**Interim Youth Work Board**

**Friday, 16 November 2018: 12:30 – 16:00**

**Venue: – Public Health Wales, Swansea, SA6 8RE**

**Agenda**

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| **Item number** | **Item** |
| 1 | Welcome and Introductions |
| 2 | Minutes and Actions from last meeting |
| 3 | Terms of Reference |
| 4 | Youth Work Funding Discussion |
| 5 | Draft Work Plan |
| 6 | Consideration of 2019 Meetings |
| 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 |
| Efa Grufudd Jones (EGJ) | Chief Executive of the National Centre for Learning Welsh |
| **Attendees – Welsh Government (WG)** |
| Donna Lemin (DL) | Senior Youth Work Strategy Manager |
| Eleri Davies (ED) | Senior Youth Engagement & Progression Manager |
| Laura Jardine (LJ) | Youth Work Policy Manager (Secretariat) |

**Item 1**: KT welcomed EGJ to the Board and introductions were made.

**Item 2**: The Board agreed the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record. Board discussed the need for clear communication and engagement with stakeholders. KT advised he would meet with Lynne Neagle AM, Chair of the Children, Young people and Education Committee shortly to discuss the Committee’s Inquiry into Youth Work and the recommendations that were made, along with updating her on the work of the Board.

**Item 3**: The Board discussed and agreed the draft Terms of Reference. <https://beta.gov.wales/interim-youth-work-board/terms-reference>

<https://beta.llyw.cymru/bwrdd-gwaith-ieuenctid-dros-dro/cylch-gorchwyl>

**Item 4**: Welsh Government officials provided an overview of the current funding situation in Wales and outlined the mechanism for distribution of the Youth Support Grant, including the current terms and conditions. The Board were asked to consider the criteria associated with the grant in the context of the emerging strategic direction for youth work and youth engagement and progression activity in Wales. In doing so, they were asked to make recommendations on how the criteria might be strengthened. It was agreed that these recommendations would be made alongside planned engagement with local authority officers responsible for delivering against the grant and in light of evaluation work undertaken to date. They were also to be made in the context of widening the scope of the grant to include issues including, though not limited to, mental/emotional health and wellbeing of young people.

An overarching principle, it was agreed, had to be the voice of young people in the planning, delivery, and monitoring of services. A further agreed principle was the need to continue to promote joint working by the statutory and voluntary sector to ensure the delivery of a cohesive and comprehensive service in each Local Authority area.

The Board, therefore, recommended that the current grant conditions be strengthened to ask for more specific information/evidence about the way in which local authorities were engaging with young people and a range of partners, including the voluntary sector, in developing their strategic proposals. This should include an analysis of existing data and in this way could provide information that might go on to inform the development of a formal sufficiency assessment model.

It was agreed that Principal Youth Officer (PYO) and Engagement and Progression Coordinator (EPC) groups should also be consulted and inform the development of the criteria and that activity to this effect was already planned. The revised grant conditions would also be discussed with the voluntary sector - SL agreed to have initial discussions with CWVYS.

**Item 5**: The Board discussed emerging priorities and opportunities available to the sector. It was agreed that a Draft Work Plan, containing key priorities, timings and lead officer identification, would be pulled together and discussed at the next Board meeting

**Item 7**: The Board discussed possible visits to Scotland and Europe to research alternative models of youth work to feed into their consideration of a new model for Wales.