**Interim Youth Work Board Meeting  
Zoom**

**1400-1600  
Wednesday 1st April  
Agenda**

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|  | **Item** | **Paper or link or key considerations** |
| 14:00 | Minutes and Actions from last meeting | 1. Minutes 2. Rolling Action Points |
| 14:10 | Update from Welsh Government on Covid-19, including SPG suspension |  |
| 14:30 | Covid-19 update from Board members |  |
| 14:40 | Update on weekly sector bulletin | 1. Last week’s bulletin |
| 15:00 | Covid-19 comms and engagement with young people |  |
| 15:10 | Implications for Board work programme - leadership - communication - Board report - young people recruitment - other implications |  |
| 15:30 | Mapping discussion with Helen Shankster from KAS | 1. Notes from Helen Shankster |
| 15:50 | AOB |  |
| 16:00 | Meeting Closes |  |

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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) |
| Efa Gruffudd Jones (EGJ) | Chief Executive of the National Centre for Learning Welsh |
| Eleri Thomas (ET) | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent |
| **Attendees – Welsh Government (WG)** | |
| Donna Lemin (DL) | Senior Youth Work Strategy Manager |
| Michael Maragakis (MM) | Head of Youth Engagement Branch |
| Dareth Edwards (DE) | Youth Work Policy Manager |
| Joel Hodson | Youth Work Engagement Branch |

Apologies: Simon Stewart, Jo Simms

**Minutes and actions from last meeting**

* Minutes from the last meeting were agreed by all present

**Update from Welsh Government**

* Mike Maragakis gave an update on youth work from a Welsh Government perspective. He mentioned that Ministers have made it clear that all political priorities will take a backseat to the response to Covid-19 for the time being
* He mentioned that he had spoken to Tim Opie regarding the implications for the maintain sector. Some local authorities are currently busy in schools or digital outreach but there have been low levels of responses so far to our enquiries
* He also said the team are all still in post and doing what they can to help support the sector as things are
* Joel Hodson mentioned SPGs have all been suspended except digital and marketing to ensure staff on the front line are able to maximise their time with young people.
* 2020/21 grant offer letters have been issued. Donna Lemin has let applicants know that there is some uncertainty regarding these now.

**Update from Board members**

* Keith Towler said that the Board’s remit is a sustainable delivery model for youth work in Wales and given the current circumstances it needs leadership from the Board.
* Board members proposed that we could go to the Minister for Education and explain the massive change in landscape, we have an established rapport with the sector. The Board agreed that there is a gap in strategic leadership at the moment and that it should put itself forward to fill this

**Update on weekly sector bulletin**

* The details of how the sector bulletin is put together were described by Dareth Edwards. The first bulletin went out to the sector last week
* The Board agreed that a fortnightly bulletin would be achievable

**Covid-19 comms and engagement**

* Several Board members commented on the fact that it now seems unlikely we will be able to get a report published by December and Keith Towler raised the point that we could look into extending the life of the Board

**Implications for Board work programme**

* Eleri Thomas mentioned that there are substantial concerns around county lines issues and young people being taken advantage of. There was a brief discussion around other key issues for the youth work sector to consider during this period, including youth homelessness and young people running away from home

**Mapping discussion with Helen Shankster**

* The Board updated Helen Shankster on the fact that SPGs have been suspended and a lack of face-to-face work will make it very difficult to carry out the mapping exercise in the manner and within the timescales initially hoped for
* Helen Shankster outlined a few options to consider:
  + Keep the bid as it is and delay publication of the report
  + Invite quotes for a smaller project including a literature review
  + Engage the Board in developing a theory of change based on that review
* Keith Towler said that, of these options, he felt the smaller project with a literature review would be best but also that it would be good to get the voices of young people involved in this

**AOB**

* Dareth Edwards mentioned the upcoming awards and asked how best to proceed with them. Dusty Kennedy said he would look into digital solutions with the Digital Group
* There was a brief discussion about content output to the sector and it was felt that it would be good to start thinking about creating webinars or other digital content to keep SPG members engaged with the strategy