**Interim Youth Work Board**

**Tuesday 30October 2018: 12:30-17:00**

**Venue: – Welsh Government**

**Agenda**

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| **Item number** | **Item** |
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 2 | Background and policy context |
| 3 | Key Priorities and development of a draft work plan |
| 4 | Role of Stakeholder group and suggested members |
| 5 | Frequency of meetings |
| 6 | Board Communications Plan |
| 7 | AOB |
| 8 | Close |

Attendees

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| **Attendees – Members** | |
| **Name** | **Role** |
| Keith Towler (KT) | Interim Youth Work Board Chair |
| Dusty Kennedy (DK) | National Partnership Lead - Early Action Together Programme, Public Health Wales |
| Sharon Lovell (SL) | Executive Director for the National Youth Advocacy Service and Vice Chair, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Services (CWVYS) |
| Simon Stewart (SS) | Dean of Faculty of Social and Life Sciences at Wrexham Glyndwr University |
| Eleri Thomas (ET) | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent |
| Joanne Sims (JS) | Blaenau Gwent Youth Service Manager |
| **Apologies** | |
| Efa Grufudd Jones | Chief Executive of the National Centre for Learning Welsh |
| **Attendees – Welsh Government (WG)** | |
| Michael Maragakis (MM) | Head of Youth Engagement Branch |
| Donna Lemin (DL) | Senior Youth Work Strategy Manager |
| Laura Jardine (LJ) | Youth Work Policy Manager (Secretariat) |
| Laura Cook | Youth Work Information Officer |

1. The Board members introduced themselves. KT outlined his vision for an open and transparent Board. In doing so he set out the role of the Board as being to represent young people and the sector, to consider a range of evidence currently available and what will be needed to provide clear and robust recommendations to Welsh Government about the future direction of youth work in Wales, including any potential model requited. He also outlined their role in developing and helping to implement a new youth work strategy.

Welsh Government officials presented an overview of youth work in Wales included summarising the findings of the Children, Young People and Education Committee Inquiry into Youth Work 2016, and work undertaken in response to it’s recommendations. Additionally they outlined recent Welsh Government evaluations of grant funded activity, learning from the Youth Reference Group, Margaret Jervis’ report `Our Future – A review of Extending Entitlement’, Estyn’s report `Youth Support Services in Wales : the Value of Youth Work’, and the wider policy context in which youth work exists. There followed a discussion about the level of Welsh Government staff support available to the Board and a discussion on a draft Terms of Reference for the Board.

1. KT expanded on the policy context provided by officials and identified additional activity and future developments taking place in the sector. He acknowledged priorities identified by both government and the sector and emphasised the need to engage with young people to inform the work of the Board. He confirmed that a young peoples survey `Lets Talk’ which focused on youth work was already in development and that this would provide the first steps towards an ongoing dialogue with young people throughout the life of the Interim Board. KT then discussed the need for the Board, working with young people and the sector, to reach consensus over national priorities for youth work in Wales, and that these would inform the development of a work plan. This work plan might include, for example, mapping existing provision, developing a detailed understanding of the funding available to youth work, exploring language considerations and the role of youth work towards ambitions identified in Cymraeg 2050, exploring digital approaches and youth information services, training, qualification, and registration of the workforce, and the development of a sustainable youth work model for Wales.
2. KT highlighted the work and key achievements of the Youth Work Reference Group and set out an expectation to build on the progress made by this group. It was agreed by the Board there would be a new stakeholder approach aimed at capitalising on the knowledge and enthusiasm of the sector and that this could support task and finish pieces of work, pulling in the relevant skills and experience as needed.
3. The Board agreed they would need to have 2 further meetings ahead of the end of the calendar year to start driving forward actions. It was agreed meetings would be held around Wales and opportunities to link the Board meetings with a local youth work knowledge session would be explored. Next meeting set for 16 November.
4. Under AOB the Board were given a background paper on the Quality Mark; however they were advised further information would be available when the results of the recent Welsh Government Survey were fully analysed.