaken by youth workers.

Action: MG to keep ETS informed of any relevant developments.

4.4 Other – YEPF regional co-ordinators meetings have been held, current focus is on looked-after children and in future will be on youth offending. TO and Andy Borsden met with Welsh Govt officials to confirm the role youth work could play in the implementation of ‘Successful Futures’. Indicators for the Future Wellbeing of Generations Act are being consulted upon – it would be useful if youth work could be included in some way.

Action: TO & LR to check on wellbeing indicators.

5. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015-16

5.1 ETS Chair Appraisal Process/Job Description Review – GN has started to look at the job description/appraisal process and TO and JS offered to work with him on developing this. However, GN feels the current version needs to be broken down to make it better able to be used in an appraisal process. It is also dependent on the work of ETS so it would be useful to review the Terms of Reference. SE will be informed as Welsh Govt provides the ETS grant.

Action: LR to seek a sub-group to review the Terms of Reference and inform SE.

5.2 Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines – LR reported that, following discussion at the last meeting, amendments have been made to the qualifications’ Assessment Strategy and taken to the meeting with Wales & England Awarding Organisations for approval.

5.3 HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh – It has proved difficult to get a group together so a start on this work will be done via email. The refresh needs to include implications of the EWC (eg the need for RPL or fast-track systems). Parity with other guidelines, particularly England’s, is important and the grid for all-nations requirements needs to be updated.

- Action: LR to liaise with SD on progress.**
- 5.4 **Certification** –further to the production of ETS certificates for qualifying students, TAG Cymru members and YWP training providers need to be contacted to arrange a system for distribution
- Action: LR to contact training providers.**
- 5.5 **Other work** – GW reported that SE has not yet fed back on the report submitted on the Coherent Training Package.

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.
- 6.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – endorsement of the BA and PgDip programmes will take place on 15 March 2016. CJ is chairing but additional panel members are sought.
- 6.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – Nothing to report.
- 6.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 6.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report but EC reported that this programme is not continuing to recruit in Sept 2016 – LR to seek additional information.
- 6.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.
- 6.7 **Community Development** - Nothing to report.

7. ANNUAL MONITORING OF HEI PROGRAMMES – COURTNEY TAYLOR

CT spoke to a summary report (tabled) on the endorsed BA and PgDip programmes. He said that there had been some delay in receiving returns but the full reports will be available by Easter. He described the main findings:

- How ETS panels must ensure that Unistats data correctly reflect the programme
- Overall student numbers are down, particularly noticeable for PgDip programmes
- There is a move to full-time study
- There could be marketing implications for age, gender and ethnicity balances
- There seems to be an increase in admissions for those with standard entry qualifications but a fall in those with YSW qualifications

CT suggested that in future a staged timing of data collection could be used, with dissertation titles collected in the summer and the main data collected in Oct/Nov.

GN thanked CT for his presentation and work on the annual monitoring.

Action: CT to finalise full reports. LR to send summary reports to EWC.

8. JNC UPDATE

Following a round of consultations across England and Wales, JNC Employers' Side have announced that they propose to move away from joint negotiating so that youth workers will move to local government / single scale terms and conditions. The JNC Staff Side does not support this move. It has caused considerable uncertainty and is seen as a blow to the professional particularly at time when the service is weakened by major cuts.

GN and LR will be meeting with England ETS counterparts and the JNC Employers' Side on 11 Feb to discuss the implications. While ETS takes no view on terms and conditions (which are a matter for employers) members discussed the following areas that need to be raised at this meeting:

- The negative impact on the professionalization of the youth service at this time
- The impact on the role of ETS and for HEIs
- Transportability of qualifications across the UK and Ireland
- Key issue is to retain/develop/bolster the professional qualifications
- May be need for enhanced role for Joint ETS as UK-wide endorsing body
- Could the EWC be used to ensure professional qualifications are retained
- Need to ensure there is parity of qualification between the voluntary and local authority sectors

Action: GN and LR to provide feedback after meeting with JNC Employers' Side.

9. SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

LR had met Cassy Taylor as part of Qualifications Wales' review of Health & Social Care qualifications. YSW qualifications are not part of the review but Cassy will keep up informed and had offered to speak at a future ETS meeting. A brief for this would need to be agreed. In terms of UKCES work, a review of the youth work NOS may need to be considered as these are now four years old.

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

10. JOINT ETS

- 10.1 The JETS leaflet on professional qualifications has been finalised and will be circulated shortly.
- 10.2 The NI government's proposal to close the Youth Council for Northern Ireland (YCNI) which hosts the North-South ETS function, is going ahead. The implications for professional endorsement there are not yet known.
- 10.3 Scotland is hosting the next JETS meeting on 1/2 March.

11. SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 11.1 **Local authority** representatives noted that the PYO group is reviewing their constitution and title to better reflect the roles of the members. They are also intending to produce a termly newsletter. The youth work pages of the WLGA website have been updated.
- 11.2 **CWVYS** representatives noted that GP is now the Chair of the Training Committee in place of JJM. The Committee had discussed implications of EWC and CSSIW, roles of regional co-ordinators, Erasmus+ training opportunities and the review of the 'Stepping Stones' course in light of the new Level 2 qualification.
- 11.3 **TAG Cymru** representatives noted that their last meeting had discussed concerns about changes to the JNC and the need to lobby AMs and employers about professionalization. As part of a round of UK conferences, one will be held at Glyndwr University in March. USW will host a research conference in October where academics and students will present papers. There is also an Erasmus project on intercultural competence. GW will attend future TAG meetings to look at better progression. Students will also be invited to attend. TAG reps would welcome invitations and opportunities for their members to attend sector meetings.
- 11.4 **Colegau Cymru** representative noted that one training organisation is offering the YWP qualification over a shorter timescale, which needs further exploration. The first standardisation meeting for the YMCA college for the new qualification is about to take place. Staff will be visiting Croatia regarding youth information work.
- 11.5 **Play Wales** representative reported that Wales had hosted a meeting of the National Playwork and Education Council. Playwork NOS are currently being reviewed. A European-funded Welsh Govt project 'Progress for Success' provides £6m for early years, childcare and playwork qualifications (<http://gov.wales/about/cabinet/decisions/2015/apr-jun/education/hl1525/?lang=en>) Play Wales are also seeking to roll out the P3 qualification to European countries through an Erasmus+ bid.

12. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- 12.1 EC noted that there needs to be better marketing of youth work and particularly youth work careers information.
- 12.2 Youth Work Excellence Awards will be held in June in north Wales and will coincide with Youth Work Week.

13. CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 18 May 2016
Weds 12 Oct 2016
Weds 8 Feb 2017