**Young Persons Guarantee**

**Stakeholder Advisory Group**

**28th June 2023**

**2:00pm – 3:30pm**

**Notes**

**Present**

Paul Glaze - CWVYS

Catrin James - CWVYS

Gareth Matthews - iTEC/JGW+

Dr Duncan Holtom – People and Work

Sophie Douglas – Universities Wales

Caryn Grimes - Newport CC (Regional Skills Partnership)

Frost Sarah - DWP

Roberts Susan - DWP

Louise Grove-White - Powys CC (Regional Skills Partnership)

Tim Opie - WLGA

Jo-Ann Walsh - Careers Wales

Heledd Morgan – Future Generations

Jeff Protheroe – Colleges Wales

Chapman, Andrew - Welsh Government

Woodhead, Gareth - Welsh Government

Norris, Stephanie - Welsh Government

Swift, Ann - Welsh Government

Morgan, Karen – Welsh Government

Jarrold, Sarah - Welsh Government

Evans, Sian - Welsh Government

Stalder, Peter - Welsh Government

**Apologies**

Emma Benger – Careers Wales

Keiron Rees – University Wales

Aggie Caesar-Homden - Powys CC (Regional Skills Partnership)

John Nash – TSW

Carys Roberts – Welsh Government

Lisa Pugh – Welsh Government

Mandi Everson - CWVYS

1. **Welcome & Introductions**

PG (Chair) welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked GW and AC for organising. PG reminded everyone that it was National Youth Work week and one of the agenda items would be covering the Youth Work sector. PG noted that there was a full agenda and time was tight so asked GW to report on actions from last meeting whilst also running through relevant elements of the highlight report.

**Actions from last meeting/minutes/Highlight Report**

PG asked the group to confirm they were content that the minutes were accurate. Group members were content that the minutes from the previous meeting were an accurate record.

GW went through the actions from the last meeting.

UCAS - Welsh apprenticeship opportunities are now being advertised on the UCAS website and are accessible for people to search and find out further information.

Net Zero Action Plan – more appropriate for next meeting. Consultation will just have been issued.

Young Carers – potential development of a register for unpaid carers which would also provide valuable input to the YPG Policy team and wider YPG programme.

GW went through the highlight report. There were no questions.

YPG Young Persons Advisory Board - As an update to the highlight report, GW added that the first Youth Advisory Board took place on 24th June. The group consisted of 8 young people and was a mainly introductory meeting around what YPG means. The group also got to hear from some JGW+ participants. It was apparent that discussions with the young people improved during the breaks when they felt more comfortable, so this will be taken into consideration going forwards. The next meeting is at the end of July and possible areas of focus are transport and/ or rurality issues. GW still writing up notes and will share with group once finalised.

PG asked about the possibility of meeting the group in the future when they are more established. GW will explore this. PG also advised that there is a young person’s board for the Youth Work Strategy implementation board.

**ACTION** – GW to share notes of Youth Advisory Board meeting with group and to consider how the group may be able to meet with the Advisory Board in future – (COMPLETE).

1. **Commission for Tertiary Education and Research Update**

PG welcomed KM (Head of PCET Reform Branch) to the meeting. KM presented information (and slides) regarding the establishment of the CTER.

KM mentioned the details of posts and people who had been appointed. In terms of the act a representative board is a legal requirement. KM noted that Simon Pirotte had been appointed as Chief Executive Officer and this was announced by the Minister in April 2023. The recruitment of ordinary board members is still ongoing. The CEO and Ordinary Board Members will take up post in September 2023 and an establishment phase will begin.

In additional to the strategic duties of the Commission, there will be a Ministerial priority letter outlining a strategic direction. CTER will need to draw up a strategic plan outlining a response to the statement. This won’t happen in first year of establishment due to timings but will happen going forwards. CTER will become fully operational from April 2024 when it moves into its transitional phase.

PG thanks KM and asked if there were any questions from the group:

TO raised a concern around learner voice and queried how local government were to be represented on the board. KM advised that she is happy to receive comments on this.

GW noted that a number of programmes currently under YPG will fall under the future responsibility of CTER. The team are working with CTER to ensure continuation of the YPG brand and to ensure that YPG is weaved into the priorities. GW is also conscious of delivering the YPG and ensuring that the evidence that is being gathered on young people is fed in. GW will keep the group updated when more is known about how this will work.

CJ asked about Welsh language within the workforce development. KM commented that it was important that we don’t lose sight of this.

GM noted that some programmes don’t come under CTER, such as JGW, and queried whether there may be a perceived conflict of interests with things falling under different Ministers. GW advised that there are cross-cabinet discussions ongoing around accountability. KM commented that messages need to be clear, the website needs to be up and running, and need to ensure gains made on programmes aren’t diminished.

KM advised that queries can be sent to the PCET reform mailbox.

**ACTION** - AC will send out the PCET reform email address to members along with the slides - (COMPLETE)

1. **Youth Work Sector item**:

PG introduced the next item and reminded the group that it was National Youth Work week.

• Voluntary Sector Youth Work

CJ (CWVYS) provided the group with an update on the focus of CWVYS and the wider voluntary youth work sector. CJ mentioned how there is co-ordination of regional meetings with over 30 members and also organisations at different levels. There is also a connection with local authority provision and it provides the opportunity to collaborate and work together.

CJ ran through examples that illustrated the diverse range of the sectors youth work impacts. Although there is a general collective understanding there is sometimes individual difficulty to navigate the 16-24 provision, as well as associated funding.

PG highlighted the Youth Work engagement strategy and its importance as it is not necessarily engaging to support those young people who are NEET, (with youth workers operating as lead workers who act as brokers).

• Local Authority Update

TO provided a Local Authority update and noted that youth workers contribute significantly towards the YEPF and YPG. TO also mentioned that youth homelessness coordinators also report to EPCs. The Youth Support Grants of over £11m funds EPCs and youth work in LAs. TO advised that there are a number of issues; recruitment and retention in youth work is a problem and that it’s not often sold as a viable career opportunity; short term funding for youth work is always an issue; programmes are often not around for long which raises issues of sustainability; some programmes can sit in other local authority departments, (such as leisure, which complicates the landscape).

• Updated YEPF Early Identification Guidance:

SJ updated the group around changes to the YEPF Early Identification Guidance. SJ mentioned that youth homelessness included in guidance and other most seldom heard group the main target engagement. Illustrating this, SJ highlighted different case studies, (for example young parents).

PG invited any questions from the group.

GW appreciated how important all sectors were for the successful delivery of the YPG and wider work too. GW asked about engagement with YPG providers on the ground. CJ stated that there was good communication from providers with regional voluntary sector meetings. PG/GM reminded the group about the YPG JGW+ emotional health and wellbeing and the call out to the YW sector and to support work. GM stated the importance of partnership work and the flexibility of contracts to allow deliverers to respond to need.

TO – Estyn will be carrying out separate inspections of youth work. Sector is working with Estyn to shape.

GM said WG recognises that things are constantly changing, (pre-engagement programme which requires partnership work). Now is the time for partnership working and there is flexible contract management which leads to better/relevant contract delivery.

PG agreed with the comments from GM.

1. **YPG Evaluation** Dr Duncan Holtom, (People and Work)

DH gave the group an update relating to the ongoing YPG evaluation. This consisted of 3 broad phases with an initial focus on the boundaries of the scope, for example working out what is in and what is out of scope. DH stated that the YPG was complex in the nature of the offer and in terms of the lived experience of young people and the range of barriers the face. Attention is also being given to the theories of change process which will be tested against dialogue with individuals linked to the scope. Also, this work will link to the YPG National Conversation, role and guidance and also looking at the way funding shapes provision. Additionally, DH explained how identifying behaviour change with individuals this can change communities, the economy and Wales as a whole.

PG thanked DH for his presentation and invited any questions from the group.

TO asked if they have been asked to look at the education participation rate being raised to 18 in England, (and if this has made a difference). DH confirmed they were not looking at this. TO pointed out that this age difference and approach will skew the NEET data between England and Wales.

DH pointed out that the YPG was a positive offer He agreed however that NEET data between England and Wales was now skewed with the change in participation age in England.

PG asked how young people were involved in the process.

DH keen and the groups interest in engaging with us. Young people will be interviewing other young people, so some peer work to be involved.

PG thanked DH for his update.

HM thanked DH in linking back to Future Generations goals.

**ACTION** – AC to invite DH to future stakeholder meetings – (COMPLETE).

1. **Board member updates**

PG invited board members to give updates.

JW updated that in partnership with WG, Careers Wales have commissioned two pieces of work around the proposed data hub. The first was to scope benefits and how this could impact YPG, while the second was develop a new suite of data reports to demonstrate proof of concept. Both pieces of work are now complete. The benefits report has been shared with WG. There was a new suite of reports, designed with North RSP, they will be delivering a demonstration in July. Feedback will be shared with WG. Careers Wales have also been reviewing all offerings and how these can be enhanced in support of YPG. They have also been collaborating around building data sets with DWP. A couple of months of data have been received and work is underway on this. Careers Wales are also in the process of delivering the year 11 leaver plan.

SF gave an update on the Youth Hub in Swansea which reopened last week and is co-located in Careers Wales premises. DWP is in the planning stages of organising a (UK Gov) Ministerial visit in September. The Youth Hub is based at an external site where work coaches are situated, along with other service providers such as Job Centre Plus, employability coaches and health work coaches.

HM had a request for the group. The new future generations commissioner for Wales started on 1st March and is holding a conversation around future focus. HM requested that board members get involved by completing and sharing the survey.

HM also advised that they are currently recruiting for the audit, risk and assurance committee (Future Generations Commissioner Audit, Risk & Assurance Committee recruiting 5 new members and they are opening recruitment for future generations leadership academy for 18-30 year olds; a leadership course to help young people gain skills in leadership.

GM gave a brief update on JGW+ stats. All indicators are that the target of 5000 starts will be exceeded. The target for 60% positive progression will be just under at about 58%. Although slightly under, this is a great success for year 1. There has also been a really good response to ‘Get ready’ – early indications reflect positive engagement thanks to partners reaching out to young people.

SE gave a brief update on the National Conversation. Round 2, focussing on transport, mental health and work experience, has concluded and the team are working through the findings. In the meantime, round 3 is underway which is covering the areas of communication, disability and transition. Focus groups and surveys are taking place during June and results should be available in July/ August.

**ACTION** – AC to circulate all relevant information mentioned above and links from the chat after the meeting - (COMPLETE).

7 **AOB**:

Date of next meeting – 9th November 2023.