**WBL Contract Holders Reference Group**

**Friday 5 July 2024**

**10:00am – 12.00pm**

**via MS Teams**

**Notes and Actions:**

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| **Members:**  ACT Training Ltd – Zoe  B-WBL – Jenny Badger  Cambrian Training Company - Faith O’Brien  Cardiff and Vale College - Alan Mackay  Coleg Cambria – Johnathan Shaw  Educ8 – Jude Holloway  Gower College Swansea – Rachel Searle  Grŵp Llandrillo Menai – Sophie Martin  Grŵp NPTC Group - Nicola Thornton-Scott  Itec Skills and Employment – Gareth Matthews  Welsh Government:   * Rhian Edwards * Chris Hare * Alun Gosney * Geoff Hicks | **Secretariat:**  NTfW – Lisa Mytton (Chairing)  ColegauCymru - Jeff Protheroe (Note taking)  **Meeting Invitees:**  N/A  **Apologies:**  N/A |

1. **Welcome and apologies (Chair)**

Lisa Mytton (LM) welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined that this would be the last meeting of this group, in its current form.

1. **Notes and actions from previous meeting (Chair)**

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| **Action** | **Status** |
| **Action** – JP/LM to follow up with RE to discuss/agree a way forwards with regards to communication between the Commission, Welsh Government and members of the CCH Reference Group. | **Ongoing –** To be discussed at today’s meeting |
| **Action** – Volunteers for a Success Rates Working Group to contact LM / JP by Wed 8 May 24. | **Completed** |

**3.** **Welsh Government** **Update**

1. **Medr** (Rhian Edwards and Geoff Hicks)

RE provided the following update:

* Establishment and structure – RE stated that she was speaking today principally with a “Medr head on”. RE went on to outline the Medr structure (slides attached) and explained that apprenticeships will straddle two areas (Policy and Funding). Currently in the process of recruiting a Head of Apprenticeships. Most of the current Welsh Government Apprenticeships Team will be transferring across to Medr. Geoff Hicks will oversee the work that Alun Gosney had previously delivered. However, the funding of all post-16 programmes will now have greater alignment (under Geoff).
* Welsh Government restructure – Concurrently, the Welsh Government is also restructuring, and forming a new Tertiary Education Division (TED):
  + Sinead Gallagher - Strategy and Funding (to inc. post-16 funding, the partnership team, the data team, student finance, links to the WG’s legislative programme, CTER secondary legislation etc.)
  + Zenny Saunders - Learner Experience (to inc. Workforce, learner voice, learner experience)
  + Jo Trotter – Learner Pathways (to inc. the 14 – 19 space, Seren, Youth Work, qualifications policy inc. sponsorship of Qualifications Wales, following up on the Hefin David report, Sharon Lusher Review of VQs etc.
  + Apprenticeships – a small Apprenticeships Team being formed with the Skills Team. Nick Herbert and Rob Stroud in post, and currently in the process of recruiting a new Head of Apprenticeships.
* Future (contract) meetings – RE confirmed that the contractual relationship will be owned by Medr post 1-Aug 24. Likely that Geoff Hicks will lead on these meetings (from a Medr perspective). RE more than happy for the existing arrangement with ColegauCymru and NTfW to continue. Would like to continue with the current approach to ‘co-production’.

GH went on to provide the following:

A new role of Director of Development, Investment and Performance. Nikoleta and Catherine moving across to Medr. Split between Funding and Performance but looking across the whole tertiary system.

1. **Apprenticeships** (Alun Gosney and Chris Hare)

AG informed everyone that information on evidencing eligibility would have been received by everyone by now, and that the Programme Specifications would be updated in due course – looking to get done ASAP.

AG finished by informing everyone that he would be leaving his current role within WG on 16 Jul 24.

CH went on to provide the following policy updates:

* Success Rates – CH thanked all for volunteering to look at this issue. Having reflected on the timing, it is best to wait until Medr is operational to take forward this work.

1. **Any Other Business**

An issue was raised in regard to Building Services Engineering certification. CH stated that WG are aware of the issue(s) and that Simon Phelps has been liaising with FISS.

**Action** – CH to follow up with Simon Phelps, to establish what progress has been made in resolving the issue(s) with the certification of BSE Apprenticeship Frameworks.

1. **Date of next meeting**: Fri 13 Sep 24 (10.30am – 12.30pm) at CTER’s new office

**ACTIONS**

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| **Action** | **Lead** |
| **Action** – CH to follow up with Simon Phelps, to establish what progress has been made in resolving the issue(s) with the certification of BSE Apprenticeship Frameworks. | **CH** |