

**Notes for the meeting of the University and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers (USCET) to be held on-line at 10.00am on Thursday 27 January 2022**

**Welcome & introductions**

Lisa Taylor

Hannah Barry

Emma Smith (left at 11am)

Mandy Esseen

Sarah Stewart

Helen Lewis

Elaine Sharpling (Chair)

Hazel Wordsworth (from 11am)

James Noble Rogers

Jackie Moses

Lisa Bowen

**Apologies**

Sharne Watkins

Mel Smith

**Minutes and matters arising**

No matters arising

JNR reported England unlikely to relax ITT requirements as general policy has moved away from this approach although is being kept under review

Thanks to Tracey Eastman for her working on chairing the PCET working group, as Cardiff are no longer offering post 16 courses Tracey is having to step down

Mandy name spelt incorrectly previously – should be ‘Esseen’

All other matters are on the agenda

Minutes approved

**Reports from ITE providers and summary of responses to USCET survey**

(Helen Lewis) Placements going ahead – schools as supportive as possible but challenges as they have own absences etc to deal with. Alternative experiences also going ahead

The NQT project has caused unexpected challenges as puts additional pressure on schools and mentors

Estyn try out visits was positive but does feel like an extra pressure at moment and still have to prepare as you would for a full inspection

Small cohort of students – number low so will be a challenge

Bended learning opportunities for those isolating are reduced as pupils still in school so opportunity for blended learning greatly reduced

Time lag between opening UCAS and number allocation is not helpful especially when have such small numbers. Late number allocation coupled with a small window via UCAS is problematic. 3 year allocations would be extremely helpful and help with recruitment and sustainability /viability of programmes. Need to review how the teacher supply model effects this

(OU) Increase in well-being issues being noted and for part time students some are noticing increased disruption as mentor/class teachers are off. Relaxation of the 120 days criteria greatly appreciated at the moment

OU working on Open Learn module and recently developed one on mentoring in ITE, release date is imminent, although written with Welsh context in mind it is intended to be useful more widely. Link to be sent to group

(Hannah Berry) Schools largely receptive to having students but aware of individual challenges. NQT placement scheme is having impact and unsure if this will run again next year – confirmation would be good from Welsh Govt)

(Emma Smith) Generally similar to others – placement are mixed and some more challenging to fill than others. Need for flexibility in approach to a lot of the work in order to cover staff absences (both in school and University)

(Mandy Esseen) agree real interest in ITT support but external factors have been huge, it would be good to have more schools than needed so schools can step back when circumstances demand. Regional induction leads meeting to discuss ‘bridging’ but needs to be done in consultation with HEI providers. Ideas to be sent to Mandy.

Need representation from:

Partneriaeth and Mid-Wales Partnership

Suggest. Sophie Flood and Sarah Perdue

(Lisa Bowen) Have Estyn inspection at minute. Applications appear down but it will be interesting to see how this progresses as UCAS deadline previous day. This is a problem as can apply to programmes as long as space throughout the year, Lisa will contact UCAS about this. Note – all PG courses are on undergraduate site (as this is only site UCAS have) This will continue, and site needs some modification. JNR suggests having a formal group to look at this.

(Lisa Taylor) Concurs with most of what has already been said. Real concern about supporting mentors as important to the quality of student experience. Student resilience still a concern, this seems to have been eroded since Covid and students do need a lot more support and encouragement. Emma Smith has undertaken research funded by Welsh govt that has looked at this and would be willingly to share at a later date.

**Reports from working groups**

**PCET**

1. PcET subgroup met on 19 January - representatives from all HEIs as well as a FE partner (intention is to extend this invite further to be a representative group across both sectors)
2. Recruitment - the consensus was that there had been a dip in numbers for 2021/2022 entry.  This could be linked to the pandemic and a reluctance to start studying with uncertainty of how their course will run.  We also believe that there could a short-term dip in appetite to become a teacher until there is stability in the sector and the pandemic is over.
3. Placement capacity and availability - this is an improving position as the academic year progresses with more placement opportunities becoming available compared with 2019/2020 and 2020/2021.  The need for risk assessments (specifically with the smaller training organisations) was seen by some institutions as a barrier to offering a placement but support has been provided to help with this documentation.  There is still a concern regarding the spilt of blended and F2F but all institutions had returned to their validated requirements for placement hours and number of observations.  There are currently no plans to submit modifications to programmes, but this would be monitored.  It was agreed that, as a group, we would come up with a collective way forward so that there would be parity of experience for all learners.  Challenges were noted in some sectors, eg prisons, where no F2F teaching is currently allowed.
4. PcET Incentive scheme - Helen Scaife (WG - Post 16 Lead) approached the group for their supporting undertaking an informal review of the incentive scheme.  There was a lengthy discussion, and the group were all in agreement that this is something they would like to support and be involved with.  There is a large remit and a tight timescale of March 2020.  We have proposed a two-stage review process and are currently awaiting feedback from WG if this is possible.

JNR reported on new England qualification

**Recruitment** – Lisa already reported on some UCAS concerns

**Estyn & EWC regulatory functions**

Paper has been previously shared with group. It was circulated to WG, EWC and Estyn although wasn’t formal USCET paper a response was promised but not been received as yet. Max (WG) was overseeing this and working with EWC & Estyn re overlaps.

EWC reaccreditation process also needs looking at. Currently 5-year cycle, and a number of providers are up for reaccreditation and so criteria/changes are needed ASAP as providers need to go through a validation process prior to reaccreditation. Concern raised as if criteria is significantly different /enhanced then they will be inequities across providers and even within providers cross UG & PG programmes.

Really important to have clear timeline as to when documentation will be available and how we will deal with legacy programmes outside of new criteria. JNR suggests we request a dedicated meeting on this ASAP, also must consult on then so timeline now getting very tight, and some providers need information by Easter 2022 at the latest.

**Any other business**

1. World Education Summit

Lisa set email to Kevin re this as there is going to be a Wales specific channel to this. The response is below:-

* WES running again this year, WG buying seats for practitioners
* All HEI ITE staff are guaranteed seats – please go back to Ann Bradshaw and Rhodri Huws, copied, with staff numbers so we can make sure all get in
* Please ask ITE colleagues to make sure they know who in the university is the main contact for WES
* We will tell you the enrolment process
* We are formally inviting you to request a number of seats for your students and/or other departments – again, back to Ann and Rhodri quick as you can
* For any university with plan to make use of WES in ITE next year, would you be prepared for us to send a video team in to do a short – 10 min – video with you where you explain the plan.  We are really keen to share practice, and we have a budget for the work.
* Last point – we wrote to our WES contact in the Universities asking them if they want to present etc and if they need paying to do so this includes time spent between now and the event for the prep, and during the event, so all in this FY.  We are chasing this week to finalise the position on this, so please make sure your university is properly represented and remunerated for the effort

1. Global Futures Group new rep needed

Suggestions to Elaine via email

1. Global Teacher Education Community

Small amount of govt funding (£30k) to fund thinking time to explore how we might engage with global teacher education. Both collective and individual thinking time prior to further meeting with WG. Once project designed there will be 3 years of funding available. Suggest working with WERA(?) to coordinate a further meeting. Lisa Taylor will pick this up with WERA group

**Part 2**

*11.30am WG, Estyn & EWC colleagues joined the meeting*

* Welsh Govt – Lisa Drury-Lawson, Max White
* Estyn – Sarah Lewis
* EWC – Bethan Stacey

Mark Ford –Welsh Govt - Talk Pedagogy (National Exploration of pedagogy)

* 2019 start of National Pedagogy Project but a lot of plans put on hold due to pandemic. Talk Pedagogy filled that space but now need to formularise things and build on this work. Important to build on shared experiences and expertise
* PowerPoint shared
* Way forward – April to July – engagement/shaping/planning/trailing
* Autumn term – Launch of Talk Pedagogy as integral part of the Talk Pedagogy calendar (probably December)

**Reports from:**

**Welsh Government**

Max White – We will not be running NQT Scheme beyond the end of this term. They recognise the unintended consequences but has been good from the NQT perspective. Retention and employment have been positive as a result but these individuals will be entering market at same time as this year’s cohort so that will add pressure to employment.

Entry and equivalency – ministerial advice has been prepared and awaiting approval. Asking for approval to amend grade requirements for 2024 entry to B’s from C’s. Need to develop standardisation and agreed methodology.

Review of criteria for accreditation – whilst principles are sound, they were written in 2017 they do need looking at. Group being set up to review this, not intending major structural change but just a tightening up and enhancement of what is currently there. Intention is to complete this by Dec 2022. Major concern raised over this timeline as providers need more time to prepare documentation for revalidation in light of any accreditation changes. Max suggests this should be discussed by group when they meet. Another item for the group is how to deal with legacy programmes that would still be operating from the old criteria.

Recruitment – teacher supply model suggests need to reduce primary numbers and increase secondary. – have tried to maintain steady state for primary numbers but will need to address this in the near future.

Just completed ministerial (virtual) visit number 3 (Cardiff Met) – seems to have gone well and very positive response. Looking forward to remaining ones.

Max is aware that the contingency documents are still outstanding but pressures of work have prevented this so far. Plan is to continue with relaxation that have been bought in previously. They are being checked and updated and will be circulated ASAP.

Black Asian Community Action Plans – community mentors are being provided to help with developing plans. Also will be a working group set up to support this.

Qu – is there any further information on the Black Asian minority ethnic incentive – original plan was for this to be available in recruitment cycle from 2023/24 but minister wants it in place sooner and will let the group know once legal has approved.

Qu – is funding for those not meeting standards due to covid restrictions being continued – It is the intention that this will be provided

**Estyn**

Recent publications:-

* ‘We don’t tell our teachers’ out before Xmas
* Supporting resources on website to support learning
* ‘All Age Schools in Wales’

2nd week of pilot inspection at Cardiff Met – this is going well and providing good opportunity to find ways to work with partnerships. Looking at blended approaches and including both online and f2f teaching and this is enabling inspection to team to gather evidence.

Working with EWC and looking at a joint paper to work through how two organisations are working, making sure roles and responsibilities are clearly defined for both organisations. Next meeting 10th Feb – very close to final version but one important area around follow up work that needs further exploring and clarifying.

Qu – will there be a consultation period so providers can offer feedback. – yes this is the intention.

**EWC**

Are proposing some interim arrangements around monitoring to both fulfil statutory obligation and to provide feedback to providers – More information to be shared at partnership meeting.

They are looking at accreditation process and are hoping to be able to streamline this considerably and bring it more in line with the monitoring process. This should make it much less burdensome. Acknowledge that there is an issue with the timeline from EWC and providers trying to combine accreditation with validation.

All monitoring in the interim will be virtual and will be shared at partnership meeting.

Elaine asked Bethan if she could take away the issue of allocations especially as small providers have to start recruiting before numbers are confirmed. Lisa Drury explained the problem is complex as TSM numbers are based on info from HESA data which isn’t available until Sept/Oct. Max acknowledges the problem and wonders if we need to be more creative/use TSM in a different way and it may be possible to look at longer term allocations but need to be sure that system used is robust. May be that we could consider indicative allocations.

Could we also open up a discussion around accreditation and allocations of numbers in particular new partnership wishing to offer, for example, primary programmes (with the intended move to reducing these numbers across all programmes).

Lisa let EWC know that it would be very difficult to provide Black, Asian ethnic data this year as this information doesn’t have to be declared on application forms.

**Date of next meeting:** 19 May 2022