

Education and Welsh Language Group Planning meeting

Tuesday 1 June 2021, 10:00am-11:00

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees

- Rebecca Falvey, BITC
- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Sian Rees, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Welsh for Parents
- Kay Smith, Learning & Work Institute
- Clair Brick, Siawns Teg
- Gwendolyn Sterk, Welsh Women's Aid
- Lindsay Bewis, Snap Cymru
- Owen Evans, Children in Wales
- Susie Ventriss Field, WCIA
- Ginger Wiegand, EYST
- Felicitie Walls, WCVA
- Naomi Lea, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Fiona Harris, WCVA

Welcome and Introductions

Ben talked about the portfolio had changed and now included Welsh Language and how changes were needed to ensure space to discuss this

Minutes from previous planning meeting

The group accepted the minutes. Ben noted that WCVA had written to the previous Minister to thank her for her support as requested at the last meeting.

Possible items for next Ministerial Meeting

Actions:

Ben reiterated the three potential agenda items that had been agreed from the last meeting:

- 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.

He noted that this was probably too many items for the first meeting with the new Minister as it was also important to get across our key policy messages.

Elin noted the change of portfolio and said this issue needed to be taken into consideration and that it was important to pick up things that had been started with the previous Minister. Felt the group needed to establish what we are about and what we would like to see as an overview. Catrin agreed

Gwendolyn said that WWA had written to the new Minister re the RSE guide being published and how they had campaigned for inclusive RSE, also to explain how the sector could support wellbeing as felt that Welsh Government were not aware of the different roles the sector played in education.

Susie was supportive of what others had said and mentioned concerns about the new Erasmus programme being developed. Felt it was important to take an overview to the Minister showing the broad range of areas that the sector was involved with.

Kay was keen to follow up on the previous Welsh Government commitment to lifelong learning. David pointed out that the new Minister has an interest in this area and is a trustee of the Bevan Foundation.

Catrin talked about the recovery of post 16 education and the transition to employment – crossover between Education & Economy portfolios. This needed to be included in the overview to the Minister. Also need to be aware of what is happening with the Community Renewal Fund & Shared Prosperity Fund

Elin explained that the new Minister had already written to them and was keen to pick up work from previous meetings so felt reassured. Concerned about the Strategic Education plans being formulated by LAs. There has been some voluntary sector input but felt it was important that organisations responded

when they came out for consultation. Felt it was important to flag with the Minister how he ensured that LAs involved the sector.

Ben explained that we could use the overview paper as a springboard for issues such as recovery and wellbeing and the pupil enrichment programmes as well as have question re lifelong learning

David felt it was important that the Minister heard about the role and purpose of the sector. Minister is interested in role of communities, in particularly role of families in education

Elin noted that there was a new Chief Education Officer within Welsh Government & felt it would be good to invite him to a future planning meeting.

Kay said there was renewed focus in Welsh Government re family learning and its impact so endorsed David's suggestion

Gwendolyn queried if the group could demonstrate what the sector had done – give examples of what it can offer in terms of support and development

Catrin said that this issue had been raised over the last few years and the SSG had promised to look at a way forward but needed an update

Susie talked about the work of Kevin Palmer with the environmental education sector but how Welsh Government needed to engage wider and felt this should be done via the TSPC

Ben felt that just paper for the Minister was going to be too bulky so would need people to send information in for a background document and then we would have an overview with links to recovery and questions

Elin suggested a thematic directory for the Minister as an introduction to the things we would like to address and to include a timeline. Ben agreed to send round links to a google doc that people could input to

David was keen to explore connections to other portfolios especially economy & climate change to see how we could help Welsh Government join up their work.

Ben explained that WCVA would be looking at how we cover Welsh Language issues as they are wider than just this portfolio and there was a need to create a forum for issues to be raised cross Welsh Government. Elin felt we should ask

the Minister if he was willing to hold separate meetings around Welsh Language

Update from voluntary sector representatives on Welsh Government stakeholder groups

- David confirmed there had only been one meeting of the Welsh Bacc Design Group in 20 months and it was a watching brief
- Susie had shared the presentation slides from the last SSG. Felt there was a need for broader mapping as work was disjointed to make it easier and join the dots. Keen to have a Welsh Government official at the next meeting to explain the work

Elin queried what the engagement avenues would be to contribute to curriculum activities. Catrin felt engagement would happen but that there was a capacity deficit in the voluntary sector after the pandemic as many organisations had reduced capacity

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

No other business noted

Action

WCVA to look for a date for a meeting with Minister

WCVA to draft google doc for members to input

WCVA to look at how to manage issues re Welsh Language