**USCET(Cymru) PcET sub-group – key updates (June 2022)**

PcET ITE Review

The Estyn Thematic Review, entitled Initial teacher education in the post-compulsory education and training sectors was published in October 2021. A number of recommendations were identified as priority areas for Welsh Government to take forward.

To follow up and continue with this work, Steve Bell(the author of the review) has been contracted from Estyn to work alongside the Post 16 Workforce Development team at Welsh Government to undertake a PcET ITE review which is due for completion March 2023.

The project will have the following outcomes:

* A report for Welsh Government with further analysis of PCET ITE provision, building on the Estyn (2021) thematic review and Welsh Government (2019) scoping study
* Options and recommendations for Welsh Government and/or CETR to consider for future development in this area

The project will involve consultations with a wide range of stakeholders. Six principal areas of focus have been identified which will form the basis of discussions with stakeholders.

* Is the existing qualification structure fit for purpose?
* Is the existing curriculum content appropriate?
* How can the regulatory and oversight structures for PCET initial teacher education be improved?
* Is the PCET ITE adequately funded?
* Can the existing arrangement of delivery and partnership structures be improved?
* Opportunities for professional learning networks for ITE delivery staff in both FEIs and HEIs

Engagement partners will include:

* Colegau Cymru principals’ forum
* Colegau Cymru Curriculum and Quality Group
* EWC
* NtFW
* Adult Learning partnerships through Learning for Work Institute
* USCET PCET group and ITE practitioners from HEIs
* ITE practitioners from FEIs
* Unions
* Estyn / QAA
* Trainees

A PcET ITE Reference Group has been established to act as a confidential advisory group to support the work of the review into PCET ITE. Membership will represent key stakeholders in the PCET ITE sector and will include:

* An ITE practitioner from an FEI
* An ITE practitioner from an HEI (and USCET PCET)
* A representative from the EWC
* A representative from the Colegau Cymru Curriculum and Quality Group
* A representative from the WBL sector
* A representative from the ALC sector
* A representative from the Welsh Government Initial Teacher Education Branch who have oversight of ITE in the compulsory sector
* The review core team

Melanie Smith(USW) will be represent as the ITE practitioner from an HEI (and USCET PCET)

Review of the PcET Incentive scheme

Welsh Government approach the USCET(PcET subgroup) to undertake an informal review of the PcET incentive scheme In its current guise and to make recommendations.

A project plan was submitted and approved with a number of workstreams and involvement across the following institutions:

* University of South Wales
* University of Wales, Trinity St David
* Aberystwyth University
* Bangor University
* Cardiff Metropolitan University
* Coleg Gwrp Llandrillo Menai

The report is due for completion by the end December 2022.

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!