



Taith Sector Stakeholder Higher Education Meeting - Summary
Monday, 15th January 2024
12.30– 13.30am
Meeting held via Teams

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Walter Brooks, Taith (Chair) Bethan Jones, Swansea University Zoe Smith, Royal Welsh College of Music & Drama Marian Gray, Aberystwyth University Sandeep Singh Sengar, Cardiff Metropolitan University Annika Axelsen, Cardiff University Christopher Gale, Cardiff University Rose Matthews, Cardiff University Maria Fernandes, University of South Wales
Translator	
Apologies:	
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	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 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 that they were welcome to ask questions in Welsh and member of the team would reply in Welsh and then translate for the other members.
1.4	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.
2.2	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.
2.2a	It was confirmed that the green travel needs to be applied for separately.
2.2b	It was also confirmed that the green travel applies to both staff and students.

<p>2.2c</p> <p>2.3</p> <p>2.4</p>	<p>It was confirmed that the additional costs requests need to be submitted at least 30 days in advance of the mobility for approval.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Following discussion with the sector, it has been decided that FE & VET will remain the correct terminology.</p>
<p>3</p>	<p>Updates</p>
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.1a</p> <p>3.2</p> <p>3.2a</p> <p>3.2b</p> <p>3.2b(i)</p> <p>3.3</p> <p>3.3a</p>	<p>Taith Advisory Board</p> <p>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 will be posted on the website.</p> <p>Pathway 1 2024</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Members asked if it would be possible to release the narrative questions in advance of the 31st.</p> <p>It was confirmed that the 2024 programme guides are currently with the design agency and would be available soon (before 31st of January) and the questions have changed to reflect the new strategy with more of a focus on underrepresented groups.</p> <p>Policy updates</p> <p>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 from underrepresented groups.</p>

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.
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.
4.1b	It was suggested that it may be useful to make feedback a required part of the project process.
4.1c	It was asked if there is a template available to capture the outcomes or if there is any intent to use these in future rounds.
4.1c(i)	Members were advised that Taith are considering this and have worked on several iterations. Once this is finalised, it will be shared for feedback.
4.1d	It was commented that it is important to consider the type of mobility the student chose to undertake.
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. Member were asked to share anything they would like these meetings to focus on.
4.2a(i)	It was commented that some kind of networking activities would be useful.
5	Items raised by sector stakeholder group members
5.1	No items were raised.
6	Date of next meeting
6.1	Next meeting 16 th April at midday (cross sector)

