



**Taith Sector Stakeholder Meeting - Summary**  
**Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**  
**12.00 – 1.00pm**  
**Meeting held via Teams**

Attendance List	
<b>In Attendance:</b>	Walter Brooks, Programme Manager, Taith (WB) Cath Moulogo, Dolen Cymru Lesotho Rowena Kidger, Cardiff Metropolitan University Gareth Jenkins, Heddlu Gwent Police Sara Novo, Coleg Gwent Liesa Nottle, Cardiff University Shoko Doherty, Celtic English Academy Vicky Thomas, Colegau Cymru Catrin James, Urdd Gobaith Cymru Christine Monks, Bangor University Lloyd Tan, CCW - Training Academy Carole Phillips, Jigsaw Education Group Sharon Flint Wood, Dolen Cymru Lesotho Sian Smith, Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Glantaf Rachel Taylor-Evans, Dolen Cymru Lesotho Tom Weiser, WCIA Natalie Goodger, Coleg y Cymoedd Amanda Morgan, International Links Global Danial Ashman, Coleg Gwent Lowri Bunford-Jones, Y Ganolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Genedlaethol Rebecca Booker, Equal Education Partners Sarah Bradney, University of South Wales Catherine Evans, Jisc Chloe Rees, Wales TUC Liz Millman, Learning Links International CIC Eirwyn Griffiths, Cyngor Sir Caerfyrddin Rose Matthews, Cardiff University Richard Gordon, Cardiff and Vale College

	Natalie Roberts, Coleg Cambria Stella Warren, Celtic English Academy Christy Anson-Harries, Coleg Sir Gar Lyndsey Thomas, GISDA Violet Matsoso, Morija Primary School Howard Williamson, University of South Wales Kirsten Foerster, Aberystwyth University Donna Davies-Piper, Gower College Swansea Chibuzo Amadi, University of South Wales Michaela Rohmann, WCIA Jon Williams, Pembrokeshire Youth Andrea Waddington, Sully PS Christine Monks, Bangor University
<b>Apologies:</b>	Ellie Bevan, Head of Policy, Programmes & Engagement, Taith (EB)
<b>Taith Programme Executive (TPE):</b>	Susana Galvan Hernandez, Executive Director, Taith (SGH) Claire Richardson, Project Officer, Taith (CR) Sion James, Project Officer, Taith (SJ) Rebecca Payne (RP)
<b>Secretariat support:</b>	Delyth Johnson, Administrator, Taith (DJ)

Minutes		Action
Agenda item	Item	
1	<b>Welcome and introductions (WB)</b>	
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.	

	Sharon Flint Wood, Co-Executive Director (Programmes) and Cath Moulogo, Co-Executive Director (Government and Finance) from Dolen Cymru had been invited to present on best practice and strategies for developing intercultural awareness and skills to the group.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Updates (SJ)</b>	
<b>2.1</b>	<b>Taith Update</b>	
<b>2.1a</b>	<p><b>Pathway 2 2024</b></p> <p>Taith has been working to prepare the launch of Pathway 2 2024. The launch date is Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 and the closing date for applications will be Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2024 at midday. The notification of outcomes will be announced in March 2025 and successful projects will commence from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025.</p> <p>Taith will be running a series of webinars to promote the funding call and to offer further guidance, which will be taking place from next month onwards. More information and a link to sign up to these can be found on the Taith website. There will also be recorded videos and support materials for all applicants.</p> <p>The Taith team encouraged the group to get in touch if you want to discuss your idea for a Pathway 2 project or if you have any questions about the funding call more generally.</p>	
<b>2.1b</b>	<p><b>Pathway 1 2025</b></p> <p>Taith has started working on the next Pathway 1 funding call in 2025. There are no concrete details to share at this point, but Taith is hoping to open the call in early January 2025 and close in late February 2025. The notification of outcomes would be around June 2025 and for successful applications, their projects will start in September 2025.</p>	
<b>3</b>	<b>Topics for Discussion (RP)</b>	
<b>3.1</b>	<p><b>Intercultural Awareness and Skills</b></p> <p>Rebecca Payne introduced the speakers and explained that after the presentations there would be a discussion about three main topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What strategies and training do you have in place in your organisations to prepare learners (and staff) to undertake a mobility overseas?</li> <li>2. Which are the areas that you think you would need support with?</li> <li>3. How could Taith support your organisation, as a Grant Recipient, to develop your intercultural skills?</li> </ol>	

<p><b>3.1a</b></p>	<p>Sharon Flint Wood, Co-Executive Director (Programmes) and Cath Moulogo, Co-Executive Director (Government and Finance) of Dolen Cymru gave a presentation on what they have discovered as best practice and strategies for developing intercultural awareness and skills. The presentation will be shared with the group separately.</p> <p>Here are the highlights of the presentation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dolen Cymru Lesotho’s partnership with schools in Lesotho is nearly 40 years old.</li> <li>- Their core values are partnership, collaboration and inclusiveness, responsibility, responsiveness, diversity and recognition.</li> <li>- The presentation’s aim was to highlight Dolen’s ongoing work to minimise risk and unintended harm through Taith funding with a focus on anti-Black/African racism.</li> <li>- Collaboration needs to be at the centre of every project.</li> <li>- Equality between parties in the partnership.</li> <li>- Cultural assumptions can lead to harm.</li> <li>- Hosting family guidelines to help foster awareness have been put in place.</li> <li>- Informed consent for social media on both sides.</li> <li>- Understand the role of power and privilege.</li> <li>- Dolen provides the following as part of their projects: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Partnership Agreements – discussed and signed at the beginning of the project and translated</li> <li>o Media consent &amp; training</li> <li>o Project support</li> <li>o Anti-Racism training</li> <li>o Racism Awareness training</li> <li>o Pre-arrival support e.g. online meetings with project staff prior to arrival, ensuring cultural expectations are considered and prepared for by the hosts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.1b</b></p>	<p>Dolen’s ongoing future steps (slide 18 of the presentation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- They have signed up to Hub Cymru Africa’s Anti-Racism charter</li> <li>- They have implemented an organisational Inclusion Action Plan</li> <li>- They have set up an Inclusion Group as part their Taith Pathway 2 project</li> <li>- They are engaging with Taith and other stakeholders to raise awareness and challenge past practices</li> <li>- They are working with experts such as BAME-Ed to secure additional support for Basotho teachers.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>3.1c</b></p>	<p>Dolen’s tips (slide 19 of the presentation):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Understand the specific context / history of your link</li> <li>- Get commitment from the top</li> </ul>	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ It takes resources</li> <li>○ It takes time.</li> <li>- Normalise the expectation that an Anti-Racist approach is expected (not “radical”)</li> <li>- Be brave – especially with social media</li> <li>- Have a strategy</li> <li>- Respond transparently</li> <li>- You are never “done” with EDI.</li> </ul> <p><b>3.1d</b> Resources can be found on page 20 of the presentation.</p> <p><b>3.2</b> After the presentation a brief discussion focused on the following the three areas highlighted at the beginning of this section.</p> <p><b>3.2a</b> The following points were raised by the group:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What strategies and training do you have in place in your organisations to prepare learners (and staff) to undertake a mobility overseas? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Pre-departure training sessions – including what cultural difference in routine tasks - seeing strength in difference e.g. traffic order.</li> <li>● On of the members raised how they lead participant led training/discussion using this model – <a href="#">Principles of Appreciative Inquiry - The Center For Appreciative Inquiry</a>.</li> <li>● Consent dos and don'ts.</li> <li>● Care is needed at all times – awareness of history of both countries, the pride, understanding and celebration the values of the countries that are being visited.</li> <li>● Awareness of racism decreases prejudice.</li> <li>● Both sides are open to learning, unlearning their assumptions, reciprocity.</li> <li>● Difficult topics need to be discussed to help deepen the experience.</li> </ul> </li> <li>2. Which are the areas that you think you would need support with? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● A member raised a question on awareness and that normalising the ‘ouch’ and ‘oops’ was helpful (slide 3 of the presentation) and they wondered in for example, low level sexual harassment that would not qualify as a safeguarding concern, but may be acceptable in another country, could we explore tips for this and best practice?</li> </ul> </li> <li>3. How could Taith support your organisation, as a Grant Recipient, to develop your intercultural skills? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Resources on the website e.g examples of best practice,</li> </ul> </li> </ol>	<p><b>Taith to discuss what next steps could be taken to support Grant Recipients.</b></p>
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If you have any more ideas on how we could best support you please get in touch with the Taith team.</li> </ul>	
<b>4</b>	<b>Items raised by sector stakeholder group members</b>	
<b>4.1</b>	There were no items raised.	
<b>5</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>	
<b>5.1</b>	The next meeting will take place in January 2025, date to be confirmed.	