



Taith Sector Stakeholder Adult Education Meeting - Summary
Monday, 15th January 2024
2.00– 3.00pm
Meeting held via Teams

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Claire Richardson, Taith (Chair) Stella Warren, Celtic English Chris Dunn, Diverse Cymru Mymuna Soleman, Privilege Café Catherine Evans, Jisc
Translator	
Apologies:	
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	Ellie Bevan Sion James Rebecca Payne Walter Brooks
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 reminded of the recent Welsh Government budget cuts, and for Taith this means a cut in real terms of 50%. A financial modelling exercise has been undertaken outlining options for the management of this cut and the distribution of funding. The modelling was submitted by the ILEP Board to the Welsh Government for consideration and is now awaiting a response from the Minister for Education and Welsh Language. This will determine the available budget for Pathway 1 2024, which is due to launch this month. Members will be informed as soon as it's confirmed.
2	Summary and actions from previous meeting
2.1	The ILEP Ltd. Board of Directors agreed that the minimum requirement for participants from underrepresented groups will be 25%. Organisations can still apply for staff only projects, but there will need to be clear evidence that the project will still directly impact learners from underrepresented groups. This will apply to projects from 2024 onwards.
2.1a	Members were additionally informed that definitions, which goes into detail, will be published in the programme guides which will be available in the next few weeks.
2.2	The proposed changes to make the grant rates more equitable across all sectors and the changes to fund the actual costs for green travel have been approved by the ILEP Ltd. Board of Directors.
3	Updates
3.1	Taith Advisory Board

3.1a	Following a recruitment process, 7 new members have been appointed to the refreshed Advisory Board and the first meeting will take place in February. Further details on the new members are available on the website.
3.1a(i)	It was advised that the refreshed board is predominantly female based and there is some diversity in terms of experience and backgrounds but there is always more which can be done. All have lived experience of international exchange.
3.2	Pathway 1 2024
3.2a	Pathway 1 will be re-opening for its 2024 round of funding on the 31 January 2024 and the deadline for applications will be 20 March.
3.3	Policy updates
3.3a	Eligible organisations will receive an additional £25 Organisational Support funding per participant from underrepresented groups. This will be claimed at the final reporting stage for each reported participant.
3.3b	Staff can now claim for additional funding if they meet the relevant criteria. One of the criteria for participants from disadvantaged backgrounds is based on household income, and the threshold for this has now been raised in line with inflation.
3.3c	It was further advised that the policy updates would be eligible for 2024 onwards projects only.
4	Topics for Discussion
4.1	Evaluation of project impact
4.1a	Members were advised that the Taith Executive is working on an evaluation of the programme and the impact on participants and were asked to comment on what Taith should be asking participants to help gauge the impact of a project.
4.1a(i)	It was commented that case studies and individual learning journeys are very important which are sometimes undervalued but should be considered.

4.1a(ii)	It was further commented that digital story telling is useful.
4.2	Bi-annual cross sector meeting
4.2a	There will be cross-sector stakeholder meetings twice a year to provide an opportunity for shared learning and to address cross-sector issues collaboratively. The next stakeholder meeting will be a cross-sector meeting with a focus on underrepresented groups.
4.2b	Members requested that Taith feedback on what it would like to see as best practice in terms of reporting.
4.2b(i)	Members were advised that there have been monthly grant recipient meeting and reporting has been covered in this but this can be put back on the agenda.
5	Items raised by sector stakeholder group members
5.1	Members requested, considering the impact of the budget cuts, that there is flexibility in terms of utilising funding.
5.2	Members were asked to comment on the idea that these meetings are held cross-sectorally each time or if they would prefer the cross-sector meetings to remain bi-annual.
5.2(i)	The preference was for the individual sector meetings to remain.
6	Date of next meeting
6.1	16 th April at midday (cross sector)