

**Notes from the meeting of the University and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers (USCET) held on-line at 10am on Thursday 21 May 2020**

1. Welcome & introductions

John Luker (Chair), Anna Byrant, Alison Evans, Mathews Jones, Hazel Wordsworth, Tracey Eastmen, Mel Smith, Alwyn Ward, Susan Chapman, Lisa Taylor, Helen Lewis, Hannah Barry, Andrew Davies, Julia Jenkins, Sally Llewellyn, Sian Watkins, Kin Yu, Mandy Essen, Mathew Jones, Lisa Bowen, Alma Harris, , James Noble-Rogers Jackie Moses

1. Minutes and matters arising (enc.)

Most items on the agenda except to note

* Event for summer term had to be postponed
* Result of election delayed as slips in London office
* Typos to be sent to JNR and corrected after the meeting

1. Covid policy issues:
   1. Policy statements from Welsh Government (encs.)

We know where we are for the current year but need to start to consider what the arrangements in regards ITE requirements will be for next year. JNR will set up meeting with Welsh Govt asap

* 1. Feedback from meetings with Welsh Government and issues to raise with WG

Lisa T fed back from meeting – nothing significantly different from published guidance. Sought & obtained clarification on various aspects.

PCET being overlooked & not getting same level of support this needs addressing – JNR will set up meeting with the PCET sub-group and relevant people in Govt

Another meeting is needed with Welsh Government, Estyn and EWC to seek guidance for next academic year (uncertainty exists around schools reopening, if they can take students, how we will deal with those students needing additional time, how will guidance be adapted, clarification on equivalency tests etc).

Key questions for the meeting are

1. The continuation of the flexibilities to the ITE requirements into next year, particularly given the likely difficulties of securing school placements.

2.   Support in 2020/21 for students not on a trajectory towards QTS this year.

3.   The implications for teacher education and teacher supply of the financial pressures facing HEIs.

4.  The need to roll-forward ITE programme accreditations for a year given the other pressures that ITE providers and their partner schools are facing.

5.   Accreditation issues more generally, and the importance of providers being able to respond flexibly to current pressures. The implications of accreditation visits.

6.   The willingness of schools to employ next year’s NQTs

7.   Equivalency testing

8.   Induction and support for next year’s NQTs.

9.   The divergence between the Welsh and English language versions of the Covid 19 guidance from WG.

Also need decision & clarity on how HEIs will operate from September as this will impact ITE Programmes

1. Estyn statement (enc.)

No comments

1. Induction Guidance (enc.)

NQTS can count professional learning towards Induction hours, also periods of absence are being allowed (covers period Easter – Summer) but Professional Learning passport must be up to date.

Will have more NQTs staying in system next year as well as new NQTs entering system

New page in Professional Learning passport to hep ITE students to bridge gap into NQT

For coming academic year intend to strengthen NQT support and will work with ITE providers to do this. Will be a higher number on short term & supply contracts that will need this support.

Likely that Induction Guidance will be amended again for 20/21

Probably will need to link this to the National Professional Learning Framework that Kevin Palmer is funding

Mandy will confirm via James once link is live

1. PCET issues

Mel reported back to group

Before lockdown they were in the process of putting together an action plan for PCET, this has now been completed and is with Welsh Govt for approval

JNR would like copy of document so can add that to meeting request

1. Reports from partnerships

CaBan – going through accreditation process as only had two-year approval. Working on planning for next academic year; would welcome support and decisions to facilitate this

Aberystwyth – have met with Accreditation Board to look at agenda for monitoring visit. They are scenario planning for next year around placements & social distancing in particular

Bangor– teaching moved online in March; some teaching posts coming through but at a slower pace; primary recruitment going well but secondary has some challenges; open evenings online are proving popular.

Planning for online and blended delivery for next year

Swansea – No current cohort; getting consistent messages for next year around delivery is important especially in relation to placements and number of days, recruitment is steady

Cardiff Partnership – moved to online teaching since start; starting to QA the recommending of QTS. Recruitment – primary healthy, secondary slow in STEM subjects. Scenario planning for next year; University may deliver from Oct 7th; looking at block teaching. Visit from EWC (June 3rd) had visit from Estyn.

USW – had meeting with EWC and Estyn; all students had completed placement so only a few delayed; online teaching since 17th March; likely that first term will be delivered online; schools very supportive. Recruitment – have had some late applicants from people on furlough; would be good for Welsh govt to target this in recruitment campaign

Teach First – all teaching online (2-year model); 19/20 cohort going into employment in their settings, mostly in schools that they are currently working in; lost a couple to England. Just one not recommended for QTS; no cohort for 2020 start for PGD as withdrawal of funding; email to follow about this

OU – only starting in September/Oct and preparing as if this will happen; applications healthy

Recruitment (Sarah B) Getting info out to applicants important as if this doesn’t happen then the number of deferrals likely to increase (press predicting at minute this is likely to be about 20% across the sector)

1. New UCET strategy (enc.)

Current strategy ends Sept 2020 – new draft strategy included with the papers. New Strategy builds on work of IBTE Group; would welcome comments on this. No initial comments but JNR would welcome any after meeting

1. 2020 UCET conference

Unfortunately had to move this online, tough decision but felt it was appropriate to make as soon as possible as social distancing & University’s unlikely to fund staff to travel likely to still be in place.

1. AOB

Thanks to John Luker for Chairing USCET in what has been a very difficult year.

Will continue with online meeting for Autumn term

1. Date of next meeting: 15 October 2020