



Taith Sector Stakeholder FE & VET Meeting - Summary
Monday, 15th January 2024
4.00– 5.00pm
Meeting held via Team

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Walter Brooks, Taith (Chair) Vicky Thomas, Colleges Wales Paul McKean, Jisc Bethan Everitt, Global Wales Hywel Jones, CAVC Donna Davies-Piper, Coleg Gŵyr Richard Gordon, Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro Christy Anson-Harries, Coleg Sir Gâr Emily Morris, CAVC
Translator	
Apologies:	
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	Ellie Bevan Sion James Rebecca Payne Claire Richardson
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 is 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.
1.3a	It was further advised that although the overall budget reduction is 50%, it is likely that the impact on Pathway 1 2024 will be more than that because it includes all the committed costs for previous projects.
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.
2.2	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.
2.3	Members were informed that the proposal to merge the terminology HE Education and HE Research has been approved by the ILEP Ltd. Board of Directors. Therefore, going forward, the sector will be referred to as HE.
2.4	Following discussion with the sector, it has been decided that FE & VET will remain the correct terminology.

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.
3.2	Pathway 1 2024
	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.
3.3d	Members asked if there was any scope to roll projects from 2023 to 2024.
3.3d(i)	It was advised that any extension requests should be communicated through the Operations team.
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 the Erasmus evaluation worked very well.
4.2	Bi-annual cross sector meeting
4.2(b)	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.
5	Items raised by sector stakeholder group members
5.1	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.
5.1(i)	It was commented that cross sector conversations may be useful to assess how they have/will manage cuts.
6	Date of next meeting
6.1	16 th April at midday (cross sector)