**Interim Youth Work Board**

**Friday, 7 December 2018: 10:30 – 15:30**

**Venue: – Glyndwr University, Wrexham**

**Agenda**

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| **Item number** | **Item** |
| 1 | Welcome  |
| 2 | Minutes and Actions from last meeting |
| 3 | Work Plan |
| 4 | Task and Finish Stakeholder Group and their Terms of ReferenceLeadership Model |
| 5 | Welsh Language next steps |
| 6 | Support for 18-25 year olds |
| 7 | Consultation on the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice for registrants |
| 8 | Update from Welsh Government |
| 9 | Play Sufficiency Assessments – update from Keith’s discussions |
| 10 | New Youth Project Board on Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health |
| 11 | Quality Award |
| 12 | Future Meetings and 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) |
| Simon Stewart (SS) | Dean of Faculty of Social and Life Sciences at Wrexham Glyndwr University |
| 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 |
| Michael Maragakis (MM)  | Senior Youth Engagement & Progression Manager |
| **Apologies** |
| Eleri Thomas (ET) | Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent |

It**em 1:** KT welcomed Board members and officials.

**Item 2:** The Board agreed the minutes of the last meeting as an accurate record. Feedback was provided on the CWVYS mapping exercise due for completion in March 2019. The Board agreed that better understanding the scope and scale of youth work provision across Wales was vital. It was confirmed that a bilingual twitter account had been established to communicate with the sector.

**Item 3:** The Board discussed additional workstreams to be included within the Work Plan: support for 18-25 year olds, universal versus targeted provision; engagement of young people with the work of the Board; evidence based practice and the potential development of a research framework. KT advised he intended all Board members to lead on specific actions within the workplan. In relation to Workforce Development, the Board discussed Gareth Newton’s, ETS, paper on Training and Development, and a letter from the Education Workforce Council highlighting the key issues around the registration of youth workers.

**Item 4:** WG will put out a call through the Youth Work Bulletin for interest in serving on stakeholder groups as and when appropriate. The intention being that youth work professionals and volunteers would play a key role in developing policy and programmes of work over time. The Bulletin would also contain a section for ‘The Board’s Voice’.

**Item 5:** The Board discussed an email received from Urdd Gobaith Cymru underlining the importance of providing mental health services for young people through the medium of Welsh. This highlighted the need for services to be available throughout Wales; not just in traditional Welsh speaking areas in the north and west.

The Board agreed that the Youth Support Grant offer letters should include reference to the importance of welsh language provision. The Board recommended exploring regional structures for provision of Welsh language services, where these could not be delivered locally, to make best use of resources and achieve economies of scale.

**Item 6:** KT expressed his concern that services for 18-25 in Wales were perceived as sporadic and limited. Board members recognised the challenges of the transition period from school to university. Various initiatives were discussed which catered to this age group, including young parents, LGBT support groups and young carers, but it was acknowledged that they tended to focus on help at times of crisis. The Board agreed there was a need for a focus on prevention and to offer support with social isolation and loneliness.

**Item 7:** KT outlined his discussions with Education Workforce Council and their consultation on the Code of Professional Conduct and Practice for Registrants, which applies to all registered youth workers and youth support workers. The Board agreed that they would not formally respond to the consultation but EWC would be asked to attend the April meeting of the Board.

**Item 8:** MMoutlined the current Youth Support Grant criteria and outlined the process through which local authorities would have an opportunity to comment on them before they were issued for planning purposes. JS highlighted the importance of stressing that mental health funding was not just for use in schools. The Board also discussed the importance of gathering service user feedback.

**Item 9:** KT fed back on his discussions with Mike Greenaway, Director of Play Wales in relation to Sufficiency Assessments and how these might be implemented within youth work. The Board also noted the need to establish a coherent route between play and youth work as there were cross overs in the age brackets.

**Item 10:** MM outlined the development of the new Youth Project Board on Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health as part of the whole school approach to mental health and wellbeing. In relation to the whole school approach, there was good representation on the Board from youth work organisations. MM sits on the officials group. SL noted there should be a ‘whole system’ alongside a ‘whole school’ approach as not all services run through schools.

**Item 11:** The Board discussed a paper on the future of the Quality Mark and concluded that they supported a continuation of the scheme in principle. Going forward, there was a need to understand what added value the Quality Mark brought to the sector and how it helped to improve or strengthen services. The Board questioned whether a modular approach could be available for very small organisations and this will be considered further by WG.