



Taith Advisory Board Meeting - Minutes
19th October 2022, 10.30am-12.30pm
Online Teams Meeting

In Attendance:

- Kirsty Williams, Advisory Board Chair (KW)
- Calum White, Welsh Government (CW)
- Colin McInnes, Wales Higher Education Brussels (CMI)
- Colin Riordan, Cardiff University (CR)
- Craig Matthews, The Local Authorities' Principal Youth Officers Group (CM)
- David Price, ColegauCymru (DP)
- Delyth Lewis, Welsh Youth Parliament (DL)
- Gareth Morgans, Welsh Local Government Association/Association of Directors of Education in Wales (GM)
- Helen Jones, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Service (HJ)
- Rob Humphreys, Learning and Work Institute Wales (RH)

Alternates:

- Lisa Mytton (alternate for John Nash), National Training Federation Wales (LM)
- Katy Davenport (alternate for Maria Hinfelaar), Wrexham Glyndwr University (KD)

Apologies:

- Amanda Wilkinson, Universities Wales
- Ben Calvert, Global Wales Partnership
- Harriet Barnes, Higher Education Funding Council Wales, and its successor
- Joe Atkinson, NUS Wales

Invited:

- Paul Glaze, Council for Wales of Voluntary Youth Service (SOB) (PG)
- Kari Morgan, Boys and Girls Clubs of Wales (SOB) (KM)
- Amanda Morgan, International Links (SOB) (AM)
- Mark Baines, Adult Learning Wales (SOB) (MB)
- Gwen Williams, Universities Wales/Global Wales (GW)

Taith Programme Executive:

- Susana Galvan (SG)
- Elid Morris (EM)
- Ellie Bevan (EB)
- Simona Cavani (SC)
- Walter Brooks (WB)
- Sarah Morgan (SM)
- Claire Richardson (meeting logistics support)
- Nicole Abreu (meeting logistics support)

Minutes: Claire Richardson, Taith Programme Executive

Item	Main points for discussion	Actions(A)/Key decisions (KD)
Welcome and introductions (KW)	KW noted that Professor Iwan Davies has stepped down from his role on the Advisory Board (AB) and has been thanked for his contribution. He has been replaced by Dr Ben Calvert as the representative for the Global Wales Partnership. KW also welcomed Craig Matthews to his first Advisory Board meeting as representative for The Local Authorities' Principal Youth Officers Group.	
Minutes and actions of the last meeting (KW)	KW received agreement from the members that the Minutes from last meeting are an accurate reflection of the discussion. The actions from the last meeting were as followed: - Minutes of the AB to be put onto the Taith website – Actioned - Final paper on Pathway 2, summary of the feedback from consultations – Actioned - Constructive feedback on Pathway 1 applications – Ongoing - Data evaluation of Pathway 1 and the Sector Organising Bodies (SOB) to help develop Pathway 3 - Ongoing	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evaluation of the SOB model to help decisions for a potential new call in 2023 - Ongoing - Slides from presentations to be shared with AB members – Actioned - Brief presentations from SOB onto Taith website – Actioned - GGI and the Taith governance review – to be discussed as an agenda item today <p>No questions were received.</p>	
<p>Update from the Taith Programme Executive</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Policy & Programmes (SG) ii. Operations (EM) iii. Communications (SM) 	<p>i) SG provided an update on Pathway 1 on the progress as well as the results of the Pathway 1 2022 funding call. Data on this can be found within the meeting slides. Details on the Pathway 2 funding call were shared with members in advance of the Pathway 1 2023 funding timeline. An update was provided on Pathway 3 and the work taking place to develop this programme.</p> <p>SG also provided a brief update on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the role of the SOB and the evaluation of the pilot funding call. - the role of Global Wales Phase 3. - interest from international engagement with Taith and the work of the Taith Programme Executive and stakeholders in this area. - Phase 3 recruitment to the Taith Programme Executive. <p>SG raised concerns about the impact of the cost-of-living crisis and the impact this might have on beneficiaries, targets and the policy of widening participation. More research and discussions will need to take place on this matter.</p> <p>ii) EM provided operational updates on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the SOB evaluation, to be completed by the end of the year. - the independent evaluation of Taith and Global Wales III. - Pathway 1, including the process of sending and receiving the Grant Agreement Letters, first payments and the beneficiary support for project delivery and reporting that is being developed. Information on this can be found within the meeting slides. <p>(11.13am) CMI left the meeting</p>	<p>A - Further discussions on the cost-of-living crisis to take place within stakeholder networks.</p>

	<p>iii) SM provided details on the communication work taking place for Pathway 1 as well as the work for Pathway 2 and future communication plans to develop the programme.</p> <p>Questions were asked in relation to ensuring that lessons learnt from failed applications are used to support future applications across all sectors. In addition, the review into the impact of the cost-of-living crisis was welcomed as there are concerns from all sectors in relation to this. Concerns were also raised about the requirement, particularly for schools, to provide monthly updates. KW and SG acknowledged the points raised and suggested a meeting should take place to discuss this.</p> <p>A comment was raised in relation to the Pathway 1 second round for the FE & VET sectors. The FE sector would prefer consortia applications and the cap of 40% per application would limit the ability to bid through this route.</p> <p>There was also a request that the meeting slides are shared ahead of meetings. SG acknowledged the comments raised and agreed to share presentations ahead of the AB meetings.</p> <p>Additional comments were raised, along with examples of experiences of the cost-of-living issues within the youth sector.</p>	<p>A - A meeting to be arranged to discuss the reporting schedule for schools with relevant stakeholders.</p> <p>A - Presentations to be shared with AB members ahead of meetings.</p>
<p>Update on Global Wales Phase 3 (GW)</p>	<p>GW – provided an update on Global Wales Phase 3 programme and the current work taking place within the team to engage with UK and international stakeholders. Study in Wales autumn campaigns are being launched and work is underway to get the FE colleges onto the Study in Wales website and incorporate them into the brand as a matter of priority.</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p>	
<p>Update from Sector Organising Bodies (PG, KM, AM, MB)</p>	<p>PG and KM presented on the work they have undertaken as the Youth SOB. They discussed the positive engagement the sector had with Pathway 1 and the interest there appears to be for Pathway 2. However, they also highlighted the concerns as a result of the cost-of-living crisis and the impact this is having on successful applicants and the anticipated increased costs. They discussed the need for clear communication</p>	<p>A - Feedback on the cost-of-living crisis encouraged to be provided to the Taith Programme Executive.</p>

	<p>as there is confusion on the Pathway 1 round two funding call which is only for the FE & VET sector as there is an assumption that other sectors are being excluded. There is also a concern from the sector on the funding caps of Pathway 2 and the lack of Pathway 3 funding to build capacity.</p> <p>AM presented on the work of the Schoos SOB and advised that schools found some of the application process from Pathway 1 difficult but acknowledged that changes and additional support is being provided by Taith. Schools under-anticipated the length of time needed to submit an application and those who were unsuccessful are feeling disheartened. Schools seem to be looking for very specific partners and additional support might be needed to help find suitable partners in specific regions. Risk assessment requirements for overseas visits from Local Authorities may need to be discussed to ensure that they are not impacting on the ability of schools to deliver their overseas mobilities.</p> <p>Healthy level of interest in Pathway 2 within schools, however, the 30% cap on staff costs might limit applications.</p> <p>There are cost-of-living concerns for successful Pathway 1 school applications as costs, in all areas, have risen since applications were submitted.</p> <p>MB presented on the work of the Adult Education SOB and asked if information on the successful applications could be shared earlier with the SOB so they can support the sector further by understanding where the weaknesses within unsuccessful applications lie, as well as the common themes within the sector.</p> <p>The timing of the Pathway 1 applications didn't work well for the sector, but he highlighted that Taith has already made changes which can be seen by the longer lead time for applications within Pathway 2.</p> <p>Identifying suitable partners internationally was noted as a challenge as well as the cost-of-living concerns. Overall, a positive experience within the AE sector.</p> <p>No questions were raised.</p>	<p>A - Feedback from unsuccessful applications will provide the basis for work being undertaken by the Taith Programme Executive over the autumn to help support future applications.</p> <p>A – To note that a support system for finding suitable partners may need to be developed.</p>
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<p>Taith Governance Review – Next Steps (Paper 1) (KW)</p>	<p>KW briefly discussed the governance paper and highlighted that there were six recommendations in relation to the AB. AB members were asked for comments. KW pointed out that one of the recommendations was that the Chair should become part of the Board of Directors (BoD). It was confirmed that this has already been actioned.</p> <p>CR confirmed that he is happy to step down from the AB as part of the recommendation and will do so when he retires from his role at Cardiff University later this year.</p> <p>It was asked by the board for the Taith website to provide details of the BoD and SG confirmed that this is a recommendation of the governance review, and the publishing of the minutes will be available on the website as well as details of who sits on the BoD.</p> <p>A question was asked to make clear the relationship between Global Wales and Taith with details of the structure, and where Global Wales sits within the structure, made more visible. EM acknowledged the comment.</p> <p>In addition, a request was received in relation to the recommendation for sub-committees from the AB and whether audits would form part of one of these subcommittee groups. SG confirmed that a review will take place to understand the roles of the various boards and that GGI will support the implementation of the recommendations. EM also confirmed that audit will be part of the remit of one of the sub-committees.</p> <p>Another comment was to highlight that the role of the AB is to provide advice to the Taith Programme Executive and there needs to be more clarity on what advice is needed from the AB. Less information should be shared in meetings and more time</p>	<p>A – The Taith website to be updated to show details of the Board of Director membership as well as the published minutes from the meetings.</p> <p>A - The structure, to include the relationship with Global Wales to be developed and diagrammatically presented.</p> <p>A - Updates on the details for the new sub-committees to be shared with the board once a review has taken place.</p> <p>A - A review of the role of the AB to take place, as part of</p>
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	for members to contribute. KW acknowledges the points and the need to evaluate the role of the AB as highlighted within the governance review. She also offered her time for 1-2-1 meetings with stakeholders who have ideas or comments that they'd like to discuss.	the governance review recommendations.
Any Other Business (KW)	No other business raised.	
Date of next meeting	9 th February 2023	