

Planning meeting to prepare for the Third Sector Meeting with Kirsty Williams AM, Minister for Education

**Wednesday 1 April
10:00– 12:00
Via Microsoft Teams**

Notes

Attendance:

Ben Lloyd	-	WCVA (Chair)
Rebecca Falvey	-	Business in the Community
Susie Ventris-Field	-	WCIA
Ginger Wiegand	-	EYST
Gethin Rhys	-	Interfaith Council for Wales
Kathryn Robson	-	Adult Learning Wales
Elin Maher	-	Mentrau Iaith Cymru
David Smith	-	Co-ops & Mutuals Wales
Cath Lewis	-	Children in Wales
Catrin James	-	CWVYS
Victoria Branciamore	-	The Prince's Trust
Marianne Manello	-	Play Wales
Patience Bentu	-	Race Council Cymru
Fiona Harris	-	WCVA

Apologies

Paul Glaze	-	CWVYS
Tina Rees	-	Welsh Women's Aid
Catherine Fookes	-	WEN Wales
Ann Woods	-	TSSW
Jennifer James	-	Oxfam Cymru
Lynne Hill	-	Children in Wales
Andrea Meyrick	-	Techniquet
Felicite Walls	-	WCVA
Denise Inger	-	SNAP Cymru
Claire Lawson	-	RSPCA
Elsbeth Jones	-	Size of Wales
Bryn Hall	-	Clinks

1. Welcome and introductions

BL welcomed everyone and introductions were made. BL outlined the purpose of the meeting to prepare for a future meeting with the Minister and explained that the agenda had obviously changed because of the current coronavirus pandemic

Discuss took place about the current crisis – many organisations have staff furloughed and losing income. Concerns about international volunteers, children in care, isolation, schools and income streams. Promo Cymru are leading on sharing good practice on volunteering

Further education sector has made a shift to on-line courses but with community education there is more of a focus on face to face education which is presenting a challenge. Recognition that access to computer and online equipment is not universal. Members are also particularly concerned about children from poorer backgrounds who do not have access to the same online learning as their better off peers. ALW been working with LHBs to prepare data on students that are completed level 2 & 3 courses in Health & Social Care to assist in deploying them to work in H&SC settings.

Concerns were raised about an article that appeared in the Huffington Post that stated that black and minority students could lose out if grades are based on predicted results. Concerns that teacher-led assessments systematically undermark pupils from BAME backgrounds.

https://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/entry/many-teachers-hold-racial-bias-towards-students-fears-spark-around-predicted-grades-amid-coronavirus-exam-cancellations_uk_5e74f542c5b6f5b7c5438a21?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2xlLmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAB0Uqs9PgaNRooXYYBxBDMe32lyOUGMJ_YX4wKMdjlJxayfYhP9k3UYmznyJ9TS2QkvMRCkelyzzfhP6zJZDR-qRBN-mcfF59akLutTUVlvhLpyiDiByfTO196FdktIzwSAuLhyhgTPOk48BEhl4ssTftHh2EapOHLTgHaY8LYZ

Many issues within the BAME community – burials, lack of access to IT

Discussion took place around volunteering and what furloughed staff could do. BL confirmed that WCVA would shortly have guidance on this issue. Also the issue of free school meals – cash/vouchers and the need to take into consideration the nutrient value of meals provided to avoid future long term health issues.

RF talked about how BiTC was delivering online workshops to support teachers also aiming to partner shuttered businesses with communities either to promote volunteering or to loan equipment to children at home via a website. GR noted that Swansea Faith in Families had received some iPads sourced by Carolyn Harris MP.

GR also noted church schools had 5-10% of their income supported by voluntary giving. Not an immediate term problem but might need to be reflected in future school budgets.

EM Confirmed that Year 10 & 12 exams would be taken next year and that Qualifications Wales would be producing a detailed document next week. Issues around translation and the Welsh Language Commissioner confirmed that there would be no relaxation to the current Welsh Language Standards

Actions

- **BL to write to Minister with sector's concerns, in particular concerns re inequality for BAME children**
- **RF to share link to website**

2. Minutes & Actions from Ministerial Meeting 05.02.20

BL confirmed that ALN was in the action points and would be followed up

3. National Strategy for Educational Research and Enquiry (NSERE)

GW and KR updated the group – last meeting had been cancelled. The group were looking for third sector input into their research. The group was currently dominated by academics with a few university reps. Concerns raised about the low priority of youth work and the need for the Social Research Team from Welsh Government to be included in the group and the need for an implementation path.

Actions

- **BL to discuss issues with Kevin Palmer at WG**

4. Discussion on Milestones for Curriculum Development – Susie Ventris-Field

SVF confirmed that she had sent a response to the consultation but was concerned to know if there was a planned delay to the current timetable, aware that the commissioning of materials was already going ahead.

Actions:

- **BL to contact Welsh Government**

5. Possible Agenda items for the meeting with Minister (Date tbc)

BL explained that FW wasn't able to attend the meeting but that an item on the links between the new curriculum, volunteering, social action and active citizenship was still likely. DS discussed the role of the sector and civil society issues as he felt the item hadn't been fully addressed at the last meeting with the Minister. BL felt it was important to reflect the wider portfolio. SVF talked about the role of the third sector in WG's strategy and the need to resource the sector

Actions

- **WCVA to send email to group for input to agenda items**

6. Update from third sector reps on Welsh Government stakeholder groups:

Strategic Stakeholder Group – CJ gave an update, noting that the last meeting was held before the meeting with the Minister, but it had been a more positive and there had been discussion about the role of the sector. There was a need for a reality check and a commitment by WG to gather information on what the sector could offer. CJ had raised concerns so WG were rethinking. The next meeting had been postponed.

Welsh Bacc Design Working Group – DS said the last meeting had been held in September but heard nothing since and there had been no minutes issued. His sense was that things would continue with little change. The report following the consultation is due in May

Members raised concerns about responding to current consultations – lack of staff, resource etc

Actions:

- **BL to raise issue of timeframe to respond to current consultations at TSPC meeting**

7. #TalkLearning feedback

BL had spoken with Mark Ford, WG – lots of discussion needed around structure and at what level the third sector sits. Members raised concerns – education consortia & curriculum stakeholder’s group

8. A.O.B

Members discussed the possibility of holding a virtual meeting with the Minister and the opportunity for these to provide opportunities for greater public engagement.

Actions:

- **FH to contact WG to check and get date**

There was no other business and the meeting closed