

**Notes for the meeting of the University and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers (USCET) held on-line at 10.00am on Thursday 19 May 2022**

1. **Welcome & introductions**

**In attendance**

Elaine Sharpling (Chair)

David Eagan

Angela Cooze

Lisa Taylor

Hannah Barry

Lisa Bowen

Sharne Watkins (for Mandy Esseen

Sarah Stewart

Helen Lewis

Nic Evans

Hazel Wordsworth

Anna Bryant

James Noble-Rogers

Jackie Moses

**Apologies**

Helen Lewis

Mandy Esseen

1. **Minutes and matters arising**

Sarah will circulate link to mentoring work as soon as she is able

Anna Bryant– added to apologies for last meeting

* 1. Talk Pedagogy

Swansea, OU and Aberystwyth responded to call to get involved, have had a couple of meeting and are looking at an IT platform to share resources etc for ITE students. Drawing up a short survey first to check this is appropriative and in the right place. Lisa Taylor will circulate to survey to all USCET members for circulation to ITE students.

* 1. Global Education Community

Some money been made available for thinking time – aim is to promote teacher education, incudes ITE and beyond. Also, look at a practice that could be shared, online events – aim to launch Sept 2023

1. **Tackling Educational Inequality (**David Eagan – policy adviser for work stream)

Oral statement on the attainment gap & poverty has been delivered

Top priority is taking poverty on under attainment and all other policies must be seen through this lends

Keynote speech to Bevan Foundation on 16th June – will elaborate on what is going on in this area and look at policy develops in this area to address this top priority

8 areas to work, covers a whole system approach, forefront is quality of teaching in schools & strengthening community of schools. ITE central to this, hoping to form strong partnership with Education Endowment Foundation, induction and professional development (incl Masters options) are central and import to this.

There will be a need to consider and imbed this priority across the ITE curriculum – part of that may include an option for trainees to spend time in most challenging/harder to reach schools?

1. **Reports from ITE providers**

Swansea has a new primary programme starting in Sept and have recruited to target. Secondary recruited following a similar pattern to normal but a little slower. UCAS system has been challenging. Schools very committed to partnership despite so much going on.

OU – just had first cohort submit final assessments (2 yr programme) slow down on recruitment to salaried route but others ok Being a 2 yr route makes the challenge of predicting recruitment etc harder.

Bangor – recruitment similar to others, little slower than previous years but may be due to UCAS system

Seems to be an increase in well-being and family/personal issues this year which is taking additional time & support. Hazel presenting ??data at a conference in Dublin next week. Submitted application to run a programme for those wishing to work with pupil with additional needs.

Anna Bryant in final week with Estyn inspection. Final feedback in June. Has been a rigours but collaborative process. Recruitment similar to other providers. Agree with Hazel re additional well-being concerns and time involved.

Lisa Bowen – seem to have increase in applications but doesn’t convert to acceptances – problem is with UCAS as applicants leaving decision to last minute. Would like to revert to the 14-day timeline for this. Will push forward to try and get a meeting with UCAS to discuss this

Hannah Barry (EAS) – working hard with partners to ensure sufficient placement of the right type/quality. Agree some of students have need additional support with their well-being. Still seeing some of the ‘post covid’ effects but can see are trying to get back to normal

Sharne Watkins– supports Hannah in that well-being and resilience in new teachers is an issue/concern. Understand the concern raised over initiative fatigue. Are carrying out some appreciative enquiries around ITE – looking for some good case studies which would then be shared.

Elaine – much the same as others Went to Exec attended Exec and asked that Exec could look a little wider than the Westminster agenda – Chair very supportive and will look to accommodate this

Lisa – Difficult to know exactly where we are re recruitment due to applicants holdijng offers until the decline by default date but looking at undergraduate programmes this week.?

Also difficult to find Welsh medium courses so this has been highlighted with UCAS

Partnership growing, taking on more schools etc.

Mo u signed with Uni of Virginia looking to host students for international placement, looking to reciprocate (outside of required 120 days)

PCET – paper has been produced and added to papers for the meeting. Steve Bell seconded to Welsh Govt from Estyn to look at accreditation of partners

1. **Estyn & EWC regulatory functions**

An open discussion on the risks of double accountability and the tensions between the responsibilities of the EWC and ESTYN. It was noted that further progress needs to be made and the opportunity for innovative approaches embraced.

USCET will continue to advocate for a single system

Peer inspector on team was helpful although concerns expressed over time away from home university.

*(11.30am WG, Estyn & EWC colleagues join meeting)*

**In attendance**

Max White (Welsh Govt)

Lisa Drury-Lawson (Welsh Govt)

Andrew Pickford (EWC)

1. **Reports from:**
   1. **Welsh Government** (inc. BME bursaries and GCSE equivalency)

* Publication of Welsh Medium 10 yr plan imminent (next couple of weeks)
* Before end of month – WG response to induction arrangements
* 26th May – next publication of official stats on teacher education recruitment – official figs for 2021
* Met with UCAS last week to raise issue with admissions process – confident that will be able to come to an arrangement for next recruitment cycle.
* GCSE equivalency – in hands of lawyers at the minute – need to make sure that changes that are made are within the law
* Black Asian minority ethnic incentive scheme meeting on 14th June to get grant scheme signed off. Al other paperwork is going through due process but hie to have green light soon
* Other incentives – with minister for sign off
* Refresh of criteria for accreditation is falling into place. Have spoken to stakeholders re amendments. Not a complete rewrite but are some changes that need to be made. 2 international experts also involved (Prof Bernhard & Prof Groundwater- smith)

Question on interview processes for 2023 entry – what is way forward? Not adverse to current practice if worked and worked well. Something that we will be looking at to put into the new criteria. (preferred option)

Feedback on accreditation criteria due in by 30th May (will take late submissions if necessary)

Feedback from sector - noticed an increase in well-being issues across the spectrum (learners, staff, workforce). Maybe need to look at strengthen inner self care and developing greater resilience

Noted – a bit of fatigue entering system, lot of initiatives, projects etc but still nee to do the day job….. WG recognise this

* 1. **Estyn – not in attendance**
  2. **EWC (Andrew Pickford)**

Thank you for event held in late March – feedback was good and felt it was a collegiate and enjoyable/worthwhile experience. Will be another event in March 2023 but date not finalised yet.

Commencing interim monitoring processes from June 2022, this will continue into next year

Recruiting 2 members for ITE Board over coming weeks (20-30 days per year) – email to follow, please circulate to partner schools, external moderators etc

Will look at market demand for two qualifications (??)

Can partnerships etc work with Education Wales to advertise jobs

* **Estyn & EWC regulatory functions**

Lot of discussion in previous meeting about the accountability structures. Feel very burdensome and a lot of duplication. Whilst EWC have been flexible in their visit timing but still have to question role of both and if they are essential. Max said that we haven’t had any further discussion but acknowledged that it is a matter that we

To get to the bottom of. Bottom line is that there needs to be a level of monitoring and inspection, but we need to ensure that it is appropriate and not over burdensome.

Meetings between 3 are being recommenced so discussion can continue and hope to make satisfactory progress in not to distant future.

EWC - difficult to pull apart compliance from quality – where does one end and another start. Do agree need to minimise impact on partnerships and don’t want a continuous presence of one of the other.

Partnerships fully understand need for compliance and quality and maybe one process is a way forward.

Question – when did 1 year cycle get discussed and approved.

Reality is that current practice is extremely burdensome – whilst discussion is appreciated a resolution needs to be found as in meantime the providers are experiencing the over burdensome approach.

WG – totally accepts what providers are saying and are keen to get a resolution. Are trying to work collaboratively on this and hopefully this is that way we can resolve tis. If it needs more drastic action if can’t get resolution, then will do so. Have opportunity to raise this in the feedback on accreditation criteria, important as this arises the level of impact.

Need for new thinking rather than result to old methods. Chair asked if there is anything USCET can do to move this forward. One way is to use feedback on the refresh accreditation, another could be a paper from USCET on this (not to minister) – development from the previous paper. EWC in agreement with this.

Observation that this approach doesn’t seem to fit with the new collaborative and collegiate approaches to reform.

1. **Items for information:**
   1. ITE Market Review in England
   2. Easter UCET newsletter
2. **Any other business**

None

1. **Date of next meeting**: tbc