

Education and Welsh Language Group Planning meeting

Wednesday 15.03.2022

Microsoft Teams

NOTES

Attendees

- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Gethin Rhys, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Parents for Welsh Medium Education
- Eleanor Jones, WCVA
- Susie Ventris Field, WCIA
- David Egan, Welsh Government
- Rachel Wrathall, Save the Children Cymru
- Rebecca Falvey, RSPB Cymru
- Amy Bainton Barnardos Cymru
- Michelle Gunn, The Prince's Trust
- Suzanne Sarjeant, Welsh Government
- Dan Roberts, Wales Co-operative Centre
- Kathryn Robson, Adult Learning Wales
- Uzo Iwobi, Race Council Cymru
- Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Natalie Zhivkova, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Fiona Harris, WCVA

Apologies

- David Hagendyk, Learning & Work Institute
- Phil Stubbington, John Muir Trust
- Bryn Hall, Clinks
- Nadine Honeybone, The Autism Directory
- Lindsay Brewis, SNAP Cymru

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes from previous Ministerial meeting

To be approved at next meeting with the Minister. Members to send in any changes

Presentation by Dr Suzanne Sarjeant and David Egan, Welsh Government on Community Schools

Focus on all schools acting as Community Schools reaching out to families and the wider communities, especially important in disadvantaged areas. Need for leadership at different levels and a tailored approach.

Members raised concerns about funding, support mechanisms, ability of the sector to engage with schools. WG confirmed need to have practical guidance for schools to make links.

DR advocated for the role of Social Enterprises and not just the voluntary sector in discussions

CJ – keen to have voluntary sector involvement in developing the framework and guidance. SS confirmed that it would be co-constructed

SVF – concerns that community shouldn't just been local but that international partnerships were also considered

NZ - need for universal link to schools for the voluntary sector on a national level. That way it will not be dependent on forging many individual connections for each charity/community group/school. WCVA could be that link if able to get involved.

RW – confirmed that there had been an evaluation of Children First last year and would check if results could be shared

EJ – gave example of using involvement from sector with children with learning difficulties and behavioral problems and how this has led to improved attainment and were now trying to incorporate this method into the Welsh Bacc

RF – talked about the pilot of Community Managers which were used to make links between schools and communities

SS – noted there was an opportunity to fund designated roles – maybe Community School Managers/Family Engagement Officers – to sit outside school, important especially for secondary schools

GR – talked about frustrations with the Curriculum Stakeholders Group and queried if their work had been incorporated into Community Schools

UI – queried how inclusive the work was for people from ethnic minority backgrounds, pressed to be involved at the concept stage

Discussion re items for next Ministerial Meeting

- Taith – June meeting maybe too late so perhaps letter or meeting with officials?
- Issues contributing to the Curriculum (starting date 1st Sept) – maybe with officials. Concerns about different groups and if there was overlap
- Issues around Welsh Language – possibly set up a separate meeting. LJ to make enquiries
- Workforce planning for Welsh medium and Youth sector
- AB - agreed with the point raised by Welsh Women's Aid in the spreadsheet around the Estyn report. By June we should have the outcome of the CYPE Committee inquiry on peer-on-peer sexual harassment in schools and we'd be keen to hear how Welsh Government will be responding to this.

Agreed potential Agenda items

- Curriculum – 30 mins
- Taith – Lowri/Susie
- Workforce planning
- Updates from officials

Actions

WCVA to share presentation and forward members email addresses to Suzanne

Members to send any comments re minutes from the last meeting with the Minister

ALW 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 and if separate meeting needed

Ben to draw up a paper template on Curriculum and ask others for information

KR to draft question re Adult Community Learning

SVF to draft concerns re Taith and send to others for comments

Members to send any requests for officials to talk at future planning meetings