

Professional Endorsement and Recognition of Qualifying Training for Youth Support Workers & Professional Youth Workers

**MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING between:
Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC)
Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA)**

Scope

1. This is a Memorandum of Understanding between both sides of the Joint Negotiating Committee for Youth and Community Workers (JNC) and the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA), on the subject of relative responsibilities and arrangements for the professional endorsement and recognition of qualifying training for youth and community work. It is concerned with initial training leading to the status of qualified Youth Support Worker and with initial training leading to the status of qualified Professional Youth Worker.
2. The parties to this agreement recognise that the Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) has a legitimate concern with the standards of any training leading to professional recognition, since such recognition constitutes an entitlement to the provision of pay and conditions of service for qualified workers laid down in the report of the JNC.
3. Recognition, however, is the culmination of a process of academic and professional scrutiny and evaluation. The first stage of initial academic validation is internal to the institution offering the course. The second entails full professional assessment of the academic and practical content of the course and its relevance to the objectives of youth and community work, and of the ability of the providing institution to realise its intentions within the resources available to it. This function, which we here term 'professional endorsement', is necessarily a centralised one, to be undertaken by a single body with the necessary authority and competence.
4. Recognition of courses as conferring, qualified Youth Support Worker and qualified Professional Youth Worker status requires a consensus between the representatives of youth and community workers and their employers: the two sides of the JNC. However, JNC's concern is with the general principles governing recognition, and the broad categories of eligible qualifications, rather than with individual courses.

Future Arrangements

5. Subject to formal agreement by the parties it is proposed as follows:
6. The Welsh Assembly Government has awarded financial and other assistance to the body known as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) for the provision of support for the development and implementation of a peer review process and the professional accreditation of programmes and strategies to enhance education and training standards in youth work in Wales.
7. The Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) will ask the body known as the Welsh Local Government Association (WLGA) to provide support to the Education and Training Standards Committee Wales (ETS Wales) who in turn will undertake the professional endorsement of training courses leading to qualified Youth Support Worker and qualified Professional Youth Worker status.

8. The WLGA will host an Education and Training Standards Committee (ETS Wales) which will have delegated responsibility to grant professional endorsement to courses leading to professional qualifications known as Youth Support Worker and Professional Youth Worker.

9. The ETS Wales will also be concerned with the endorsement of in-service training for full-time and part-time staff and the accreditation of local authority and voluntary organisations' staff development policies, as set out in the Terms of Reference of ETS Wales.

10. ETS Wales will be constituted according to its Terms of Reference and Articles of Association. Two places on the Committee will be reserved for JNC representation. Remaining individuals will be nominated from an approved partnership organisation.

Relationships with the JNC

11. The JNC, in conjunction with ETS Wales will agree the broad policy guidelines and general principles on which professional endorsement should be based. The ETS Committee will interpret and apply those guidelines and principles to courses and individuals and will notify the JNC which can then make appropriate amendments to its report.

12. ETS Wales will have responsibility for the maintenance of Standards by a continuity of surveillance, and for the continued monitoring of courses as well as their initial endorsement; it will assess courses and cases of individual recognition against the agreed criteria with the Joint ETS for England, Ireland, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

13. It is the intention of the JNC that decisions of the ETS Committee which are reached by the process outlined in paragraphs 11 and 12 will be accepted at a meeting of the JNC. These arrangements will be open to review at the request of either Panel of the JNC or the WLGA.

Resources

14. JNC will need the assurance of continuing government support to ETS Wales to provide the professional and supporting staff to undertake the professional endorsement function at Youth Support Worker level, in line with the arrangements set out in the Welsh Assembly Government Grant offer to WLGA. Endorsement of Professional Youth Worker courses will be on a full cost recovery basis.

Signed..... (on behalf of JNC Employers' Side)

Name and position

Signed..... (on behalf of JNC Staff Side)

Name and position

Signed.....(on behalf of WLGA)

Name and position

July 2010