

Update meeting - Minister for Education and Welsh Language

19 October 2023, 11am – 12:30pm

Notes

Attendees

- Anne-Marie Rogan, St Giles Trust
- Bethan Williams, The Princes Trust
- Catherine Rees, Save the Children UK
- Dan Roberts, Cwmpas
- Eleanor Jones, WCVA
- Elin Maher, RhAG
- Hugh Russell, Children in Wales
- Kathy Riddick, Humanists Society
- Kathryn Robson (KR), Adult Learning Wales
- Loren Nadin, Governors for Schools
- Lowri Jones, Menter Iaith
- Nathan Sadler, Evangelical Alliance Wales
- Janine Downing (JD), WCVA
- Kelly Chamberlain, WCVA
- Livia Pietromarchi, WCVA
- Natalie Zhivkova, WCVA
- Sara Sellek, WCVA
- Aaron Fortt (AF), Welsh Government
- Chris Buchan, Welsh Government
- Helen Brown, Welsh Government

1. Welcome and Introductions

Welcome and introductions were made.

2. Framework for Engagement update

JD shared slides of Framework for Engagement presentation (Presentation attached to these minutes).

A general overview was given on areas such as WCVA's restructure, the last Education and Welsh Language Ministerial meeting and Third Sector Unit/WCVA meeting with Welsh Government Education and Welsh Language SMT to discuss a new way of working. Positive response received from WG and are keen to see focus of specific interest.

A more in depth review of the new proposed way of working took place, including suggestions such as appointing a group sector chair/vice chair, establishing a workplan/shared agenda to guide engagement over the next 12 months, working with officials to ensure that Ministerial meetings happen at the most appropriate time in line with the agreed workplan and the needs of the Sector/Minister.

Discussion took place on the suggestions and were widely supported by group. KR offered to be Sector Chair.

It was observed that both topics of Education and Welsh Language need equal space and focus.

The importance of making connections with other officials and cross portfolio working was highlighted. The topic of transport which spans all Ministerial groups was a focus of discussion and highlighted as a possible issue to test in a new way of working

An overview of [Welsh Government's Education National Mission](#) aims and objectives was given which WG suggested be used as an anchor for conversation.

General consensus from group that we need to look at the policy intentions laid out in the missions and map out the different routes of engagement etc to identify action driven outcomes that that feed into government policy to make it happen. We must move away from being a talking shop.

Next steps and actions were discussed. A further meeting is required to unpick issues and challenges, particularly around transport and poverty. Group to take an issue based approach with a focus to solutions.

3. Welsh Government workshop – Curriculum for Wales collaboration

JD reported that she had been contacted by Lloyd Hopkin, Head of Curriculum reform who would like to arrange a workshop with the sector to discuss how to collaborate more effectively on the Curriculum for

Wales. Workshop to take place at the end of November (outline of focus included in slides).

Offer was positively received by group and widely seen as a practical approach to moving forward.

4. AOB

JD asked group if a meeting with the Education and Welsh Language minister was wanted this side of Christmas. From the previous discussion on transport, a suggestion was put forward to meet with both the Minister for E&WL and Deputy Minister for Climate Change. WG colleagues suggested this may be an option in the New Year but to test the new way of working in the first instance but did acknowledge the need for a space for reactive issues also.

JD highlighted the recent [oral statement given by the Minister for Finance and Local Government](#) and asked group to inform WCVA of any impacts the budget has had so that WCVA can feed into the wider budget engagement.

Action points

Point	Action	Who	When
2	Arrange a further meeting to identify an issues/action focussed list of outcomes linked to National Missions to guide work programme	WCVA	TBC
3	Curriculum for Collaboration workshop discussions to be put into motion	WCVA	November
4	Group to highlight any budget impacts to WCVA so that they can be fed into wider budget engagement.	Group	November