

**Minutes of meeting held at the Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 11 February 2015 10.30am**

**Present:**

Gareth Newton (Chair), Grant Poiner, Emma Chivers, Jamie Jones Mead, Catrin James, Simon Brownsill, Tracey Thomas, Jo Sims, Tim Opie.

**In attendance:**

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

**Apologies:**

Chris Davis, Ann Smith, Dafydd Baker, David Algie, Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs, Sam Evans, Mark Isherwood, Alan Twelvetrees, Jane Williams, Steve Drowley.

**1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT**

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly new members Emma Chivers, University of South Wales and Simon Brownsill, Scouts Wales. GN reported that Mark Isherwood has tendered his resignation as he has been appointed to the board of the Education Workforce Council (EWC).

**Action: GN will write to Colegau Cymru to seek a replacement for MI.**

- 1.2 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: Welsh Govt NYA consultant regarding a single Quality Mark and a workshop on an Outcomes Framework; Paul Glaze to discuss how the voluntary sector is dealing with climate of austerity (similar meetings to be arranged with PYO Chair and Welsh TAG); and CDC endorsement forum. He had also produced two consultation responses concerning the EWC. GN was also a member of the WG Ministerial Reference Group but was unable to attend the first meeting so had met with Howard Williamson. GN had sat on the task & finish sub group set up to scope options for a National Youth Service, producing an invitation to tender for a feasibility study.

**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 CDC Endorsement Forum – GN reported that the last meeting had discussed constitutional issues and the separation of powers within the England Standards Board model.
- 3.2 Coherent Training Package – since YMCA staff attended the last meeting, an online survey has been produced which caused some confusion concerning duplication relating to questions on the Level 2 & 3 qualifications. SE hosted a meeting with YMCA and ETS to discuss progress on the work and better communication. One of the early findings relates to the need for CPD at all levels. TO noted that WLGA work on benchmarking and the workforce planning tool had been suspended due to the removal of WG grant but this work could have contributed in providing valuable data on skills gaps and shortages. Lack of data is also an issue for the voluntary sector.

**4. SECTOR FEEDBACK**

- 4.1. **CWVYS** representatives noted that, building on work previously reported, they are in a round of regional meetings along with many of those mentioned by GN.

They have also responded to a data request from Welsh Govt and attended a review of the National Citizens Service contracts. There have been some concerns about how the field could have made more of a contribution if they had been engaged from the start by 'Engage 4 Life' the contract holder. CWVYS will hold a showcase event at the Senedd on 17 March hosted by Keith Davies AM.

4.2. **TAG group:** EC reported that TAG had discussed how the profile of students is changing – that while they are getting younger there is an expectation for them to work with young people with complex needs. There seems to be a lack of study skills support for students at Levels 2&3 which has implications for admissions. This could be looked at in the refresh of the HE Guidelines. EC reported that the USW youth work programme currently at Caerleon Campus will be moving to Newport city centre.

4.3. **Local authority** representatives reported that financial constraints continue to affect delivery models. For example, DofE Award is currently having discussions with local authorities in England and Wales about how their programme is licenced. TO reported that the Police Core Liaison Programme – a one-week programme for young people with the Youth Service and Youth Offending Service – has not yet been finalised and there is an opportunity for links to be made to the YEPF. As previously noted, workers and managers are being drawn into more targeted specialist work, for example child sexual exploitation and trafficking and the PYOG is developing a position paper on CSET. CAMHS is another growing area and workers are seeing a surprising rise in the number of young people presenting with mental health issues. This has implications for workers' CPD and supervision needs.

TO reported that the next round of European funding is starting to take shape with regional bids at mature stages. These are local government led also involve the voluntary sector. The WLGA is working with WEFO and other partners in attempt to avoid duplication of programmes (in particular aimed at young people NEET) but there are some concerning signs currently that some national programmes overlap with regional proposals.

## 5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy / Ministerial Reference Group** – the Reference Group met as mentioned above. The WG-commissioned report on best practice on youth work in schools is to be published in April, using a number of case studies. EC mentioned that students have produced some good work on wellbeing that could have been included. Members noted the importance of not defining youth work by schools work or youth engagement & progression work alone.

5.2 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – WG is running a conference in Mid Wales on 5 March aimed at service providers at strategic level. TO attended the Strategic Forum for Career Development – Careers services have a clear remit to target IAG at young people most in need and have an online 'Common Application Process' tool for young people to find employment and training opportunities. However, at the moment Youth Service organisations are unable to add their open access services or informal learning provision to the site. The YEPF evaluation team is distributing a survey to stakeholders as part of the evaluation. CWVYS have been asked to speak with their members about how the voluntary sector youth service is contributing to the YEPF. A quarterly newsletter on YEPF progress is available from WG.

- 5.3 **Registration of Professional Youth Workers** – The EWC comes into being on 1 April this year, as the GTCW Wales ceases to exist. Members of the council were announced recently, there is no formal representative from youth work on the council but Mark Isherwood and James Harries (ADEW member from Newport) have knowledge of the sector. Hayden Llewellyn is happy to attend meetings with the sector.

**Action: GN to invite Hayden Llewellyn to an ETS meeting and agree with members any areas of questions we would like him to address.**

## 6. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2014-15

- 6.1 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – Units for the Level 2&3 Youth Work Practice qualifications have been loaded onto the QCF and available for use from 1 February 2015. LR circulated a draft information paper on the new qualifications and invited comments prior to the paper being translated and available on the ETS website. A discussion on the Assessment Strategy that accompanies the qualification was held – this document sets requirements on how the qualification should be delivered and quality assured, including how to define 'occupational competence' for these roles. The Assessment Strategy for the old qualifications will be used temporarily while the new one is rewritten.

**Action: LR & DB to keep the sector informed of progress. All to provide comments as necessary on the update paper and Assessment Strategy.**

- 6.2 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – Steve Drowley has offered to chair a sub-group which needs to be established for this work.

**Action: LR to write to wider field for group membership.**

- 6.3 **Quality Mark Update** – the NYA consultant employed by WG to look at the CWVYS and ETS QMs produced a report for the Reference Group with recommendations to use the NYA QM model. Both ETS and CWVYS felt their QMs were unfairly judged against criteria they were not set up to address, namely identifying value for money and outcomes for young people. WG has organised a meeting for CWVYS and ETS staff along with those involved in the pilot events to meet with the NYA consultant to agree a way forward.

A process for awarding the QM to Monmouthshire and KPC Youth needs to be implemented now that the ETS QM will not be continued in its pilot form.

**Action: GN to meet KPC and Monmouthshire YS to arrange the awarding of the ETS QM.**

- 6.4 **Certification** – endorsed HE programmes are required to provide a list of qualifying students every year to ETS and this will now be reinstated as the ETS database of qualified youth workers is being updated. There has also been a request from HEIs to provide ETS certificates to qualifying students. After some discussion it was agreed that if HEIs provide the student details, bulk ETS certificates could be sent back to the HEI for distribution/awarding to save on administration and postage costs.

**Action: LR to provide draft certificates for next meeting for approval.**

- 6.5 **Other work** - LR is currently drafting the ETS work programme for submission to WG and wished to include any additional requirements identified by the Committee. Main discussion focussed on where there are gaps in current training and if ETS can endorse individual modules (such as the supervision module). There is a need for CPD training such as lead worker and restorative work with young people. Currently ETS can only endorse whole qualifications rather than individual modules and this may need to be considered in the rewriting of the HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement.

## 7 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 7.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** Tracey Thomas reported that the revisit to meet staff and students took place on 7 Feb. The majority of conditions have been met but there remain some issues to be resolved.  
**BA(Hons)** - Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2015. Jo Sims is Panel Chair.
- 7.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 7.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2015. Ann Smith is Panel Chair.
- 7.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 7.5 **OU – BA:** Joint ETS endorsement event will take place on 21/22 April with NYA leading on this. An additional panel member from ETS is sought.
- 7.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.

## 8 JNC UPDATE

DA had provided a written update, which was circulated prior to the meeting, saying that a 2.2% pay increase was currently being consulted upon. Also, evidence is being gathered on the way the service is currently delivered before a decision can be made on the Staff Side's request in relation to evening sessional working. Concern was also noted about lack of Welsh attendance at JNC meetings and how this could be addressed.

## 9 SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

LR reported that NYA remains as contract holder with UKCES on behalf of Joint ETS on sector related work and for Wales this includes the publishing of the Wales Youth Work Apprenticeship Framework. Future activity is not yet known as UKCES has yet to announce what will be available in the next 3-year funding round. There appears to be some change in how SSCs will function in future in terms of a whole-UK approach. It is not clear how the setting up of Qualifications Wales and regional training skills partnerships will affect Joint ETS' work as the Sector Skills Body.

**Action: LR to arrange a meeting with GN and Natalie Hunt Williams to discuss sector panel arrangements in Wales. LR to keep members informed of progress and seek their full engagement in any forthcoming developments.**

## 10 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

None.

## 11 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Weds 13 May 2015

Weds 14 Oct 2015

Weds 10 Feb 2016