

**Notes for the meeting of the University and Schools Council for the Education of Teachers (USCET)**

**Thursday 26 January 2023**

**In attendance**

Lianne Lusty (BSL English interpreter)

Rob Wilks (Cardiff Uni)

Sarah Stewart

Elaine Sharpling (Chair)

Hannah Barry

Kin Yu

Lisa Taylor

Hazel Wordsworth

Sharne Watkins

James Noble-Rodgers

Jackie Moses

Helen Lewis

**Apologies**

Aberystwyth

Athrofa

**Minutes of last meeting**

Approved

**Matters arising:**

Global Education Community (GEC)

This project did stall for a while as there was uncertainty over funding, but funding has now been secured until March. The GEC is now Global Community of Teacher Education (GCoTE).

1. **Rob Wilks, Policy Manager for BSL: input into ITE**.

Rob shared the outcomes of a recent reach project (based at Cardiff Uni)

The project started by considering - is it best to have BSL in the Curriculum (Welsh approach) or a BSL Act (Scottish approach)

Conducted number of interviews including many different stakeholders.

Results on website – <https://blogs.ed.ac.uk/deafeducation/phase-2-report-summary//>

In report there are 14 recommendations.

1. key issues that emerged.
   * + 1. At top level it is really important that they understand that BSL is a language in its own right and the importance of it fitting into any language curriculum – this may be the case at the top level but less so lower down.
       2. Huge resource gap (Only 7 BSL teachers in Wales) not just physical resources but also in training of teachers
       3. No Uni in Wales currently offer BSL degree also bilingual BSL really important for Welsh children.

Recommendations

a. More UG and PG courses giving opportunity to develop BSL skill.

ITE to include BSL.

Practicing teachers need opportunity to acquire BSL to meet needs of deaf children.

Set up working group and made some initial contact with some Universities who are keen to try and support this but feel it would be far more effective if all Universities were involved.

Rob met with Welsh Government who are supportive.

Rob need representatives from the Universities to take this forward, please contact Rob directly WilksR2@cardiff.ac.uk

JNR – suggested sending information to UCET for circulation to group.

1. **Reports from ITE providers**

* Concern from a number of providers over secondary recruitment – most providers are concerned as numbers so far are extremely low.
* Also concern over cut in school budgets which has a knock-on effect in terms of supporting the partnership.
* High levels of anxiety over strike and other non-direct actions. Can’t advise but makes it difficult for perspective applicants.
* Did welcome statement that quality providers won’t be penalized for under recruitment – also recognition that HEIs don’t bear sole responsibility.
* Same in England but compounded by demands of CCF and the Market Review and other policy decision by Government
* Teacher Recruitment & Advisory Board (TRAB) – what is relationship between TRAB and Welsh Government? Shouldn’t HEIs have an input on this board?
* New links will be sent out for student teachers to sign up to consortia.
* Appreciative enquiry report on practice – contact Sharne if interested in this.

1. **EWC/Estyn regulatory functions paper**

Paper was circulated and USCET have been asked for comments.

USCET will provide a written response to this.

Main comments

* Document set out in binary way (2 columns) but need a synthesis of these two.
* If EWC is about compliance – could this not be a paper-based exercise. (Still too many similarities and overlap)
* Why could a member of EWC not join the inspection team to look at compliance – one visit and one set of paperwork?
* Would be good to keep the professional dialogue with EWC in some way
* Need greater clarity around each organisation’s role ad responsibility - feel still overload on regulation, far more so than other areas. Is this necessary
* Very confusing at the moment – many draft documents – concern that something will be missed which could result in a serious issue and withdrawal of accreditation.
* Current experience is not seeing a slim down/division of roles – paperwork etc is the same. Language around EWC morning is addressing definitely aligned with quality. Process and paperwork are the same. Organising and preparation for these visits is a full-time job.
* Need Welsh Govt to organise a strategic meeting of all parties.
* Concern over pre conceived ideas when conducting visits – either could come with findings of other and could basis there approach…..EWC present in interim and final feedback by Estyn and vice versa
* Concern if two organisations don’t agree and providers feel they are caught in the middle. This is also evident in the two columns in the paperwork.
* Have an opportunity to move away from performative culture and tick box exercises by intransigent approach of two organisations. JNR to write to Welsh Govt in and formally request a meeting to sort this out – include some of the key points that need addressing.
* Suggested that we may need an independent review to break deadlock commissioned by Welsh Govt
* Concern that the level of engagement by schools is waning due to a number of factors not helped by overburdensome compliance and quality visits.

1. **Accreditation update**

* document attached, had opportunity to respond. Working Party yet to meet. One concern raised around inequity of placement time for ALN students and the impact this has on other programmes.
* Concern over expectations of what needs to be included in the programme within a year. Not saying can’t do these additional things but time is a real barrier.

1. **Equivalency Testing**

* document has been sent to Lucy Drury in Welsh Govt. If want things adding need to contact Lucy. Important to note USCET not a regulatory body so Welsh Govt need to decide.

**Any other Business**

Elaine’s last year as Chair - JNR will be in contact re appointment of new Chair.

10th Feb event on Professional Standards – Sarah hadn’t realised she was putting agenda together – how would you like her to proceed – suggest Sarah do a draft and circulate for suggestions.

**In attendance from 11.30am**

Andrew Pickford (EWC)

Estyn – apologies

Lisa Drury-Lawson (LDL) – Welsh Government

1. ***EWC***

Pleased that will get a written response to regulatory framework.

Dr Christine Jones – appointed as new Vice Chair of TEAB

Accreditation and monitoring guidance paper – need responses by middle of next week….. some confusion over this – was sent just before Christmas – will recirculate.

1. **Welsh Government (WG)**

* Equivalency – is Lucy taking this forward and updating which qualifications count. LDL – she should be and important that we have a nationwide agreement on some of the subtleties of qualifications. Web pages will be updated accordingly.
* Recruitment – shared that this is challenging – alerting WG that secondary is struggling and possibly primary as well. Raised the role of TRAB, would like more input into agendas and actions of TRAB. Important that HEIs can get something positive from TRAB, WG agree is a place for USCET and will take this forward.
* WG – know some outstanding questions and actions but haven’t bee able to get to then them hopefully will get to some of them next week.
* Asked about 120 days – WG stressed this is a guidance and programmes must provide 120 days but individual students may not necessarily achieve this due to various issues (sickness, strikes etc). Does cause problems and issues for providers around equity and opens providers up to challenge. WG will send something out to providers to clarify this.
* Considering responses to accreditation criteria – fairly positive but some key areas of contention, e.g. Welsh Language requirements, Special Schools. Don’t anticipate many significant changes.
* Minister sent email on BAME incentive this morning – working hard to get that online ASAP so that students can access payments.

**Date of next meeting:**

18 May 2023 – in person in Cardiff, venue to be confirmed**.**