

**Minutes of meeting held at the
Pavilion, Llandrindod Wells on 14
May 2014 10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Jane Williams, Tim Opie, Steve Drowley, Gary Foreman, Catrin James, Grant Poiner, Jamie Jones Mead, Dafydd Baker, Colin Heslop, Chris Davis.

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary), Keith Thomas, Courtney Taylor.

Apologies:

Tracey Thomas, Jo Sims, David Algie, Mike Greenaway, Tillie Mobbs, Sam Evans, Mark Isherwood, Ann Smith, Sue Trevelyan Jones, Alan Twelvetrees.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Chris Davis, PYO Carmarthenshire, who had replaced Andy Borsden.
- 1.2 CDC has confirmed that Derith Powell will be the new representative in future. Letters thanking current CDC reps will be sent.
- 1.3 It was noted with sadness that this was Colin Heslop's last meeting as he is retiring. GN thanked him on behalf of ETS for his commitment and support over many years.
- 1.4 SD reported that he too is retiring from his post as Programme Director at Cardiff Met but is hoping to stay involved in some way.
- 1.5 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: Play Wales, where no progress has been made regarding funding for training; Welsh Government for annual ETS grant monitoring where a reduction of £10k for 2014 was confirmed; attending the National Conference and Youth Work Excellence Awards; TO and Karen Higgins at WLGA to discuss JETS work for the youth & community SOC code and employer engagement; the ex-LSIS Country Panel; Youth Work Alliance Wales meeting; Joint ETS; CWVYS/WG regarding the Quality Mark; and the Agored consultation event on Level 2&3 qualifications.

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 It was agreed to change the ETS logo in light of new arrangements for CDC.
- 3.2 The letter to the Minister had been redrafted and re-sent.
- 3.3 It was agreed that UWTSD proposals regarding recognising individual experience and learning will be discussed by TAG and Trinity will be requested to make a formal proposal to take to JETS.

4. SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 4.1. **Local authority** representatives noted that a full picture of cuts to services has not emerged and that some are less severe than others. However, continuity is a concern due to high staff turnover and PYOs being given broader remits; there is a feeling of a time of shifting sands and needing to weather the storm. Concerns were noted that short-sighted decisions are being taken despite youth work having a role to play in many Welsh Govt policies. The Youth Work Strategy grant has also been reduced.

- 4.2. **CWVYS** representatives reported that the exhibition at the Senedd had gone well with good engagement with AMs. The voluntary sector faces similar issues as cuts have a ripple effect with many smaller organisations reporting cuts in their grant funding. Collaboration is patchy and some LAs are commissioning out youth work and having discussions with CWVYS – how the voluntary sector is prepared for this work is an issue. There is also concern about how to combat private sector organisations from outside Wales who want to contract work from LAs but who lack local knowledge. CD noted that it is important for LAs to be transparent when commissioning and that sometimes grants can be given on a historical/traditional basis so there are complex issues. CJ said that it's not helpful that national voluntary organisations have to negotiate grants 22 times. The importance of CWVYS to the sector was noted and meetings had been held with Welsh Govt to push for more long term assurance of funding for both CWVYS and the NVYO grant scheme.
- 4.3. **TAG group:** SD reported that cuts to youth services mean there are fewer placement opportunities and slightly less demand for student places. In England some youth work programmes have closed but it is hoped that this will not be the case in Wales. However, business pressures dominate and this means that student numbers are more important than their quality. Entry requirements, via UCAS points, also determine the league place of HEIs, making youth work programmes less attractive as many students have non-standard entry so lack UCAS points (the YSW qualification does not carry these). The Subject Benchmark Statement for Youth & Community Work is to be reviewed in 2015 and it is important to ensure youth work is evident within the statement and to have involvement from Wales.
- 4.4. **Federation of Awarding Bodies:** DB reported that, as part of the Qualifications Review, Essential Skills are undergoing a radical overhaul and this will have implications for Apprenticeships. The CQFW Quality Assured Lifelong Learning pillar is also being reviewed and there are concerns that this will affect lots of bite-sized learning that is currently available. The YMCA reports a lot of demand for training and that Welsh Govt are proving very supportive of their work.
- 4.5. **Community Development:** AT was not present but had provided an update on the UHOVI programme which is not fully approved as certain conditions had still not been met.

5. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 5.1 **National Youth Work Strategy** – nothing further to add at present.
- 5.2 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – the level of YS engagement with the Framework varies across the 22 local authorities. TO reported that he sits on the evaluation group and that the progress is being made and the Framework is welcomed. The dynamic between the Framework and 14-19 Learning Pathways is of interest. The Learning Coach qualifications are due for renewal and it was agreed that it is important to remind Welsh Govt that 'Lead Worker' is a function and not a new profession or role.
- 5.3 **Registration of Professional Youth Workers** – TO attended the inaugural meeting of the Education Workforce Council, which aims to raise the status of the constituent parts of the workforce and to protect the public. A definition of the respective constituent parts has been requested and TO will take this to the

Youth Work Alliance meeting. Much of the existing GTCW will be used as a basis for the EWC and their current code of conduct is being redrafted to cover the broader remit. There will be a phased approach to registration with FE tutors registering in 2015, school and FE support workers in 2016 and youth workers and work-based tutors in 2017. Welsh Govt is currently consulting on organisations that can nominate members to the body and while WLGA/ADEW will be represented there are currently no representatives from the youth work sector although it is envisaged that there will be further consultation as new occupations join. Concern was noted that youth support workers will not be registered and in terms of protecting the public it is this sector that has most contact with young people.

Action: GN will draft an ETS response and circulate for comment for submission by 4 July.

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 and consultation on their structure and content of has been taking place. In response to this, the group is proposing one core L2 Award qualification that progresses on to a L2 Certificate or L3 Certificate according to need. The proposed structure and individual units will now be drafted for further consultation.

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 and the findings from the annual monitoring need to be considered in the process.

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

6.3 **Coherent Route Update** – the need for a coherent qualifications pathway is included in the National Youth Work Strategy and Welsh Govt have asked YMCA Community College to lead on this development in partnership with ETS Wales.

7. REPORT OF QUALITY MARK PILOT EVENTS (KEITH THOMAS, COURTNEY TAYLOR)

7.1 LR gave a brief update on the development of the two Quality Mark Pilot events, which had taken place in March and April and it was acknowledged that the pilots had been conducted to a very tight timescale. Recommendations on the findings need to be submitted to Welsh Govt as the provision of a Quality Mark process is included in the National Youth Work Strategy. KT and CT had acted as consultants for the respective events. Although the two organisations were very different in size, there were a number of issues encountered that were common to both.

7.2 KPC Youth Bridgend (DB chaired panel) – KT reported that the QM had been awarded to KPC Youth with three conditions. The following process issues were noted:

- Prior to the visit panel members had to be replaced at short notice and it was important for them to have sufficient preparation time;
- KPC had made a lot of effort in preparing materials and it was difficult to do justice to the evidence provided given the short time available for the panel visit – the guidelines may need to be clearer on sufficiency of evidence;

- Panel members need time to digest the materials in order to refine their questions;
- Expectations need to be managed so that the organisation understands that the QM is a developmental process and not an inspection;
- The role of the consultant is important in supporting the organisation to prepare for the event;
- The ages of the young people could be an issue in terms of how well they are prepared to take part in discussions;
- KPC felt that small voluntary organisations might struggle to complete the process (may be more suited to the CWVYS QM).

Overall, the process was more positive than negative and needs fine-tuning to meet the needs of an individual voluntary organisation as there are issues of proportionality.

- 7.3 Monmouthshire Youth Service (SD chaired panel) – CT reported that the QM was awarded with three conditions. He said that very similar issues to those mentioned by KT were raised in terms of volume of material, time, intensity and the perception of an inspection process. The time pressure was more noticeable with a whole youth service as there is so much more to cover and the importance of a skilled chair was noted.
- 7.4 CT reported that panel members and staff from Monmouthshire had provided feedback on the event and he suggested that a pre-panel meeting be built in to the process so that panel members could look at materials and formulate lines of questioning in advance of the actual visit.
- 7.5 Overall the process was positive as it allowed the organisations at all levels of management and delivery to focus on the quality and nature of the service available to young people. It also shared good practice with panel members through peer learning.
- 7.6 A lot of effort goes into the work and there needs to be recognition of the organisations' achievement via certification and an award logo.
- 7.7 KT and CT were thanked for their input and their work on these projects.

Action: LR to circulate panel reports. LR to arrange meeting with those involved in pilots to refine the guidelines and process where necessary.

8 ANNUAL MONITORING OF HIGHER EDUCATION ENDORSED PROGRAMMES (COURTNEY TAYLOR)

- 8.1 CT gave an update on the findings of the 2012-13 Annual Monitoring survey and copies of the BA and PgDip reports were circulated. The data had been collected this time using an Excel spreadsheet, which made completion more informative (data was summarised during completion) and analysis easier. This year HEIs were also asked to provide a list of placement opportunities and dissertation titles.
- 8.2 CT went through the main points which were summarised at the start of both reports and noted that some of the issues raised will need to be followed up to identify trends and reasons for these findings.
- 8.3 The group discussed the main findings and it was noted that this is a snapshot of the HEIs and does not include contextual information, such as policy and funding changes, which can affect greatly the data provided by HEIs.

Action: LR and GN to look at reports and identify follow up action.

9 ALL WALES SUPERVISION MODULE

The development of the all-Wales Supervision module was supported by Welsh Govt and Estyn to ensure a standard across Wales. However, there are questions around compliance and whether it is a compulsory requirement for all supervisors. The ETS HE Guidelines do not specify this and there are issues of capacity for the voluntary sector.

Action: Explore further outside of meeting

10 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 10.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** A response to the conditions set by the panel at their visit in January has been provided and is currently being examined.
- 10.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – Nothing to report.
- 10.3 **UWN/USW** – Nothing to report
- 10.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Ongoing preparation is taking place for the panel visit in summer 2014.
- 10.5 **OU – BA:** Joint ETS endorsement will take place in 2015.
- 10.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing further to report.

11 JNC UPDATE

DA had provided a written update prior to the meeting, which confirmed that this year's pay claim from the staff side was anticipated. The next meeting of the JNC will take place in London on 24 June and representatives from England and Wales ETS committees will be attending to provide updates.

12 SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

GN spoke to a written update from NYA that was circulated. There had been some pressure within England to refresh the Youth Work NOS but this had not been taken forward as the other nations did not support the need for this. Work applied for to cover this year therefore includes:

- Review of Wales Youth Work Apprenticeship Framework
- Community Development NOS review
- Community Development Apprenticeship Development
- Scottish Vocational Qualification Review

It was noted that Apprenticeships in Wales must take into account Essential Skills provision.

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

13 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Student placements – concern that cuts are resulting in lack of placements and quality supervisors. May need to look at peer mentoring solution. Need to consider this in the refresh of the HE Guidelines.

14 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETINGS

Thurs 23 Oct 2014
Weds 11 Feb 2015
Weds May 2015