



Taith Sector Stakeholder FE/VET Meeting - Summary
Friday, 29th September 2023
2.00pm – 3.00pm
Meeting held via Zoom

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Walter Brooks Richard Gordon, Cardiff & Vale College Sara Jones, Coleg Ceredigion Danial Ashman, Coleg Gwent Donna Davies-Piper, Gower College Sian Holleran, ColegauCymru/Colleges Wales Christy Anson-Harries, Coleg Sir Gar Vicky Thomas, ColegauCymru/Colleges Wales Andy Brookes, Coleg Llandrillo Lisa Johnson, Coleg Llandrillo Rachel Marden, Coleg Cambria Joshua Jordan, Gower College Paul, Gower College
Translator	Iola Llwyd
Apologies:	
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	Ellie Bevan Claire Richardson Sion James Bethan Williams
Secretariat support:	Michele Convery

Minutes	
Agenda item	Item
1	Welcome and introductions
1.1	Members were welcomed to the meeting and informed that, although this was not a decision-making group, the discussions and feedback from these meetings would inform any proposals put forward to the ILEP Ltd. Board of Directors.
1.2	Members were informed that the meeting was being recorded to support minute-taking and asked to use the virtual hand when wanting to contribute to discussions.
1.3	Members were informed of the option of simultaneous translation in Welsh and were given instructions on how to access this.
2	Minutes and actions of the last meeting
2.1	N/A
3	Topics for discussion
3.1	An overview of the 'Taith updates and Topics for Discussion paper' was presented, which had been circulated in advance of the meeting. The following feedback was given in relation to the paper:
3.1a	Participants from underrepresented groups:
3.1a(i)	In addition, members were informed that, although not fixed, initial internal discussions are suggesting a minimum target of 20%.
3.1a(ii)	It was highlighted that, at the application stage, the organisation doesn't always know how many learners will be from underrepresented groups so it's difficult to know and may be difficult in some curriculum area.
3.1a(iii)	It was commented that underrepresented groups and additional needs are different in practical terms. 20% is achievable but if it went higher it would be difficult for some categories and it was asked if an individual fell into two categories should they be counted twice.
3.1a(iv)	Taith advised that these learners should be counted once.
3.1a(v)	It was also highlighted that there would be variances across curriculum areas.

3.1a(vi)	It was advised that organisations don't have a firm idea until well into the academic year and it was asked if mental health fell into the disability category.
3.1a(vii)	It was asked what the measure of underrepresented groups is and commented that the economic landscape has shifted.
3.1a(viii)	Taith will issue clearer guidelines in terms of categories. It was further advised that if a college knows someone is disadvantaged and can confirm it, Taith will accept it.
3.1a(ix)	It was highlighted that EMA is used to determine underrepresented groups, but this is probably missing some learners.
3.1b	Changes to grant rates
3.1b(i)	It was commented that if the rate was reduced it would make it more difficult to meet costs.
3.1b(ii)	It was further commented that it has been a challenge for mobilities to take place without colleges using their own funding.
3.1b(iii)	It was asked if members could be given an idea of the rate reduction and how the group will be made aware of that decision.
3.1b(iv)	Taith: final rates have not been confirmed yet as modelling needs to be done on the impact of the reduction. The intention is to go to the Board of Directors on the 12 th of October with the general principles and then feedback to the sectors for discussion.
3.1b(v)	It was added that for the academic year 24/25 it would be a struggle to run any meaningful trips if the rates are reduced and it was suggested it would be more beneficial to increase the rates across all sectors but do less mobilities.
3.1b(vi)	It was asked if there would be any implications to the upcoming Pathway 2 funding call.
3.1b(vii)	Taith: rules are not applied retrospectively.
3.1b(viii)	It was highlighted that the whole point of mobilities is levelling up and it is more important to have a meaningful mobility rather than stretching the budget.
3.1b(ix)	It was further suggested that the mobilities are reduced but make them accessible to learners. Further Education deals with more mature learners and that needs to be factored in.
3.1b(x)	Members were advised that if there are any further thoughts – please contact by early week commencing 2 nd October.

3.1c	Sustainability
3.1c(i)	It was commented that there is a conflict between trying to provide opportunities for disadvantaged learners and using the budget on greener travel.
3.1c(ii)	It was suggested that having more travel days built into the mobility could result in green travel being encouraged more , as green travel tends to take longer.
3.1d	Further Education and Vocational Education and Training – language
3.1d(i)	It was suggested that some sectors do not fit neatly under the FE umbrella and it would be useful to have a conversation with these groups.
4	Updates from the Taith
4.1	Members were informed of bi-annual all-sector meetings. These will provide an opportunity for shared learning and to address cross-sector issues collaboratively. No date has been set yet, but an email will be sent once decided.
4.2	Members were reminded that the next Pathway 2 call for applications opens on 5 th October. In support of this, there will be a series of webinars, and registration for these can be found on the 'Events' section of Taith's website. In addition, smaller meetings can be arranged to discuss potential project ideas or to ask questions about the pathway.
4.3	Members were advised that the recruitment for six new members of the Advisory Board begins in October and were asked to share this through their networks. In addition, members were informed that the potential applicants cannot be in receipt of Taith funding.
5	Date of next meeting
5.1	Next meeting 4 th December 2023