

**Notes from the meeting of the University and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers (USCET) held at 10am on Thursday 17 October 2019 at the Media Resource Centre, Oxford Rd, Llandrindod Wells LD1 6AH**

**In attendance**

Malcolm Thomas (Chair); Sarah Perdue (ERW); Mandy Esseen (CSC); Sarah Steward (OU); Hazel Wordsworth (CaBan); Tamasine Croston (GWE); Tracey Eastment (Cardiff Uni); Lisa Taylor (USW); John Luker (Glyndwr); Catherine Bleasdale (UWTSD); Kin Yu (Cardiff Met); Alwyn Ward(Aberstwyth); Lisa Bowen (Cardiff Met); Jackie Moses (UCET)

**From 11.15**

Jane Edwards (Estyn); Mark Isherwood (EWC); Kevin Palmer (Welsh Government)

**Apologies**

James Noble Rogers (UCET)

**Matters arising**

* Vice Chair of USCET has now been appointed and John Luker, (Glyndwr) has agreed to take this on
* Literacy and numeracy tests?
* Entry requirements for ITE?
* Accreditation Framework for PL – next meeting on 18th November. Looking at an event to validate a common masters level framework
* Professional Standards – a meeting took place with Estyn on 24th July and agreed need to work on clear expectations. Suggested that the USCET Forum sub-group works on this
* USCET Sub-groups moving forward are
  + Recruitment
  + Research & Professional Learning
  + Professional standards and quality enhancement
  + Post compulsory

Need to clarify membership of the group (one representative from each partner)

**ITE developments in other parts of the UK**

JM updated the meeting on

* In England
  + The new Ofsted Framework
  + The Early Carer Framework
  + Th removal of the need for skills tests pre entry and the introduction of functional skills
  + The ITE Content review
  + The shape of the Market review
* In Northern Ireland
  + A follow up event planned for 19th May 2020 at Stormont to showcase HEIs involvement in ITE
* In Scotland
  + JM will now attend the Council of Deans meeting, next meeting 21st October so nothing to update yet

Still places at the UCET conference, 5-6 November at Stratford Upon Avon, Conference is free to USCET members

**Feedback from USCET partnership event, inc. USCET Terms of Reference and coverage and membership of sub-groups**

This was the substantive agenda item for the meeting. MT updated those present of the need for an understanding of partnership and the work that had been undertaken so far to draw up a document which will become a partnership agreement.

A draft of current thinking was circulated, and groups spent time discussing this. A small group offered to stay after the meeting to update the document and send to JM for editing and circulation to the wider membership.

**11.15am-12.30pm: Joined by Estyn, EWC & Welsh Government representatives**

**Updates from Estyn (Jane Edwards)**

* They are meeting with colleagues to look at the New Framework and there will be a formal consultation
* ‘Try outs’ will start after October half term
* Have had discussions on judgements especially around their value, no definitive answer yet but hopefully soon
* Now in transition year, suspending school inspection (not HE or FE), will have engagement visits in schools with a focus on professional dialogue and in particular around the new curriculum reforms

**Updates from ECW (Mark Isherwood)**

* IT Accreditation
  + Positive feedback on new programmes and in discussion with Estyn over monitoring compliance
  + 2 new accredited programmes staring in 2020/21
  + New submission from OU fir PG PT and PG Salaried routes
* Promotion of teaching as a career
  + Maintain & promote teaching website and social media channels
  + Starting to meet with partnership to look at on campus work including FE & school sites
  + New National Conservatory to support teacher recruitment and retention (applies also to post compulsory sector)
  + Working on new brand and name to replace ‘Discover Teaching’
  + Holding a National recruitment forum across the sector to look at teacher recruitment, & promotion.
* PLP
  + 21,000 users at present and has seen a significant increase in a short period of time; buy in across the sector
  + Idea is to have a single log in that will include access to other platforms
* Target Numbers
  + Recruitment targets for 20/21 should be available by end of December. Currently analysing total numbers needed

**Updates from Welsh Government (Kevin Palmer)**

* Currently looking at 4 different programme initiatives
  + ITE
  + MA
  + NSERE
  + CCPE

1. Recruitment – need to recruit more high quality trainees, 3 groups in focus
2. Shortage subjects
3. Welsh medium
4. BME community
5. Induction & Early Careers support; Recruitment & Retention Advisory Board advising o this, looking at new approaches to induction and early career support over 2 years – structured period of support which could feed into an MA programme
6. Incentives – can’t commercially compete against the English offer for incentives
7. Targets & caps – Reviewing why we are creating targets based on a supply model that is flawed. Rethinking whole approach and looking at ‘indicative expectations’ with in-year reporting on progress
8. Part time & work based programmes – imperative that these routes fit wit current planning process and that they don’t effect individual providers recruitment to programmes
9. National Strategy for Education Research Enquiry (NSERE) – need to review what is being spent here as feel not getting value for money, review s necessary and need to consider the impact within the system
10. About to undertake a project to articulate more clearly what schooling looks like once the curriculum process had been formalised. Need a system wide account of this and would like a representative from the ITE community. MT suggested a representative from USCET Cymru would be most appropriate
11. PLP Project – question was asked – do we know how to use EBSCO as well as we could? Welsh Govt would like to fund activity where USCET develop resources for PGCE & teachers to use EBSCO more effectively. Kevin will provide more detailed brief on this and this will be circulated
12. Equivalency tests – Have had advise to scarp these but need to look at the impact of doing this before finalising. Will talk to sector as part of this process.

**Actions**

1. MT to ask for an update on Qualifications for Wales for the next meeting
2. JNR/MT to conform Hazel Hager’s attendance at the January meeting
3. JM to update partnership agreement as result of today’s meeting and circulate
4. JM to check with JNR that FE Colleges are University partners and therefore don’t need to pay membership
5. MT/JNR to clarify role of Cahir and Vice Chair so we can assess the feasibility of the roles being filled by school partners
6. MT to review and update membership of sub groups
7. Check with JNR if there would be funding available to support a one day Welsh Conference
8. MT to email professional body colleagues latest partnership agreement for comments

**Date of next meeting**

Thursday 30th January 2020