**Interim Youth Work Board – meeting 11**

**4 February 2020**

**Minutes**

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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 |
| Michael Maragakis (MM) | Welsh Government official |
| Donna Lemin (DL) | Welsh Government official |
| Joel Hodson (JH) | Welsh Government official |

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|  | **Item** | **Paper or link or key considerations** |
| 1 | Minutes and Actions from last meeting | 1. Minutes 2. Rolling Action Points |
| 2 | Implementation   * Update from Welsh Government * Update from SPGs and Task & Finish groups * Discuss and agree SPG workplans * SPG event * Young people’s places on Board | 1. Workplans 2. Draft script for social media 3. Application for young people’s involvement |
| 3 | Youth work conference and awards |  |
| 4 | Safeguarding update |  |
| 5 | Update on mapping exercise with Helen Shankster from Knowledge & Analytical Services and discussion on IYWB final report |  |
| 6 | SPG finances – including T&S arrangements |  |
| 7 | AOB |  |

1. **Minutes and actions from last meeting**  
   The Board agreed on the minutes and actions from the previous meeting
2. **Implementation  
     
   Update from Welsh Government**- Welsh Government officials noted that there is a potential underspend on the Youth Support Grant. They advised they were looking for options to keep this in the sector. . It was noted that consideration of the funding available to youth work was mentioned in a number of the Strategy Participation Group workplans and this needed to be considered jointly.  
   - Officials advised there is a low application rate from Wales for Erasmus+ funding. They mentioned different ways of helping to promote bidding including creating workshops in which previously successful bidders can give advice and guidance to other organisations’.

– Officials advised that the Quality Mark contract has been awarded to the Education Workforce Council working closely with Education Training Standards (ETS) and backed by many within the sector. The Board were happy with this progress.

Officials also advised that there were ongoing discussions about the potential for Estyn to start inspecting youth work organisations in the future. They highlighted that discussions were at a very early stage and no firm decisions have been taken about the structure of these inspections which will be shaped by and with the sector and there will be a strong focus on partnership working.

**Update from Strategy Participation Groups (SPG) and Task and Finish (T&F) Groups**- Young People are Thriving SPG: Sharon Lovell updated the group, saying they have now got new members from the recent call to apply to join. She highlighted the work that has been done by Glyndwr University to make a young person’s video about the Strategy which can be used at the conference. The group is now moving onto looking at its contribution to the mapping exercise  
- Accessible & Inclusive SPG: Dusty Kennedy mentioned that the group has had its first meeting by phone and that the first challenge for this group is to define what it means by accessible and inclusive with a focus on young people having a safe place to go. Young people are on this group and they were outlining the issues they have faced that youth work could have helped with such as loneliness and isolation.  
- Workforce Development SPG: Jo Sims introduced the work of this group, saying that the first three meetings have been productive, with a good attendance and balance of knowledge within the group. The group is now looking at mapping and workforce development  
- Valued & Understood SPG: Keith Towler said there has been a first meeting which has set the tone for future meetings, including discussing what they want to achieve from the group which would include strategic links with sectors outside of youth work.   
- Welsh Language group T&F: Efa Gruffudd Jones outlined that members of the Welsh Language group now sit on all other SPG’s. She briefly outlined the work that has been done to date in developing a pilot for increased levels of Welsh Language provision, including development of tools to help other organisations going forward.   
- Digital group T&F: Dusty Kennedy spoke about the recent meetings of this group, noting the enthusiasm of members to improve the use of digital facilities in youth work in Wales  
- Marketing group T&F: the Marketing group has held several meetings and has established a good working relationship with the Valued & Understood SPG, with which it shares a number of similar goals. They are working on the agenda and format of the conference.

**SPG workplans**- The Board viewed the SPG work plans which have been formed by members of all four SPG groups, together with Welsh Government officials. Members of the Board remarked on the high quality of the plans and were happy to agree them.

**SPG event**- Welsh Government officials informed the Board of the current plans for an event to bring all four strategy participation groups together in Cardiff on 19th March. There was a discussion about the format of the event and it was agreed it would be useful to ask each SPG and Task & Finish Group to present their work to other groups, with time for small group work also available

**Young people’s places on Board**- The Board agreed the draft wording for the call for young people to sit on the Board that had been put together by Welsh Government officials. Board members recorded videos in English and Welsh to go out in social media bulletins to advertise the positions to young people who may be interested in joining the Board. The application details will be sent

1. **Youth work conference and Youth Work Excellence Awards**- Welsh Government officials mentioned the upcoming conference on 4th March and the awards on the 26th June. The Board discussed how they would run their table at the conference to enable people to ask questions of them. In terms of the Awards the Board agreed that it was a good idea to introduce a judging panel with better regional representation.
2. **Safeguarding**

Following a recent consultation on safeguarding Meg Colley, Head of Supporting Achievement & Safeguarding joined the meeting as an addition to the agenda. She briefly updated the Board on the work she is doing currently, and highlighted that there were questions raised in the responses to the consultation around this work applying to youth work as well as other key areas. It was agreed this warranted further discussions and officials would take it forward.

1. **Update on mapping exercise**- Helen Shankster from Knowledge & Analytical Services in Welsh Government gave an update on the latest steps in the mapping exercise which will seek to give a better understanding of the breadth of work going on in the sector. She said that ideally the first stage will report initial findings in June to help inform the Board’s work.and emphasised that the work should be owned by the Board.
2. **SPG finances**- Welsh Government officials mentioned that the new high-cost items on their budget are the Welsh Language Pilot along with a Comms and Marketing Plan. The Board were satisfied that sensible decisions were being made and praised the work of the officials regarding finance in the Youth Engagement Branch.
3. **AOB**- Issues around bureaucracy in youth work were discussed  
   - Welsh Government is looking to enhance corporate parenting and members of the Board felt that the youth work sector is well-placed to be part of the discussions on that work  
   - Welsh Government are having early discussions with colleagues working in Curriculum about e-portfolios and mentioned that it would be useful for the Board to discuss this at some point

KT advised he met with Adult Learning Wales and has agreed to attend their forthcoming Board meeting.