**USCET Meeting Notes – May 2019**

**Media Resource Centre, Llandrindrod Wells**

**In attendance**

Elaine Sharpling (Uni Wales, Trinity Saint David); Tracy Eastment (Cardiff University); Malcolm Thomas (Aberystwyth University); John Luker (Glyndwr University); Hazel Jones (Bangor University); Sarah (Uni Chester); Catherine Bleasdake (Uni Wales Trinity & St David); Prysor Mason (Aberystwyth Uni); Kim Yu( Cardiff Uni); Melanie Smith (Uni S. Wales); James Noble-Rogers (UCET); Jackie Moses (UCET)

**Apologies** - Mandy Esseen (South Central); Leon Annett (Cardiff and Vale College)

**Minutes** - approved

Typo Pg 3 - should be ‘at least 18 months ago’ not ‘180 months ago’

**Matters Arising**

Vice Chair - still outstanding, had hoped for non HEI person but not essential,

**Action JNR** - to email out re school reps to confirm membership and invite someone to stand as Vice Chair

**Updates**

* No of challenges - Lot of initiatives, new curriculum and therefore lot of work, new inspection framework, still slight feeling of exclusion re PCET colleagues, referred to earlier conversation with WG re transferability of QTs across from post 16 to secondary
* Role of Estyn with PCET on the. Agenda
* Still no standards for ITE in PCET
* Where is learning passport for PCET?
* Recruitment is a challenge esp in some subject areas

**Sub groups report**

The number and coverage of review groups should be reviewed, including who chairs the research and PCET groups. May need revisiting some functioning and some not

Recruitment: WG have asked for regular updates on recruitment from ITE providers. The view was expressed that the establishment of additional providers would not increase net recruitment, and might de-stabalise the sector. Bursary incentives in England were felt to be negatively impacting on recruitment, as dos the grade B GCSE requirement in Wales.

A question was raised over money that was promised from WG to HEIs to support infrastructure in HEIs and could be used to help to protect provision and help with sustainability. JNR offered to ask WG for an update

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ECF - JNR gave update and its potential impact in Wales. Could be seen as an incentive to work in England if launched positively but could be counter if not

It was agreed to request another meeting with WG to discuss a range of issues, including recruitments concerns

Discover teaching website, now includes PCET but needs to be more inclusive as criteria does change across sector

JNR agreed to circulate the email from Lisa Drury about the possible impact of Welsh providers of the DfE decision in England to recruit through a new non-UCAS site.

Membership of PCET & Research groups, are these representative?

What other subgroups do we need?

**Action JNR** to add this to email going out re school membership of USCET

Helen Jones & Leon Arnold will be attending USCET on behalf of Post 16 partnership

**Dec & March meeting with Kevin WG**

* The main topics discussed included: recruitment; sustainability; research (also discussed with Estyn and EWC); confusion over meaning of research engagement in criteria and its links to REF.

**USCET partnership event**

* UCET can fund a day conference in Wales, similar to one planned for the following week in Northern Ireland.
* The UCET conference would take place on 5-6 November and would include John Furlong giving presentation. USCET attendance will be funded from within the delegated budget. issues

**Literacy & numeracy**

Sub group work to look at interview literacy and numeracy tests, do questions need redoing? Are results transferable? If are going to have common entry test for L & N, could these be done centrally?

**Entry requirements for ITE**

* English or Welsh grade B has been required for some time, although confusion persists over for example over what can count towards the requirement (e.g. English literature).

**Equivalency tests**

* It was too late to implement suggestions made in the recent report fr4om WG for the current year.

**Welsh Language Development**

* Sub group has been formed, representatives from within and outside sector, meeting regularly since January. Trying to define evidence base that give competency skills for Welsh Language. Can’t set professional standards until this is defined. Need to ensure transparency and reliability across sector

**Accreditation framework for PL**

* Michelle Jones from Swansea leading this strand of work. Money has been promised from WG but yet to be received. A new sub group to take forward this work might usefully be considered.

An email was shared with group requesting a meeting to discuss ITE resources on ALN, behaviour and well-being, initially for Sept 2019, now pushed back to Sept 2020. This will be discussed further with WG.

**Developments in other parts of UK**

* JNR provided an update on the ECF and the ITE content review.

**Partnership working**

* Needs to be transparency, give and take and real drive to work together for benefit of students and teachers in Wales
* Important to have all partners represented
* Concern around professional standards, what is the evidence base, consistency of judgements, interpretation of these.... outdated reflect in performance of teaching 2/3 years in profession? Discussions with WG, Estyn and EWC are required.

**Updates from :**

* Welsh Govt - apologies sent
* Estyn - apologies sent
* EWC - Mark Isherwood
* New council members, one from one of the partnership
* Code of conduct - new one, soft release this month, compliance from Sept 2019
* Fitness to Practice - other industries have interim suspension orders but not so in education, legislation is coming in
* Responsibility for the promotion of careers now with EWC, announcement shortly, need to look at retention of teachers but links workload, pay etc. Looking at potential of vacancies database, also looking at initial training, indications and professional learning, funding secured for next academic year, 2 New appointments

PCET update - money available to look at this, 2 bits of work

1. Post 16 & FE, looking at current qualifications, teacher training as well as competencies
2. Interviewing of those in system, looking at min qualifications to practice, what would professional learning offer look like, what is the requirement needed to convert

Timeframe - reports due by end of June, will have recommendations that will need ministerial approval

**Qualifications Wales -** Oliver Stacey

Presentation given on curriculum reform & qualifications in Wales 14-16 phase

Questions:

* is Welsh Ebacc within scope?
* Change in qualifications could be major, will need very careful marketing etc
* Links to awards given by sector skills councils..... real scope to be innovative with some of the more excluded 14-19 learners; about practical applications for some learners
* Interest in employer based consultation around qualifications , esp some of smaller employers