



Taith Sector Stakeholder Schools Meeting - Summary
Monday, 15th January 2024
12.30– 1.30pm
Meeting held via Teams

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Rebecca Payne, Taith (Chair) Alan Thomas-Williams, The Cardiff Commitment Sian Smith, Llanwern High School Sharon Flint Wood, Dolen Cymru Cath Moulogo, Dolen Cymru Amanda Morgan, International Links Global (ILG) Lisa Reid, Ysgol Llanhari Lisa Williams, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni
Translator	Sion James
Apologies:	
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	Ellie Bevan Claire Richardson
Secretariat support:	Bethan Williams

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 informed that there was simultaneous translation available and were welcome to ask questions in Welsh.
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.
1.4a	It was asked in the ratio for schools would remain the same within the new budget.
1.4a(i)	It was advised that, within the modelling, there is no option in which schools will be given less proportionally than it was previously.
1.4a(ii)	It was further clarified that there is no intention to reduce funding that has already been awarded for Pathway 1 and 2 2022 or 2023. The only caveat would be to project extensions, any requests would have to be examined in more detail.
1.4b	It was asked how the information will be shared when the Minister decides on the modelling option.
1.4b(i)	Members were advised that this is most likely to be via the Taith newsletter.

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.
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 will be posted on the website.
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.
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)	Members were happy to share existing forms and questions with the Taith team.
4.1a(ii)	It was recommended that Taith work with Cardiff University, who have a mentor project with schools.
4.1a(iii)	It was further recommended that having before, during and after focus groups (via Teams) would be beneficial.
4.1a(iv)	It was commented that, as teachers' time is so sparse, having a very simple/concise evaluation document would be best.
4.1a(v)	Members requested that they know in advance the type of questions to ask so that it could be built into their planning and reporting.
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.
5	Items raised by sector stakeholder group members
5.1	No items were raised by members.
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)