

**Note of the meeting of the ITE primary and early years Forum held at 1pm on Tuesday 20 November 2018 at Friends Meeting House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ**

**Welcome, introductions & matters arising**

Colleagues welcomed to the first meeting of the2018/19 academic year. The note of the meeting held on 5 June 2018 was agreed. On matters arising, JNR reported that: UCET had been involved in discussions about the content, structure and delivery of the Early Career Framework, the first details of which were expected to be published soon; and the Management Forum had received a presentation on GDPR issues from lawyers, which demonstrated (amongst other things) that consent need not be the only justification for holding and sharing personal data.

The following points were also discussed:

* Updates from JNR on non ITE primary & early years issues, including: the forthcoming UCET paper on building research informed teacher education communities; UCET NI research projects in Northern Ireland; feedback from the 2018 UCET conference; and developments in Wales.
* Feedback from the morning symposium on ITE and the Learning Sciences which had been led by Kendra MacMahon from Bath Spa University. Key points included: what constitutes learning sciences; what might be covered in ITE; the importance of engaging with learning sciences in a critical way rather than taking claims at face value; the challenge of superficial applications of LS theories in school; the importance of challenging neuro myths (VAK, brain gym etc.); and the need to take a holistic approach with due regard to philosophical and sociological viewpoints. Suggested topics for possible future symposia included: the implications of OFSTED expectations in relation to curriculums in schools; schools attitude to student teachers as sources of income and the implications for quality ITE; workload; the recruitment and retention of men into teaching; strategies to retain students on programmes; and early years issues.
* A presentation on the work of the National Association of Primary Teaching Education Committee (NAPTEC) from Jo Barkham.
* Recruitment to ITE, where drop out was increasing, partly in response to DFE calls for providers to take more risks and the prohibition of ‘school experience’ entry requirements. Reference as also made to: the loss of students because of difficulties securing skills test appointments; DFE advisors giving misleading information to potential applicants; and mixed pictures on applications for 2019/20.
* Early years issues, with continuing reports of recruitment problems and providers closing programmes.
* The UCET paper on the current policy landscape for universities and teacher education, and early discussions about the development of a new UCET strategy for 2020-2015.
* An update on QTS apprenticeships, where an undergraduate route was unlikely to be introduced, links to the ECF appeared not to be possible and continuing issues over using funding to support the award of PGCEs.
* Inspection issues, with reports of OFSTED focussing on equipping students with research skills issues and on pupil and student teacher well-being. Some concern was also expressed about the short notice given to NQTs of OFSTED observations.

A number of items were noted for information, including: UCET activity in relation to PG loans; correspondence between UCET and ministers; the report of the 2018 ICET conference in Laredo, the teacher workload and ITE report; and the summer 2018 UCET newsletter.

**Date of next meeting**

5 March 2019