

# Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

## Minutes (ELL2-05-05mins)

**Meeting date:** Wednesday 11 May 2005

**Meeting time:** 9.00am -12.25pm

**Meeting venue:** Committee Room 2, National Assembly, Cardiff Bay

### Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Peter Black (Chair)	South Wales West
Christine Chapman (Deputy Minister)	Cynon Valley
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Jane Davidson (Minister)	Pontypridd
William Graham	South Wales East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Irene James	Islwyn
Denise Idris Jones	Conwy
Janet Ryder	North Wales
Owen John Thomas	South West Central

### Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Richard Davies	Group Director, Department for Training and Education (DfTE)
Elizabeth Taylor	Head, Schools Management Division

Elizabeth Williams	Head, Youth and Pupil Participation Division
Alan Lansdown	Head, Pupil Support Division
Judith Nedin	Head, Business Systems Division
Lyn Summers	Schools Management
Paul Watts	Training, Skills and Careers Policy Division

## Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item
Wayne Feldon	Chief Executive, Careers Wales Mid Glamorgan and Powys	4
Judith Morgan	Adult Guidance Manager, Careers Wales Gwent	4
Emlyn Evans	Adult Guidance Delivery Manager, Careers Wales North West	4

## Committee Service

Name	Job title
Chris Reading	Clerk
Holly Pembridge	Deputy Clerk
Gareth Davies	Support Officer
Joanest Jackson	Legal Adviser

## Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 An apology was received from David Davies. William Graham substituted.

1.2 The Chair announced that the Committee's school transport report had been successfully launched during the previous week.

1.3 There will be an additional meeting on Thursday 26 May during the afternoon (1.00pm - 3.00pm) to gather further evidence for the review of special educational needs. Business Committee has been informed.

1.4 There were no declarations of interest.

1.5 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

## **Item 2: Minister's Report (9.05-9.55am)**

### **Paper: ELL2-05-05(p.1) and Annexes**

2.1 The Minister introduced her report and then answered Members' questions. During her introduction, the Minister referred to a report recently published by the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales on Higher Education in South East Wales.

## **Actions**

- **Item 1 - Wales Youth Agency:** the Committee to include a scrutiny of youth work and progress on Young People's Partnerships in its forward work programme;
- **Item 4 - Healthy Vending in Schools:** the Minister undertook to write to the Chair detailing costs of the pilots and confirm whether an evaluation report of the pilots is available;
- **Item 6 - Welsh Baccalaureate:** the Minister undertook to ask for information from the WJEC concerning their engagement with universities and also confirmation of the number of students taking the Baccalaureate;
- **Item 10 - New Deal:** the Minister undertook to seek additional information from Job Centre Plus on the type of work and training being undertaken by New Deal clients;
- **Higher Education Report:** the Minister to provide the Committee with a copy of the report for the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales: Review of 'Post- 92' Higher Education in South East Wales.

## **Item 3: School of the Future (9.55-10.45am)**

### **Paper: ELL2-05-05(p.2)**

3.1 The Committee received progress updates from Assembly Government officials: Elizabeth Taylor (Schools Management Division), Alan Lansdown (Pupil Support Division) and Elizabeth Williams (Youth and Pupil Participation Division) After their presentations, officials answered Members' questions.

## **Action**

- **The Minister to arrange for answers to questions regarding school of the future that were not dealt with during the meeting.**

#### **Item 4: Careers Wales - Adult Learning Opportunities (11.10am-11.50am)**

**Paper: ELL2-05-05(p.3)**

4.1 The Committee received a PowerPoint presentation from Wayne Feldon who responded to Members' questions along with his colleagues, Judith Morgan and Emlyn Evans. A copy of the presentation is available on the Committee's webpages.

4.2 The Chair joined the Minister in congratulating Careers Wales for the provision of the first interactive careers advice and guidance online facility in the world: Careers Wales Online.

#### **Item 5: Budget Planning Round (11.50am-12.15pm)**

**Paper: ELL2-05-05(p.4)**

5.1 The Committee was invited to outline its broad priorities for 2006-07 and beyond. The Committee agreed the following priority areas within the education and lifelong learning portfolio:

- Further education and post-16 provision;
- Higher education: structural reconfiguration and student support;
- School teachers' workload agreement;
- Counselling and advocacy services for young people;
- Compulsory school funding;
- Capital funding for school buildings (to meet the 2010 target);
- Funds to implement recommendations in the policy review reports on special educational needs and school transport; and
- Continuing professional development for teachers.

5.2 Janet Ryder felt that there should be an opportunity for the ELL Committee to scrutinise education expenditure in the local government settlement. The Chair agreed to raise this matter at the next meeting of the Panel of Chairs.

#### **Action**

- **The Chair to seek an appropriate mechanism for effective scrutiny of education expenditure within the local government settlement at the next meeting of the Panel of Chairs;**
- **The Chair to write to the Minister confirming the Committee's budget priorities.**

#### **Item 6: Detailed and Strategic Forward Work Programmes (12.20-12.25pm)**

**Paper: ELL2-05-05 (p.5)**

6.1 The Committee ratified its annual report for the period 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005, subject to the Clerk amending Annex 1 to reflect the changes to the Minister's portfolio, and to refer to powers in the Education Act 2004.

## **Action**

- **Clerk to amend Annex 1 of the Committee's annual report.**

### **Item 7: Secondary Legislation Forward Look (12.25pm)**

**Paper: ELL2-05-05(p.6)**

7.1 The Committee noted the schedule of forthcoming legislation and agreed to submit any suggestions for future scrutiny to the Clerk.

### **Item 8: Minutes of the previous meeting**

**Paper: ELL2-04-05(min)**

8.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the meeting of 20 April 2005.