**USCET(Cymru) PcET sub-group – key updates**

Steve Bell (Estyn) is undertaking a thematic review of PcET programmes and joined our last meeting to discuss what the review entailed and how, as PcET colleagues, we could support this.

Updates from the sector

Significant challenges regarding placement capacity and availability have impacted on many students being unable to complete their qualification this year. As a sub-group, we worked together on a consensus regarding a reduction in the requirements specifically teaching hours and observations. The outcome of these discussion was shared with Helen Scaife (Head of Post 16 Workforce Development – WG) who supported the proactivity and collaborative working relationship the group has.

WG have had approval from the Minister to undertake some specific funded work.

WG have commissioned EWC, along with Professor Bill Lucas, to undertake some work in developing ‘silhouettes’ for the sector.

Also looking to build on the recommendations coming out of the EWC project to examine the FE Professional Standards

USW and UWTSD have recently complete a large scoping study for EWC to consider the viability and feasibility of both a PGCE FE with QTS and also a QTS conversion programme. The study involved a review of the ITE accreditation criteria and how this could align with the needs and identify of a PcET qualification. A comprehensive mapping exercise was also undertaken to look at commonalities and differences between the QTS standards and those for FE. A significant number of recommendations came out of the study and this report is currently with EWC but we are aware that it is also high on the priority list for both WG and Estyn too – watch this space!