**Interim Youth Work Board**

**Tuesday, 15 October 2019 – 10:30 – 15:30**

**Venue: – Wrexham Youth Justice Service: Unit 21, Whitegate Industrial Estate, Whitegate Road, Wrexham, LL13 8UG.**

**Agenda**

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| **Item number** | **Item** |
| 1 | Minutes and actions from last meeting |
| 2 | Implementation document - Strategy Participation Groups (SPG) |
| 3 | Update from Welsh language Task & Finish Group |
| 4 | Update from Young People are Thriving SPG |
| 5 | Presentation from Laura Tranter, ACE Support Hub, Public Health Wales |
| 6 | Lunchtime meeting with Wrexham Youth Services |
| 7 | Update from Marketing Group  |
| 8 | Update from Digital Task and Finish Group  |
| 9 | AOB |

**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) |
| Efa Gruffudd Jones (EGJ) | Chief Executive of the National Centre for Learning Welsh |
| 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 |
| **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 |

**Item 1**

The Board agreed the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record.

**Matters arising:** Board agreed on the need to engage with existing mechanisms of youth engagement including the Youth Parliament and Youth Forums. EGJ raised a concern about low general awareness of the Strategy amongst some practitioners – this will be communicated to the Marketing group. Future correspondence from Welsh Government to the sector will include circulation to the Education Workforce Council and Education Training Standards for wider sharing to registered youth workers and youth work trainees.

**Item 2: Implementation document - Strategy Participation Groups**

Board members reported that stakeholder feedback on the draft implementation document has been positive overall. The proposed structure and phasing of work has been well received with a recognition that the sector itself shares responsibility for ensuring delivery against each of the Strategy’s aims.

SL raised specific feedback from CWVYS members that there is a need for greater clarity on the interconnection between each of the Strategy Participation Groups (SPGs) and the existing Task and Finish (T&G) groups. WG confirmed these points had been taken into account on the redrafting. The Board considered that the creation of shared Terms of Reference would clarify roles and responsibilities. A planning event in December was proposed and agreed; this would bring all key stakeholders together to plot interdependencies between the groups and establish initial priorities. Project Management support for the structure will be provided by WG’s Youth Engagement Branch.

The Board gave consideration to potential membership of each SPGs. A Board lead was identified for each SPG:

Young People are thriving – Sharon Lovell

Youth work is accessible and inclusive – Dusty Kennedy

Voluntary and paid professional staff are supported throughout their careers to improve their practice – Joanne Sims

Youth work is valued and understood – Keith Towler

It was agreed that a representative from the Welsh Language, Digital T&F groups and the Marketing Group would sit on each of the SPGs.

Welsh Government will issue a call for action to the sector on behalf of the Board. This will provide guidance on how the sector can get involved, including how they might access any support available e.g. T&S.

Procurement for the comprehensive mapping exercise will commence shortly with dedicated support from a member of Welsh Government’s Knowledge and Analytical Services.

**Item 3: Update from Welsh language Task & Finish Group**

EGJ advised that the Welsh Language T&F group currently has 8 members. The Board discussed the need for increased local authority representation. Interpretation will be arranged for all future meetings. The Board agreed that Welsh language provision should be included as a standing agenda item at each SPG meeting. The Group is currently developing a brief for a pilot to test approaches to planning for Welsh language provision.

**Item 4: Update from Young People are Thriving SPG**

SL updated the Board on current membership of the Young People are thriving SPG. There are 6 current members and a recognition that additional local authority members are required. It was also acknowledged that there is a need to secure better geographic representation.

SL provided an update on the Youth Engagement events: Glyndwr University’s Youth and Community Work Department has co-ordinated three events to take place in October in St Asaph, Wrexham and Swansea. Young people will be tasked with designing a young person friendly version of the strategy and the development of a model for future youth engagement for consideration by the Board. 30 attendees are expected at each event, this is higher than the original expectations from this work.

**Item 5:** **Presentation from Laura Tranter (LT), ACE Support Hub, Public Health Wales**

LT reported on the work of the Hub and the progress made in increasing the numbers of ACE informed youth work practitioners. The Board discussed the importance of ensuring wider roll-out of the training and discussed approaches to ensuring sustainability beyond March 2020 (when current funding ends).

**Item 6: Meeting with representatives from Wrexham Youth Services**

In response to budgetary pressures, and changing local contexts, Wrexham has merged its youth justice, youth work and play services. It was reported that the model had worked well in breaching silos, integrating work and recognising the value of different approaches to working with children and young people. Local authority staff felt that a central website/digital platform to share youth work case studies and to share sector news is preferable to email correspondence. SS will attend Wrexham’s local youth services conference in November on behalf of the Board.

**Item 7**: **Update from Marketing Group**

The Board discussed and agreed the draft Communications Plan produced by the Marketing group and agreed that implementation should be started immediately. The Marketing group should liaise with Officials on availability of budget/resource. The Board discussed the importance of marketing and communications activity in contributing to the Youth Work is Valued and Understood strategic aim. The Board encouraged the Marketing group to take advantage of existing stakeholder networks to reach a wider audience of youth workers including ETS and EWC.

**Item 8:** **Update from Digital Task and Finish Group**

The online discussion forum (Slack) has 12 members, 4 of whom are regular contributors. A face-to-face meeting will now be convened. There are several emerging themes: the need for a set of guiding principles and standards for digital engagement with young people; training and workforce development that equips workers appropriately; enthusiasm for a YoungScot type scheme and recognition of digital creativity (coding/graphic design/multi-media/film/audio, etc.) as a youth work method in its own right.

**Item 8:** **AOB**

Youth Endowment Fund – SL raised a concern about the lack of any successful Welsh bids to this Home Office grant programme and whether any lessons could be learnt. The Board discussed the importance of the sector developing robust evidence of impact.

Erasmus+ and European Solidarity Corps - Officials advised that they are in ongoing discussions with counterparts across the UK in relation to post-Brexit arrangements. The WG stance is that there should be continued UK wide engagement with the process if at all possible. Further, that all organisations involved in the Erasmus + scheme should register on the HMG Guarantee as quickly as possible to have any safeguarding should the UK leave the EU without a deal.

* KT will attend a meeting to discuss the use of mindfulness in youth work practice on behalf of the Board and will feed back at the next meeting.