

## **Education and Welsh Language Group Planning meeting**

**Wednesday 15.09.2021, 10:15-11:45am**

### **Microsoft Teams**

### **Minutes**

#### **Attendees**

- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Sian Rees, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Welsh for Parents
- Eleanor Jones, WCVA
- Amber Demetrius, WCIA
- Bedwyr Ap Gwyn, John Muir Trust
- Heddwen Daniel, Welsh Women's Aid
- Vikki Cornish, Wales Assembly for Women
- Emma Phipps Magill, VFCC
- Dan Roberts, Wales Co-operative Centre
- Kathryn Robson, Adult Learning Wales
- Hadassah Radway, Race Council Cymru
- Michelle Gunn, Prince's Trust Cymru
- Laura Abraham, Business in the Community
- David Hagendyk, Learning & Work Institute
- Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Phil Stubbington, John Muir Trust
- Rocio Cifuentes, EYST
- David Smith, Co-ops & Mutuals Wales
- Natalie Zhivkova, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Fiona Harris, WCVA

#### **Welcome and Introductions**

#### **Minutes from previous planning meeting**

Ben talked about WCVA having discussions with Mentrau Iaith Cymru around non education Welsh language issues. Members were concerned that there was a distinction between education and Welsh language

issues and it was important to look for a mechanism to address both issues. The group accepted the minutes.

## **Discussion re items for next Ministerial Meeting**

### **Actions:**

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

- Educational work
- Wellbeing Support (mental health, family support etc.)
- Tackling inequality within the system

Reminder given re the template paper that had been circulated and needed populating with case studies. Discussions took place about Adult Community Learning, noting that Welsh language plays an important role. Elin noted that the Strategic Education Plans were out for consultation. Concerns about children in Welsh medium education but not from Welsh speaking homes – link to use language in the community and education

Citizenship was discussed – teachers not confident with this issue but voluntary sector could help. There is a disconnect between the sector and education so need to make links to make it accessible.

Catrin explained that the Strategic Stakeholders Group had been looking at voluntary sector links and how guidance would be developed for enrichment experiences.

Members keen to have wellbeing support on parity with education. Wellbeing underpins education. There have been initiatives happening but more local than national – Project Hope, youth led peer support to combat loneliness. Concerns that services that paused face to face support will be overwhelmed in the coming months. How will funding be allocated for voluntary sector support?

Estyn currently undertaking a review into sexual harassment in schools but the narrow remit is causing concerns. How can the sector be involved in the planning and implementation?

Concerns around universal free school meals. Work being done by the Child Poverty Action Group to maintain as increasing pressure on parents' budgets.

Challenge to demonstrate the breadth of work being carried out on equalities. How will it be imbedded across all the nine protected characteristics. Need to reference the commitments made in the Programme for Government. Members concerned that community groups were not linked with local schools and needed to find a way to work together.

Concerns also that some groups were not visible and at risk of under achievement. Need to change BAME terminology

### **Shared Priorities for coming government term**

Feeling that can't look at longer term until after response to the report

- Welsh Education Bill
- Girls/women in education

### **Actions**

***WCVA to redraft paper for members to input case studies (2-3) but listing other organisations***

***WCVA to draft question re ACL for those involved to amend/add to***

***WCVA to continue to look at how to manage issues re Welsh Language***

***Members to share any responses to the CYP consultation and WCVA to share with the wider group***