

**Minutes of meeting held at the Elan
Valley Hotel, Rhayader on 14 October
2015 10.30am**

Present:

Gareth Newton (Chair), Chris Davis, Jamie Jones Mead, Catrin James, Dafydd Baker, Emma Chivers, Gillian Wilde, Tim Opie, Steve Drowley, Ged Kerslake, Grant Poiner

In attendance:

Liz Rose (ETS Adviser/Secretary), Hayden Llewellyn, Mike Davies for item 7

Apologies:

Ann Smith, Jo Sims, David Algie, Mike Greenaway, Sam Evans, Jane Williams.

1. WELCOME/INTRODUCTIONS/CHAIR'S REPORT

- 1.1 GN welcomed everyone to the meeting and particularly Gillian Wilde who was now the rep for Colegau Cymru. GN regretted to report that Tracey Thomas, who has been an active member of ETS for many years, has tendered her resignation due to changed work commitments. TO will contact the PYO group for a replacement.
- 1.2 GN was pleased to continue as Chair for a further term following agreement by the group to renew the contract. In supporting this decision the PYO group requested that the job description be looked at as it needs updating. GN also noted that there is no performance appraisal system in place.
Action: GN to draft an appraisal system and make comment on the job description for discussion at the next meeting.
- 1.3 GN reported that he had had various meetings since last ETS, including: TAG Cymru, with TO and Paul Glaze separately to discuss PYO and CWVYS issues (a meeting with the FE sector is now needed) and Cassy Taylor of Qualifications Wales. He had also attended the Ministerial Reference Group, which had focussed on the 'Resolv' Report, and, on behalf of Joint ETS, is sitting on the sub group to produce an apprenticeship framework for community development. GN had also attended the Youth Cymru event in the Senedd, CWVYS AGM, JNC Employer's Side event in mid Wales and drafted two responses to consultations (WG Childcare Registration and NI proposals to close the YCNI). Forthcoming meetings are with full JNC and with Joint 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)

- 3.1 (Point 7.5 from previous meeting) the CPD pack produced by Courtney Taylor some time ago is being sought. **Action ED, CJ & DB to check if they have a copy**
- 3.2 (Point 12.2 from previous meeting) a pan-Wales ESF bid by Careers Wales (Activate Your Potential) is now to be amalgamated into regional bids.

4. WELSH GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENTS

- 4.1 **National Youth Work Strategy / Ministerial Reference Group (MRG)** – Jo Banks had attended a recent PYO meeting and a more positive feel was emerging in terms of communication. The Resolv paper was now deemed to be a 'think piece' rather than for consultation. CWVYS had circulated the report and a considered response made. The Deputy Minister had recently made a statement in plenary providing an update on the Strategy and the work of the MRG. There was praise for youth work's contribution with particular reference to the YEPF, the Quality Mark and the context provided by the Donaldson Report on a curriculum for life. The Minister announced a new sub-group of the MRG (with an independent chair) would take forward work on

a 'core offer' – membership of the sub group is not known. Difficult discussions on hypothecation were also suggested.

The group felt that the Donaldson Report 'Successful Futures' could provide powerful support for youth work but there were some concerns that it will be limited by school/formal education agendas, especially if the youth work sector is not represented at strategic levels in its implementation.

The role of Youth Work Alliance Wales was discussed - this group has not met for some time but has representation on the MRG so there are implications for democracy in the sector.

Action: GN to contact Andy Borsden and Paul Glaze to discuss status and progress of Youth Work Alliance meetings.

- 4.2 **Youth Engagement & Progression Framework** – TO reported that a positive evaluation of the whole YEPF has been published, particularly citing strong leadership and information sharing. Numbers of u16 young people NEET have fallen and some impact made on the numbers of those aged 17-24.
- 4.3 **Registration of Professional Youth Workers** – GN went through the questions that had been agreed for EWC reps during their presentation.
- 4.4 **Registration of Childcare Workers** – Members were pleased to note that WG has agreed that youth work should be added to the current list of exempt roles and that registration was now for those working with up to 12 year olds (rather than up to 16s). However this will still have implications for voluntary sector organisations that work with younger age groups.

5. ETS WORK PROGRAMME FOR 2015-16

- 5.1 **Youth Support Worker Endorsement Guidelines** – LR and DB provided an update. Following consultation, it was agreed to keep the qualification age limits in Wales to 16+ and 18+ respectively while England have reduced the age limits to 14+ for the L2 and 16+ for the L3 qualification. The Assessment Strategy that accompanies the qualification is being rewritten and LR provided an update on the areas that need clarification. Following discussion, comments and amendments were noted. There is still a need for additional CPD units and further consultation will need to be held, taking into consideration the YMCA-CC work on the Coherent Training Package. The next meeting with all Awarding Body/Organisations, arranged by the NYA will be held in November.
Action: LR & DB to take the comments on the Assessment Strategy to the next meeting of AB/Os.
- 5.2 **HE Guidelines to Professional Endorsement Refresh** – Sub group still to be established, ensuring representation from all sectors.
Action: LR to complete.
- 5.3 **Quality Mark Update** – WG assessor training will take place on 16 Oct (north) and 21 Oct (south). Three free pilot awards are being offered in the first instance but it's not known which organisations will apply for this.
- 5.4 **Certification** – LR reported that ETS Wales certificates for students completing a JNC qualification had been printed; copies were circulated. It was agreed that these would be available to L2 & L3 students in addition to HE students. The option of offering these to previous students will be explored.
- 5.5 **Other work** – GW provided a brief outline of the findings of the research on the Coherent Training Package and said that the final draft report has gone to WG with no response as yet. Work based training remains important to the sector and the L3 qualification provides a good basis for those students moving onto HE programmes. Additional CPD units have been identified and grouped into themes. The priority ones will be developed into formal units. Using specialist units from other sectors has been considered but it is preferable to develop youth-work-specific versions.
Action: GW will check with SE on progress of report.
Action: GW will circulate the priority list of CPD units identified

6 ENDORSEMENT ACTIVITY

- 6.1 **Glyndŵr – PgDip/MA:** LR reported that TT met with the staff team in June and was satisfied that all conditions were now met.
BA(Hons) – A verification visit chaired by JS was held in June and a one-year extension was granted for this programme. Arrangements are being made for the full endorsement panel which will take place in summer 2016.
- 6.2 **Cardiff Metropolitan** – LR has met with staff to discuss the timetable for the endorsement of their BA and PgDip programmes which will take place in 2016. Catrin James will chair the panel.
- 6.3 **USW BA(Hons)** – AS chaired the panel that took place in July. The programme was endorsed with minor conditions.
- 6.4 **Trinity Saint David** – Nothing to report.
- 6.5 **OU – BA:** Nothing to report.
- 6.6 **Agored Cymru** – Nothing to report.
- 6.7 **Community Development** - Nothing to report.

7 UPDATE ON EDUCATION WORKFORCE COUNCIL – HAYDEN LLEWELLYN / MIKE WILLIAMS

- 7.1 GN welcomed Hayden Llewellyn, Chief Executive EWC, and Mike Williams, Head of Workforce Registration WG, who gave a presentation on the work of the EWC. The presentation covered information on the role and functions of EWC, the proposals to consult on the inclusion of youth workers, and ways of keeping informed of future developments.
- 7.2 Consultation on including youth workers on the register (along with work based learning practitioners) will take place from January 2016. Discussion took place on the definition and nature of the workers to be included, along with their relevant qualifications. It was felt that volunteers should not be required to register for fear of discouraging their involvement.
- 7.3 There was some concern that the WG 'New Deal' for the education workforce is focussed on teachers but HL stressed that this is for all workers and proposals also include an e-passport for CPD. Some of the EWC's additional functions could have implications for the work of ETS Wales, such as the accreditation of training.
- 7.4 HL and MW stressed the importance of keeping in touch and offered to provide presentations to different youth work sectors, which was welcomed by ETS members.
- 7.5 Discussion took place covering a wide range of issues and members welcomed the EWC's willingness to engage with the youth work sector and listen to our views.
- 7.6 GN formally thanked HL and MW.

Action: All to promote EWC, including website, blog and newsletter, to students and workers.

Action: GN/LR to co-ordinate an ETS response to the definitions of youth worker as proposed in the consultation.

Action: LR to circulate EWC presentation to ETS members.

8 JNC UPDATE

The JNC Employers' Side has been holding a round of consultation events in England and one in Wales on the current and future use of JNC terms and conditions to look at a possible move to local government service / single scale terms and conditions. Further information will be provided once the consultation is completed.

9 SECTOR SKILLS COUNCIL UPDATE

GN and LR had met with Cassy Taylor of Qualifications Wales in September rather than with Natalie Hunt Williams. Cassy had provided an overview of the role of QW in regulating qualifications and said that they will review vocational qualifications on a sector-by-sector basis. Starting with Health and Social Care, interim findings should be available in March

2016 and the process completed by Dec 2016. SQAPs may not be taken forward in future as they seem to be of limited success.

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

10 JOINT ETS

- 10.1 ETS Wales is hosting next week's JETS meeting. Wales will raise the issue of the EWC and how protocols across the different countries could be managed.
- 10.2 JETS role as Sector Specialist Body currently involves developing an Apprenticeship Framework for Community Development. Sue Gill is leading on this and GN sits on the development sub group.
- 10.3 LR circulated to ETS members the draft JETS leaflet for students explaining the principles of professional endorsement the transportability of qualifications across the UK and Ireland. It was generally well received and there were some additional comments made. This will be taken to the JETS meeting for final approval.
- 10.4 GN submitted a response to Northern Ireland's Department for Education on their proposed closure of the Youth Council for Northern Ireland.

11 SECTOR FEEDBACK

- 11.1 **CWVYS** representatives reported that a document of stories from youth work has been produced along with a manifesto for youth work and both added to the CWVYS website. CWVYS has just completed a round of regional meetings to discuss training and development.
- 11.2 **Local authority** representatives noted concerns as mentioned previously regarding uncertainty over whether the feasibility study was for consultation or just a 'think piece', along with continuing cuts across the service and what the service might look like in future.
- 11.3 **Federation of Awarding Bodies** representative reported that the impact of different age groups in England and Wales taking the Youth Work Practice Qualifications meant that most Awarding Bodies had now withdrawn from Wales, leaving only Agored and ABC to offer these qualifications.
- 11.4 **Colegau Cymru** representative noted that, working with Agored Cymru, a new Level 3 Playwork qualification for managers has been developed, especially for those managing a holiday playscheme (a prior related qualification is required). It will run in Jan/Feb 2016.
- 11.5 **TAG Cymru** representatives reported that they had met recently. Student numbers appear to be holding but members reported it is becoming more difficult to engage with employers. They also discussed how they could work more collaboratively on research projects. The QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Youth & Community Work is being refreshed with an initial meeting in London on 27 October. LR and SD will attend.

12 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

DB provided evidence of the JNC certificate provided to students completing the Level 2 and 3 Youth Work Practice qualifications.

13 CONFIRMATION OF FUTURE MEETING DATES

Weds 10 Feb 2016

Weds 18 May 2016

Weds 12 Oct 2016