

Minutes of meeting held via Teams, Thurs 30 July 2020 10am-1pm

Present:

Steve Drowley (Chair), Paul O'Neil, Donna Lemin, Dafydd Baker, Grant Poiner, Gill Price, Rachel Burton, Catrin James, Emma Chivers, Josh Klein, Hayden Llewellyn, Tim Opie.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser)

Apologies:

David Algje, Jo Sims, Lin Howells, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway,.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS

SD welcomed everyone to the meeting which was the first to be held virtually due to Covid. Because of this, the usual agenda and meeting time had been reduced.

2. WELSH GOVERNMENT UPDATE

- 2.1 **Reopening Guidance** – DL thanked all those involved in reopening and reorganising of services during this time. She reported that Welsh Govt had worked with the sector to draft high-level guidance on reopening services. These will be announced by the Minister shortly.
- 2.2 **Interim YW Board / Strategy Participation Groups** – DL said that an email from IYWB will be issued shortly about restarting the strategy participation groups. They are also seeking confirmation from all group members that they are still willing and available to be involved. The activity and timings of the workplans will need to be revisited.
- 2.3 **Research** – DL reported that the tender for wide-ranging research on the sector has been awarded to Wavehill, who will be conducting desk-research initially. DL requested that key documents for consideration be forwarded to her. Wavehill will then be speaking to a large number of individuals across the sector. HL noted that workforce mapping (as per EWC's proposal) was not included. DL confirmed that the specification had been produced by the Board with the internal Welsh Govt statistics official and a decision made that capacity and timescales could not accommodate this area of research. However, this could be conducted as a parallel piece of work with separate funding that could be made available.
- 2.4 **Schedule of JNC qualifications** – LR has collated this list of JNC-recognised qualifications which should be used for EWC registration and sent it to HL and DL. DL reported that she and MM are trying to find legislative time but this is more difficult because of Covid so there is no easy answer to this.

3. ETS UPDATE

- 3.1 **ETS Guidelines** – these have been refreshed and are now available on the ETS website: <https://etswales.org.uk/endorsement-guidelines>
Joint ETS-produced guidance on digital youth work, based on work with the EU is also available: <https://etswales.org.uk/digital-youth-work>
- 3.2 **ETS Covid Guidance to HEIs** – LR reported that a number of meetings have been held with Wales HEI reps and the England ETS officer to discuss the difficulties faced by training providers and how ETS requirements could be temporarily adjusted to mitigate

these. Guidance for the 2020-21 academic year was drafted and main points include: reducing the placement hours to a minimum of 75% of the total required, developing creative approaches to placements, and including youth work as a priority area for campus learning.

<https://etswales.org.uk/covid-19-ets-guidance>

PoN and JK pointed out that youth work has not disappeared but has been reshaped to include some face-to-face work, digital work, street-based, and joint work with other sectors. They have moved quickly and creatively to respond to needs and have not had to furlough workers. However, this is not true across all sectors and GrP and CJ reported that while some voluntary organisations had adjusted and flourished, some estimated that they were only able to engage with 10% of their young people. DL reported that some recipients of the NVYO grant had furloughed workers. She also said that there is a report available summarising young people's views (organised through IYWB prior to Welsh Govt producing reopening guidance). **DL will forward to LR for circulation.**

3.3 RB asked if guidance for the FE sector could also be updated for the 2020-21 academic year. **LR to arrange meeting with relevant individuals.**

3.4 **Youth Work Practice Qualifications Briefing Paper** – LR spoke to the briefing paper which had been circulated earlier and amended following consultation with the sector. The paper covers the development of the new Level 2 & 3 qualifications, the titles of the units and how they are structured, the wider suite of JNC qualifications and key duties of youth workers at different levels. The paper was welcomed and brought clarity to this development. The following points were noted:

- DB reported there is some work to do to ensure holders of the old L2 Award can continue seamlessly to the new L2 or L3 Certificate;
- The range of option units is of value, and it would be useful to explore how these could be better used, particularly for the participation groups;
- There is no mention of apprenticeships but this is because there is continuing confusion over their availability and funding, this is of concern as some organisations use them and particularly the Urdd through the medium of Welsh – **LR to follow up;**
- The qualification requirements for individuals for those ensuring quality is causing some concerns, particularly in the voluntary sector.

3.5 **Leadership and Management Programme** – SD provided an update. The original Ford Partnership course from 2002 has been reviewed by the steering group. The group comprises Paul Glaze, David Williams, Emma Chivers, Tim Opie, Gareth Newton and the consultant Kevin Ford, who is now refreshing the programme. A report will be provided in August on how the programme will be piloted with a cross sector of organisations, aiming to offer it more widely in 2021. NAEL has provided funding for this project and has been very supportive. The work contributes to the workplan of the Workforce Development participation group and was welcomed by members. TO suggested details be included in the next WG newsletter which is on the theme of skills and employability. **SD to send report to LR for circulation.**

4. ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

4.1 **USW BA programme** – a full endorsement will be held in 2021 so this was a smaller event to grant a one-year extension. PoN chaired and reported that the discussions focussed on how the institution could provide assurance of delivering the same programme and resources in light of organisational and staffing changes. Conditions were set to ensure this.

4.2 **Trinity Saint David – BA & PgDip/MA programmes** – this re-endorsement event was the first to be conducted virtually. The panel was chaired by EC and included PoN and Helen Quarrel of Powys YS. EC reported on the event, saying the day went well and there was much to commend, particularly the relevance of the new modules. There were some concerns and these were reflected in the conditions set, mainly around the staffing complement and networks for supervisors.

5. **Quality Mark** - Prior to the meeting, HL had provided an update paper on the QM. AB is in post and starting to progress key elements of the work. They are keen to involve more organisations in the voluntary sector.

PlayWales had also provided an interesting paper on their quality assurance process and it would be useful for AB and MKS to discuss this further.

6. **AOB**

TO attends a range of national meetings and it is evident that there are insufficient numbers of youth work representation around these tables – this is frustrating when there is funding for areas of work that youth workers are already involved in.

HL is interested in seeing the JNC pay claim and response in light of teacher pay negotiations.
LR will circulate to group.

7. **Date of next meeting** – 19th October 2020 via Teams (10am-1pm)