

**Minutes of meeting held at the
Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 23
October 2014 10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Chris Davis, Ann Smith, Mick Conroy, Jamie Jones Mead, Catrin James, Dafydd Baker.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary) plus Gillian Wilde, Jane Hawkshaw, Becky Watson-Stubbs for item 7.

Apologies:

Tracey Thomas, Jo Sims, David Algie, Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs, Sam Evans, Mark Isherwood, Alan Twelvetrees, Jane Williams, Tim Opie, Steve Drowley, Grant Poiner

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Mick Conroy, University of South Wales, who was attending temporarily on behalf of TAG Wales. Emma Chivers USW was nominated to attend in future in place of Colin Heslop.
- 1.2 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: Youth Work Alliance Wales meeting, where Sam had given an update on the National YS Strategy; YMCA Community College for the work on the Coherent Training Package; Endorsement panel for UWTSO; Welsh Govt regarding a single Quality Mark and the review commissioned which will be conducted by an NYA consultant; CDC endorsement forum; and Joint ETS meeting. GN had also written to Haydn Llewellyn, Education Workforce Council, and subsequently met with him and Angela Jardine.

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 Play Wales has requested to meet with GN & LR to discuss progress on Playwork endorsement.
- 3.2 UWTSO proposals regarding recognising individual experience and learning will be discussed at the next TAG meeting where Darrell Williams will provide a paper. CJ requested the involvement of CWVYS. TAG will then need to make a formal proposal to take to JETS.
- 3.3 Copy of 'ETS Endorsed' logo and usage guide to be sent to Agored.
- 3.4 Copies of Annual Monitoring Forms to be sent to TAG.

4. SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 4.1. **CWVYS** representatives suggested that better communication between HEIs and the voluntary sector could ensure that more placement opportunities are available. CJ reported that regional training meetings have taken place; that CWVYS is working with some local authorities on co-planning and the commissioning process and held an event looking at 'mutual' organisations; and have been involved with PYOs in the Welsh Govt meetings looking at a 'national outcomes framework'. They have also been involved in Welsh Govt commissioned work on a scoping study of voluntary sector involvement in the YEPF. CWVYS continues to work in partnership with the YMCA to ensure access to youth work

training. CJ reported that, like ETS, their Quality Mark is subject to the Welsh Govt review currently taking place. She was pleased to report that Keith Towler has been appointed CWVYS Chair and will take up this role when his term as Children's Commissioner ends.

- 4.2. **TAG group:** MC reported that staff retirements are changing the shape of TAG but all HEIs are represented and wider team members are being encouraged to be involved. Placements remain an issue as discussed previously and with an increasingly younger student cohort the need for supportive placements at Level 4 is crucial. TAG also discussed how to keep the curriculum fresh in a time of shifting sands and trying to meet what employers' need.
- 4.3. **Federation of Awarding Bodies:** DB had nothing further to report.
- 4.4. **Local authority** representatives reported that times are grim and uncertain for youth work with reported staff losses of one third in some areas. There is not a full picture across Wales but a loss of funding on all fronts was noted – not only from core budget but also from project funding and areas such as health, families first, 14-19, community safety etc. and this is having a knock on effect. The structuring of local authorities and potential mergers adds to uncertainty as the Youth Service does not have the recognition or standing of other services. While there appears to be a range of good Welsh Govt policies, including the YEPF, the action to be taken on the National YS Strategy is 'none'. The lack of Estyn inspection also means there is a lack of scrutiny on the Youth Service.

With moves towards more targeted work, such as domestic and sexual violence, concern was expressed that youth workers are having to undertake work with young people with complex needs that perhaps require more specialist skills. This has implications for training, particularly around CPD.
- 4.5. **Community Development:** GN reported that he had attended the CDC endorsement forum which was looking at using a system of readers, mentors and assessors. However, the approved QWEST programme was coming to an end and the UHOVI programme has now met conditions and is approved but will not be continuing in future.

5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy** – the Reference Group established by Welsh Govt to oversee the implementation of the Strategy will hold its first meeting on 10 November. GN is a member. The group will receive reports on the development of an Outcomes Framework and the review of the Quality Marks. Welsh Govt have also commissioned a report on best practice on youth work in schools, using a number of case studies. Other news is that the Youth Work team has been reduced; the number of Excellence Award applications has fallen but the quality improved; and 13 voluntary organisations have been invited to apply for the NVYO grant.
- 5.2 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – TO had previously reported that regional meetings were finding evidence of productive work.
- 5.3 **Registration of Professional Youth Workers** – GN had met with representatives of the Education Workforce Council following discussion at Youth Work Alliance Wales to reinforce the role of youth work. The meeting was very positive and it is important to ensure youth work remains on EWC's agenda in preparation for registration in 2017. Also, Welsh Govt is currently conducting two

consultations - one on the fees to be charged for registration and the other on a common code of conduct.

Action: GN will draft an ETS response to each and circulate for comment for submission prior to the closing dates.

6. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014-15

6.1 Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines – LR & DB continue to have meetings with the NYA and Awarding Organisations from England on the new Level 2&3 qualifications. Consultation on the structure and unit content has taken place and the units redrafted. Units are now with the AOs for technical rewording and to ensure compliancy with regulatory requirements. The near-final units should be available towards the end of November for dissemination to networks for 'light-touch' consultation. Units will then be loaded onto the QCF and available for use from 1 February 2015.

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

6.2 HE Guidelines to Endorsement Refresh – the current Guidelines were written in 2010 and therefore need updating. A sub-group needs to be established for this work.

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

6.3 Quality Mark Update – progress is in abeyance pending a decision by Welsh Govt who have employed an NYA consultant to look at the CWVYS and ETS QMs and report back with recommendations, due in November/December. DB reported that KPC Youth has now met the conditions set but felt that an ethical approach should be taken so that the QM process includes a mechanism to support the organisation to meet such conditions. A process for awarding the QM to Monmouthshire and KPC Youth needs to be explored and it was suggested that the Excellence Awards evening in February would be opportune.

Action: LR to contact Sam re space within the Excellence Awards evening.

7. CONSULTATION ON A COHERENT TRAINING PACKAGE (YMCA COMMUNITY COLLEGE)

7.1 Gillian and Jane gave a presentation on their work on a coherent training package, which Welsh Govt had commissioned the YMCA Community College to complete. They reported that they had already consulted widely across the various sectors in Wales and had identified that CPD appeared to be a concern of respondents. They had also consulted with young people via youth forums, Clic and Funky Dragon. They sought the views of ETS members on this development in terms of the strengths of the current provision and gaps that needed filling.

7.2 ETS members felt that there is a comprehensive range of qualifying programmes but agreed that CPD is an area that could be improved. Better marketing of recognised programmes may also be needed if learners are taking qualifications relating to 'work with young people' that have no professional link or route. Work with Careers Wales may be needed to clarify this.

7.3 Gillian will provide further information once the consultation is complete and the report submitted to Welsh Govt.

Action: LR to provide Becky with names of ETS members at meeting. Gillian to send LR the presentation to circulate to all ETS members.

8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 8.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** Tracey Thomas has approved the response to the conditions set by the panel at their visit in January 2014 and arrangements are being made to revisit in early 2015 to meet staff and students.
- 8.2 **BA(Hons)** - Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2015. Jo Sims is Panel Chair.
- 8.3 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 8.4 **UWN/USW** – Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2015. Ann Smith is Panel Chair.
- 8.5 **Trinity Saint David** – GN reported that the panel visit had taken place in the summer and confirmed that both BA and PgDip programmes were endorsed with conditions which he listed. The full report will be circulated to ETS members.
- 8.6 **OU – BA:** Joint ETS endorsement will take place in 2015 with NYA leading on this. ETS Wales to supply two panel members.
- 8.7 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.

9 JNC UPDATE

DA had provided a written update prior to the meeting, saying that a sliding scale of percentage increase was currently being consulted upon. GN and LR had attended the JNC meeting in London on 24 June to provide and update on the work of ETS Wales.

10 SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

LR reported that NYA is currently acting on behalf of Joint ETS on sector related work and for Wales this includes consultation on the refresh of the Wales Youth Work Apprenticeship Framework. This has to be completed by February 2015 and will include the Foundation Apprenticeship (Level 2) and the Apprenticeship (Level 3). The Framework will incorporate the new qualifications but must also include Employment Rights & Responsibilities, Essential Skills and Wider Key Skills. Future activity is not yet known as UKCES has yet to announce what will be available in the next 3-year funding round.

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

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- On 17 March 2015 CWVYS is again holding a showcase event for its members at the Senedd to inform AMs about their work.
- A Swansea based organisation Engage4life has been awarded the contract to deliver the National Citizen's Service in Wales. CJ will supply further information for circulation.

12 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Weds 11 Feb 2015
Weds May 2015
Weds 14 Oct 2015