



Taith Sector Stakeholder Schools Meeting - Summary
Tuesday 16th April 2024
12.00– 1.00pm
Meeting held via Teams

Attendance List	
In Attendance:	Sion James, Project Officer, Taith (SJ) (Chair) Amanda Morgan, International Links Global Amanda Wilkinson, Universities Wales Annika Axelsen, Cardiff University Bethan Everitt, Universities Wales (Global Wales programme) Carole Phillips, Jigsaw Education Group Cath Moulougo, Dolen Cymru Lesotho Christy Anson-Harries, Coleg Sir Gar & Coleg Ceredigion Danial Ashman, Coleg Gwent Donna Davies-Piper, Gower College Swansea Emily Morris, Cardiff and Vale College Helen Jones, CWVYS Howard Williamson, University of South Wales Kari Morgan, BGC Wales Kevin McStravock, QAA Lisa Williams, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni Liz Millman, Learning Links International CIC Lyndsey Thomas, GISDA Manon Williams, Gwaith Ieuenctid Cymru /CWVYS Marian Gray, Aberystwyth University Michaela Rohmann, WCIA Natalie Kendrick-Doyle, Reaching Wider USW Pamela Heidt, Aberystwyth University Paul Glaze, CWVYS Ryan Sheppard, Portfield School Richard Gordon, Cardiff and Vale College Rose Matthews, Cardiff University Rowena Kidger, Cardiff Met University

	Sian Smith, Llanwern High School Silviana Rizea, Cardiff and Vale College Stella Warren, Celtic English Academy Val Clarke, RCTCBC Adult Community Learning Vicky Thomas, CollegesWales
Translator	Walter Brooks, Programme Manager, Taith
Apologies:	None
Taith Programme Executive (TPE):	Susana Galvan Hernandez, Executive Director, Taith (SGH) Claire Richardson, Project officer, Taith (CR) Ellie Bevan, Head of Policy, Programmes & Engagement, Taith (EB) Rebecca Payne, Project Officer, Taith (RP)
Secretariat support:	Delyth Johnson, Administrator (DJ), Taith

Minutes		Action
Agenda item	Item	
1	Welcome and introductions	
1.1	Members were welcomed to the meeting and reminded that these meetings are a chance to have an informal discussion about programme developments, and to get their feedback and thoughts on various policies, processes and communications. These meetings are not decision-making meetings, but the discussions and feedback received will help Taith to inform any proposals it makes to the ILEP Ltd Board of Directors, who are responsible for making all key decisions as part of the programme.	
2	Updates	
2.1	Pathway 2 2023 16 projects were funded in the Pathway 2 2023 call across schools, youth, Further Education (FE) and VET (Vocational Education and Training) sectors, with a total value of just under £900,000. These projects will start from 1 st May 2024. If members would like to find out more about the types of projects that were funded, a full list of funded organisations and their project summaries can be found on the outcomes page of the Taith website.	
2.2	Pathway 1 2024 The funding call for Pathway 1 2024 closed on the 20 th March 2024. Pathway 1 funding supports the outward and inward mobility of individual participants or groups of participants. Funding is available for learners, young people and staff to undertake international exchanges which provide opportunities to share learning, experience different cultures and develop new skills.	

<p>2.3</p>	<p>Taith was very pleased to have received applications from a wide range of organisations across all eligible sectors. Applications are currently being checked for eligibility and will be sent for assessment to our external assessors shortly. Taith will be communicating the results to applicants by the end of June.</p> <p>Evaluation of project impact</p> <p>Taith wanted to thank all members for their useful contributions to discussions on project evaluation during the last sector-specific meetings. This feedback has been used as a basis for creating Taith’s participant feedback forms, which are currently in development.</p>	
<p>3</p>	<p>Topics for Discussion</p>	
<p>3.1</p> <p>3.1a</p>	<p>Sharing impact</p> <p>Demonstrating the impact of Taith is vital to help secure future funding for the programme. As Wales now has a new First Minister, as well as a new Education Minister, Taith is very interested in hearing ideas on how we can not only share the impact of these projects and journeys with Ministers and the people of Wales, but to also raise the profile of Taith and increase awareness of the programme to those who could really benefit from this grant funding.</p> <p>Case Studies: Currently Taith is sharing impact through case studies, social media posts and through its newsletter. Although a large number of projects have been funded, the number of case studies we have is still relatively low.</p> <p>Members were asked if they had thoughts on how Taith could increase the number of case studies it receives. What would encourage people to consider doing a case study? The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Universities Wales offered a Taith visit to their Communications group to discuss case studies further. Action: CR will get in contact to arrange this meeting. • A case study template was suggested so that organisations have guidance on the specific questions Taith would like answered. CR confirmed that these questions are available in the grant recipient area of the website but acknowledged this may be hard to find and will look at making this document more accessible on the website. • It was recommended that a case study could be a requirement of the project final report. CR confirmed that shareable images are likely to be requested as part of the project final report and a case study could be included. • It was queried if the case study includes confirmation that the content is widely shareable/has consent been given? Especially in connection to projects that involve under 18-year-olds and vulnerable adults. 	<p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was asked that a process be put in place for removing consent in the future. • One member raised how the impact of a journey/project will differ depending on the individual and may not be instantaneous, it may take years for the impact to be known. The learning comes from what the organisation is looking for and measuring the impact may be many months after the project has been completed. Taith will look to explore how it could collect these stories of future impact a considerable time after the completion of a project. • One of the university members raised that it asks all students to complete a before and after report, which captures testimonials/case studies. It asks students to post themselves on social media. <p>3.1b Social Media: On social media Taith looks to provide a brief synopsis or quote on a project's impact and tags the organisation the project it relates to. Stakeholders represented at the meeting were asked if there would be a better way to showcase this on social media What type of social media are the most engaging? Are there any networks Taith should be including in its posts?</p> <p>The following points were raised:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taith will provide further information on the type of projects that we are looking for in a future newsletter. The focus would be on the learning journey. Please contact Taith if you would like further guidance. • One member mentioned that they find Taith's re-posts of projects inspirational. • A member agreed that it was helpful when Taith tags the organisation and that helps to reshare the post. • TikTok was suggested as a platform, Taith will explore this. <p>3.1c Newsletter: Taith send out our newsletter quarterly. Members were asked if they received the newsletter and what they thought about the content. The following points were made:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taith pointed out that the Newsletter should not be confused with the Grant Recipients monthly Bulletin, which is sent to Grant Recipients only. • Is it possible to have a shareable electronic link to the newsletter so that it be shared more widely? Taith will consider this. • Members find it useful. One member raised that it could be clearer as to where to find project specific information, the ability to go directly to the information that is most useful would be helpful. CR agreed and mentioned that Taith is exploring using MailChimp so that the information is clearer and more user friendly. <p>3.1d Other ideas: Members were asked what they would like to see that would help with showcasing impact? Are there other ideas as to how Taith could best demonstrate the impact and showcase the great projects that have been funded?</p>	<p>CR</p> <p>CR</p>
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3.2 **Engaging and supporting individuals from underrepresented groups**

- Members agreed that more creative ways of sharing experiences e.g. recent Easter competition could be explored further.

Taith is committed to making international exchange more inclusive and accessible. Its strategy focuses on supporting people previously underrepresented in international exchange to access opportunities. This includes people from disadvantaged backgrounds, ethnic minority backgrounds, Disabled people and people with additional learning needs.

Taith currently provides:

- Additional funding to support participants facing financial barriers to participation. There are two types of inclusion support available – for Disabled people and those with additional learning needs (ALN), and for those from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- This funding is based on actual costs and is intended to cover the full cost relating to removing any barriers to participation. For example, participants from disadvantaged backgrounds can apply for additional funding for travel related costs that are creating a barrier for them to be able to take part (e.g. not being able to afford a passport or appropriate clothing or luggage).
- Additional funding is available for disabled participants and those with additional learning needs of up to 100% of actual costs for support directly related to their additional needs.
- Taith also provides a contribution to the cost of travel to a UK transport hub as part of an international mobility. This is available for group mobilities and for individual mobilities where the participant is from a disadvantaged background.
- For Pathway 1 2024 onwards, organisations working with participants from underrepresented groups will receive an Organisational Support top-up of £25 for each reported participant.
- New assessment criteria was introduced for Pathway 1 2024 to ensure that applicants prioritise giving opportunities to participants from underrepresented groups.

Members were asked if there was anything else that Taith could be doing in addition to the above? What do members see as the barriers to participation and how can Taith ensure that the support it provides is effective? Taith would like to hear any thoughts and ideas of anything it could do to make the programme as inclusive and accessible as possible.

- A member raised considering the wider barriers to participation and supporting costs for things such as anti-racism training would help. Emotional and wellbeing support could also be considered.

- One member raised that the additional funding forms can be difficult to fill in as these need to be completed per individual for all items and this is time consuming. As an organisation that supports disadvantaged young people it is time consuming to fill in a form for every learner when some costs are group-wide (e.g. travel to airport, visas, insurance, costs whilst abroad). Taith colleagues were grateful for this feedback and will consider how this process can be improved.
- Another member raised that sometimes as the time it takes to complete these forms can be prohibitive the organisation makes a decision to absorb the cost rather than request the additional funding.
- The biggest hurdle as a special school is finding the right transport as well as finding exchange schools that are suitable. It would be good if there could be some kind of database of businesses/schools/organisations that would support these requirements as a future resource.
- A member raised that organisations working with disadvantaged people especially with those with mental health issues does raise the risk that participants may not be able to go on the trip last minute. Taith has been helpful with advice and flexible when this has occurred, it would be something that Taith needs to keep in mind for the future.

**EB/WB/CR
/RP/SJ**

3.3 Increasing the funding available for inward mobilities

As part of Pathway 1 organisations can currently apply for 30% on top of what they have request for outward mobilities to fund inward mobilities to Wales. Taith would like to get member's thoughts on whether the 30% threshold is high enough and if they would like the percentage to be increased. If the maximum percentage of inward funding was increased there would not be any additional funding to cover this, it would be taken from the outward mobility budget.

The following points were raised by members:

- 30% isn't enough especially as an organisation working with partners in Brazil. The flights outward and inwards are expensive.
- Members agreed that inward mobility is important to foster partnerships.
- Inward mobility visits help to recognise the work of both organisations. Having the flexibility to increase the inward mobility within the budget is helpful.
- Hosting the partner organisation is important, sometimes the funding does not match the number of participants that could potentially come.

EB explained that Taith has previously discussed raising the amount for inward mobilities with the Welsh Government and will be raising it further to see if there can be extra flexibility and so this feedback from members is very useful.

4	Items raised by sector stakeholder group members	
4.1	A member queried if better communication could be fostered between organisations that are applying / thinking of applying for similar Taith funding so that advice/experiences could be shared. Taith highlighted that it provides Q&A sessions during the funding calls and will look into other ways that would help organisations share/communicate.	EB/WB/CR /RP/SJ
5	Date of next meeting	
5.1	The next meeting will take place in September, date to be confirmed.	