

Education group planning meeting

Wednesday 9 September, 10am-12pm

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees

- Rebecca Falvey, BITC
- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Marianne Manello, Play Wales
- Karen Ardouin, Net Teach Wales
- Paul Glaze, CWVYS
- Kevin Rahman Daultrey, Size of Wales
- Patience Bentu, Race Council Cymru
- David Smith, Coops and Mutuals Wales
- Sian Rees, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Owen Evans, Children in Wales
- Denise Inger, Snap Cymru
- Georgine Haarhoff, Welsh Government
- Elin Maher, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Dan Roberts, Wales Coop Centre
- Ginger Wiegand, EYST
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- David Cook, WCVA
- Felicitie Walls, WCVA
- Cat Miller, WCVA

Minutes from previous planning meeting

The group accepted the minutes.

Milestones for curriculum development – planning our work programme

Georgina said guidance on publishing the National Curriculum was published in January. The Bill was laid in July and will undergo scrutiny in Autumn. A consultation is open. There will be a principles debate in December and, if passed, Royal Assent in April. A Shared Expectations document is in development, talking about behaviours and what people are expected to do. Welsh Government want to ensure everyone has an opportunity to contribute to a clear vision.

Catrin commented that she was not aware of opportunities to engage with the Shared Expectations document.

Georgina said Welsh Government expects the curriculum to involve communities and groups, not just parents. Its vision of the networks would involve the sector. Welsh Government would like the sector to tell it what the sector is doing so it can engage efficiently.

Catrin said the sector's role needs to be included in documentation so people can understand where the sector fits into this work and the sector needs to be involved at the beginning of the planning process.

Georgina said networks could be involved in building schools' awareness of BAME or climate change issues. Welsh Government is committed to inclusivity, but shouldn't be final arbiters of what schools and learners consider relevant and further discussion may be needed. There is an ongoing question about how interactions between regions and schools developing own curriculums are facilitated.

Kevin inquired about information packs for schools. Georgina said Welsh Government have not made a decision on this, but schools do need to know where they can go for support.

Possible items for next Ministerial Meeting – links between new curriculum and volunteering, social action and citizenship

Felicite spoke about making volunteering and social action part of the curriculum, a conversation the group had begun pre-Covid. She is working on a TSPC paper on the subject.

Elin noted there will be challenges in how volunteering will look post-Covid and there is revision going on with examination specs and wondered if there was a chance to ask for specs to be reviewed.

Dan said Wales Coop Centre are seeking for social enterprise and cooperative values to be embedded in the entrepreneur aspect of education in Wales. David said he agreed, but there was a question of how. He noted the advanced certificate challenge of the Welsh Baccalaureate. It has been suggested WCVA raise this as senior level in discussions with Qualifications Wales. He said a local response is needed and for schools to develop relationships with CVCs. Paul noted that education isn't confined to schools and he is concerned about 16-25 year-olds. He also commented that youth work isn't volunteering and vice versa.

Catrin said the education sector is aware of volunteering, but there is an issue with implementation. At the last meeting of the SSG, there was a realization that steps would need to be taken to look at how to get information from the voluntary sector into education. An update on the timetable of this is needed.

Ginger said it would be remiss not to table an item on the impact of Covid-19 and school closures, looking at how to address disparities and inequalities – for instance, we know that laptops didn't get to many black children. Also, what would schools do if a lockdown happens again to avoid repetition of issues. Catrin said there is a policy disconnection across a number of areas, including free school meals and digital inclusion. Denise said there needs to be a wider context of assessment to understand what support families need. Elen said we need to ask the Minister what the procedure was in collating issues and delivering on the digital inclusion promise. Ginger noted evidence that children in private schools got much more online tuition than state schools. She is happy to draft a briefing on all this.

Ben said we should frame this about concerns on how people have been disadvantaged compared to peers due to prolonged school absences and ask what if it happens again, with an assessment on groups facing marginalization and disadvantage.

Paul and Ben noted the long lead-in time until the next Ministerial Meeting and that there could be more developments by then. Ben said a small number of us could meet at a later date to draw out most important points for the paper. Paul said work must happen between meetings, not just at meetings. Marianne would like to be involved in the paper, noting that school closures had issues around lack of outdoor space and opportunities for socializing. Schools could have a future role in these issues should lockdown happen again.

Catrin noted that local authorities should provide a better level of accountability.

Action:

Ben to speak to Ginger about the structure of a paper looking at the equalities impact of school closures, then ask group for evidence to feed into the paper. A smaller group will then finalise the paper ahead of the December Ministerial Meeting. If anything urgent occurs, we can write to the Minister.

Felicite to draft youth volunteering paper for TSPC and circulate summary to Education group.

Update from voluntary sector representatives on Welsh Government stakeholder groups

The Strategic Stakeholder Group has not met. The group has not heard anything about the National Strategy for Education Research Working Group. The Welsh Bacc Design Working Group has launched a consultation on the advanced skills certificate challenge.

Action

David Smith to contact group about meeting regarding Welsh Bacc consultation.

Any Other Business

Catrin asked about an education group on BAME issues. Rocio Cifuentes of EYST lobbied to be on the group, but hasn't heard anything back

Paul noted the Ministerial Meeting date is the same day as a meeting of the Curriculum Strategy Stakeholder Group.

Action

WCVA to check if there is a clash between the Ministerial Meeting and the Curriculum Strategy Stakeholder Group meeting.