

Minutes of meeting held at the Elan Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 29 November 2016 10.30am

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Ann Smith, Martin King-Sheard, Mike Greenaway, Grant Poiner, Catrin James, Steve Drowley, Dafydd Baker, Jo Sims, Ceri Ormond, Rachel Burton, Chris Davis.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary).

Apologies:

Tim Opie, Emma Chivers, David Algie, Sam Evans, Ged Kerslake, Cathie Robins-Talbot.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/

GN welcomed everyone to the meeting, particularly new members Ceri and Rachel who described their respective roles. He reported that Jane Williams had tendered her resignation from the JNC Committee (and therefore from ETS).

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)

None

4. CHAIR'S REPORT

GN reported that his activities since the last ETS meeting included: providing a number of consultation responses (Youth Work Reference Group,; Outcomes Framework; EWC Fee structure; NAFW CYPE Committee Inquiry into Youth Work); an unsuccessful joint bid for the Quality Mark; attending an EWC seminar in mid Wales in September; endorsement of a major modification to UWTS BA programme in October; and attending the Unison youth work conference in November.

5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy / Youth Work Reference Group** – The next meeting of the YWRG is 8 Dec and the agenda covers a review of the work of the group via a SWOT analysis. The Minister, Alun Davies AM, is attending in the afternoon. The general view is that there have been good aspects to the group but it hasn't perhaps lived up to its promise. The CYPE report on their Inquiry into Youth Work has not yet been published and it is not known what role the YWRG may have in taking forward any recommendations.

JS reported that the PYO group had held a very positive meeting with Welsh Govt officials where assurances of ongoing dialogue and contact was provided. JS and regional PYOs will be meeting the Minister on 30 Jan to discuss the Inquiry and Curriculum for Life. Voluntary sector reps are having a separate meeting also in January.

Action: CJ to circulate link to clip on Senedd TV of Minister at the latest CYPE Committee Inquiry meeting on 10 Nov.

Action: GN to ask at Youth Work Reference Group on 8 Dec whether the group will have a role in implementing any recommendations from the CYPE Committee Inquiry.

- 5.2 **Audit of Local Authority Youth Service** – this has been published for the previous year and shows an 11% reduction in funding and an 18% reduction in posts. A PYO working group will be meeting to review the information gathered by the audit as the landscape has changed so much.

Action: JS to raise two issues with the next PYO working group – can there be a better breakdown of staff qualifications as just listing those with L2 and above is meaningless; can a better breakdown be provided of the voluntary sector organisations involved in partnership working.

Action: LR to send out link to Welsh Govt local authority Youth Service audit

- 5.3 **Other – YEPF regional co-ordinators met recently. Welsh Govt intend merging the Revenue Grant and YEPF Grant.**

6. EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL

- 6.1 The EWC seminar in September had been well attended and the Statutory Instrument defining the categories of youth workers to be registered has been published.

Action: LR to send out link to draft Statutory Instrument that was taken to the Constitutional and Legislative Affairs Committee 21 Nov (two documents)

- 6.2 The issue of making available fast-track qualifications for well experienced but unqualified employees was discussed.

Action: SD to raise with TAG Cymru the options for developing wider opportunities for qualifying experienced staff (particularly graduates in the voluntary sector holding L3 qualification and those in local authorities at managerial level).

- 6.3 LR reported that EWC had confirmed that those coming in to schools to deliver specialist sessions but without JNC qualifications would be required to be registered as school support workers. EWC is very keen to close loopholes but this is very much a start to the process. Currently EWC is looking for prospective members for the 'fitness to practise' panels. Youth work representation at management level was mentioned and there will be a meeting of key youth work organisations on 31 Jan.

Action: GN/LR to raise at EWC meeting on 31 Jan the issue of interim representation by youth workers on the EWC board, prior to the review of the current members' three-year term of office.

7 ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2016-17

- 7.1 **Terms of Reference Review** – LR circulated the document with initial amendments. Following discussion, the Terms of Reference were approved subject to a number of further amendments being made. SD was approved as an additional co-opted member and will remain Vice-Chair. Gill Price was nominated by Welsh TAG as the second HEI member.

Action: LR to amend Terms of Reference document as agreed and recirculate to members.

- 7.2 **ETS Chair Appraisal Process** – GN circulated the draft process for comment which was discussed.

Action: GN to amend the draft Appraisal Process and recirculate.

- 7.3 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – LR reported that further amendments have been made to the qualifications' Assessment Strategy but there is ongoing discussion on the requirements for tutors and assessors. Work also has to be resolved on mapping 'total qualification time' (TQT) and on establishing any additional option units. Next meeting is in January.

- 7.4 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – Consultation has been circulated but with very little response. TAG meeting takes place on 9 Dec so deadline can be extended to 16th for their feedback.

Action: LR to recirculate consultation and liaise with SD on progress.

8 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 8.1 **Glyndŵr – BA(Hons)** – Following staff restructuring, a further one-year extension has been sought (verification visit is on 9 December) and the full endorsement will take place in 2017. JS is chairing and panel members for 2017 are sought.

- 8.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.

- 8.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – Nothing to report. **PgDip** – LR had a preparatory meeting with the team as re-endorsement is due in 2017. A panel chair is sought.
- 8.4 **Trinity Saint David** – GN Chaired a major modification visit about UWTSO proposal to provide community based delivery of their endorsed BA programme on a part time basis. The modification was approved with conditions. **LR to circulate conditions.**
- 8.5 **OU – BA:** LR confirmed that this programme is not continuing to recruit in Sept 2016 and will seek further information on how students will be supported in future.
- 8.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.
- 8.7 **Community Development** – A meeting of the Endorsement Forum is due.

9 ANNUAL MONITORING OF HEI PROGRAMMES

LR confirmed that Courtney Taylor has been contracted to complete this work with returns due in January. Programme Directors had been notified.

Action: LR to request annual monitoring data from Agored Cymru and ABC Awards using the data format previously agreed.

10 JNC UPDATE

DA provided a written update which covered the pay agreement for 2016 and 2017 (Circular 205). The JNC Survey staff had been published which showed cuts to the number of posts. JNC Employer's Side is currently consulting on the use made by employers in all sectors of the JNC Qualifications Framework.

Action: GN and LR to continue to provide feedback on developments.

11 JOINT ETS / SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE / QUALIFICATIONS WALES REVIEW OF HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE QUALIFICATIONS

- 11.1 The autumn JETS meeting to be hosted by England had been postponed.
- 11.2 Apprenticeship Frameworks and Community Development NOS are up to date but there is a need to refresh the Youth Work NOS as these are now 5 years old. The top level headings of the standards are useful but the value of the level of detail was queried.
- 11.3 LR had attended (as an observer) the Qualifications Wales meeting about their review of health and social care qualifications. The youth work qualifications were not included in the review. MG described how the review is proposing a single suite of qualifications for childcare with a 'common core' followed by options for 'early years' and 'health and social care' specialisms. These do not fit well with current Playwork qualifications .
Action: LR/DB to take the issue of categorising YSW qualifications under the 'Health & Social Care' code to the next England & Wales AOs meeting in January to see if this could be changed.

12 SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 12.1 **Local authority** representatives noted that the roles of staff are changing, becoming wider and more complex (for example, Families First work) and that qualification routes need to reflect that wider aspect of delivery.
- 12.2 **CWVYS** representatives described their involvement in the YW Inquiry along with other meetings with EWC, training committee and regional working. Joint working with Adult Learning Wales continues. GP noted the proposed cut to the CWVYS budget had been reconsidered and that funding would now be available until Dec 2017. It was gratifying to see the level of support for CWVYS from colleagues on this issue.
- 12.3 **FAB Wales** - DB had been in touch with UCAS to seek the addition of points to the current Level 3 programme. There is a defined process and timetable to go through.
Action: LR to draft ETS letter to UCAS requesting the addition of UCAS points to the YSW qualifications, first seeking the support of the HEI programme directors.
- 12.4 **TAG Cymru** - SD reported that demand for courses continues despite cuts to traditional youth work and that PgDip programmes have seen a particular rise this year (possibly as a result of EWC). EWC staff have been visiting HEIs to talk to students.

12.5 **Colegau Cymru** – RB reported that the delivery of the Youth Support Worker qualifications is ongoing but she would like to explore 'applied' routes to qualification so this will be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

12.6 **Play Wales** – MG & MKS gave a recap on developments. They noted that some problems continue in terms of the occupational competence of tutors and assessors of their Playwork qualifications. Play Wales is therefore seeking to develop a quality assurance process that the ETS Committee can endorse so a timescale needs to be set for this. The Level 2 and 3 qualifications need to be reviewed in order to build in progression.

Action: Play Wales to set timetable for developing a process of quality assuring playwork qualifications that can be approved by ETS.

Welsh Govt have advised that they are considering a review of the minimum standards that apply to childminding and childcare (very different from open access play) via the inspection process. Play Wales wish to know how this is might affect any playwork services.

Action: Play Wales to draft information (for ETS members to circulate to their networks) on the impact of CSSIW regulatory requirements and requesting information to contribute to their consultation response. Also to share the draft consultation response.

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 LR to add agenda item for next meeting to look at 'applied' routes to qualification (requested by RB)

14 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 8 Feb 2017

Weds 17 May 2017

Weds 18 Oct 2017