

Education Group Planning meeting

Wednesday 9 September, 10:30am-12:30

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees

- Rebecca Falvey, BITC
- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Patience Bentu, Race Council Cymru
- David Smith, Coops and Mutuals Wales
- Sian Rees, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Dan Roberts, Wales Coop Centre
- Susie Ventris Field, WCIA
- Ginger Wiegand, EYST
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Fiona Harris, WCVA

Minutes from previous planning meeting

The group accepted the minutes. There was discussion around the use of Zoom in meetings – easier to engage and more opportunities at present to use translation facilities.

Possible items for next Ministerial Meeting

Ben talked about recovery and asked how the group wanted to address the items around the curriculum.

Elin said it was an important time with pupils catching up but it was important that there was also wellbeing catch ups and that the voluntary sector were ideally placed to assist with this.

Rebecca said BiTC had been asked by schools and colleges to focus on wellbeing and resilience for their Barclays LifeSkills workshops

Susie noted that there had been no meetings of the Strategic Stakeholder Group (SSG) so difficult to understand what stage things were at & important to re-establish communication with WG officials

Catrin was in agreement and that the sector needed to show what they could offer to support learners and what they can do to engage in the curriculum. Next meeting of SSG is 23 March and will be first meeting for a year so need to look at extra curriculum activities potentially residential opportunities.

Members concerned that there was a gap in strategic planning – need to assess spending areas to be effective.

Ginger agreed noting that the current implantation is decolonized and that there are good role models that could be used from all over the world.

Members felt that there needed to be a mechanism to help the voluntary sector engage with schools and needed some form of quality assurance. Recognition that the voluntary sector needed to look for funding outside Welsh Government and the Education department.

Sian talked about the Working Advisory Groups and the need for more information on the curriculum – trying to tackle misinformation and conspiracy theories – focusing on wellbeing.

Catrin noted that Wales Alliance for Global Learning wanted to prioritise tackling misinformation (and skills to handle misinformation) more generally as people come back into school from COVID

Dan felt it was important to ensure that Social Enterprise was embedded in entrepreneurship when developing the curriculum to help children learn and develop skills.

Catrin that it was a common with the sector getting information on the curriculum at a late date.

David felt we shouldn't underestimate the pressure that WG was under. They had been looking at using Zoom & Teams internationally and there were lots of opportunities to provide apps to help children engage. Questioned how the sector supported teachers and children to enjoy what they do. Concerns with the Welsh Bacc and how to make resources free online. Regional Consortia may be placed to help at local level. Many members expressed concerns about Regional Consortia.

Susie felt there had been misinformation about return to school and that there was a need for available resource and support. There were safeguarding risks, but schools were saying no to things as safety risk, but risk needed to be managed. National Guidelines for schools?

Elin talked about working with the police at a regional level to provide faith groups with information and working with CVCs to that information is held centrally that can be disseminated down. Expressed concerns about Regional Consortia. Felt that this time was an opportunity to show what the voluntary sector could do and that the sector can deliver education communications.

Dan noted that Digital Inclusion Wales Framework was launching shortly.

Susie felt it was important to make the first meeting with the new Minister a showcase. Brexit has had an impact on education and there were lots of opportunities for young people. Felt group should do a clear paper that demonstrates how the third sector delivers the new curriculum - lots of case studies that could show examples, getting quality assured stuff on Hwb.

Catrin talked about the Youth Engagement Framework was being refreshed. Concerns raised about PCET and youth employment and training and implications for Welsh medium. Ben thinks issues are being addressed via the Minister for Economy & Transport

Rebecca noted that she'd been invited to support the review of the youth engagement framework as a stakeholder. Attending employability & provision session later in March. CWVYS also attending.

Elin felt group should ask about a ringfenced budget for enrichment budget for schools – need to show examples of how small amounts of money can help. Need to emphasise how schools have been engaged during the pandemic doing extra things which has been impactful on teachers and learners.

Ben put forward the idea of maybe having an exhibition in the Senedd or a potential visit by the new Minister to showcase examples.

Actions:

Agreed three agenda items for future meeting with the Minister:

- *Recovery and Wellbeing Catch up*
- *Role sector can play in supporting the curriculum.*
- *Post-compulsory education including HE, FE, apprenticeships and youth employment and skills support.*

Update from voluntary sector representatives on Welsh Government stakeholder groups

- Susie to send the summary from SSG

Ginger noted that the National Strategy for Education Research had not met and concerned that there was only one voluntary sector member. Ben noted there wasn't a structure to feed into research.

Any Other Business

Susie asked if any members were doing anything in education around COP26 that they get in touch with her.

Action

WCVA to write to Minister to thank her for support.