

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

Minutes (ELL(2)-09-05)

Meeting date: Wednesday 21 September 2005

Meeting time: 9.00am -12.30pm

Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, 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
David Melding (Item 5)	South West Central
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)
Neil Thomas	Head, Lifelong Learning Division
Alan Lansdown	Head, Pupil Support Division
Keith Davies	Head, Standards and Performance Division
Judith Nedin	Head, Business Systems Division
Helen Lentle	Assistant Director of Legal Services
Jock Pritchard	Standards and Performance Division

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item
Ceri James	Director CILT Cymru	3
Kristina Hedges	(Language Teaching Adviser CILT Cymru)	3
Richard Parsons	Co-ordinator Key Stage 2 Project CILT Cymru)	3
Baroness Warnock of Weeke		5

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Steve George	Clerk
Holly Pembridge	Deputy Clerk
Joanest Jackson	Legal Adviser

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

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and Members of the public.

1.2 No apologies were received.

1.3 The Chair introduced Steve George as the new Committee Clerk in succession to Chris Reading.

1.4 The Chair sought the Committee's approval to undertake a fact-finding visit to Denmark, to gain a wider perspective of SEN delivery outside of the UK. He suggested that the visit might need to occur in the New Year. The Committee resolved to undertake the visit at an appropriate time.

1.5 The Committee resolved to use its optional meeting on 8 December to discuss emerging issues and early recommendations on the SEN review.

1.6 On the recommendation of the Chair of Legislation Committee, the Chair suggested that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee kept the operation of the Education (induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) Regulations under review for six months.

1.7 Jeff Cuthbert declared an interest in accordance with standing order 4.6 (for item 4); he was a governor of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre, Ystrad Mynach.

1.8 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minister's Report (9.05am - 9.50am)

Paper: ELL2-09-05(p.1) and Annexes

2.1 The Minister introduced her report and then answered questions.

Action: Minister to advise Committee on timing of evaluation of Welsh Baccalaureate in her next ministerial report.

Action: Minister to consider providing stats on the number of HE courses taught either wholly or partially in Welsh and the number of students studying at a relevant period. [In response to William Graham.]

Action: Minister to provide an update of how much money is still available for reconfiguration of colleges and universities at the turn of the financial year.

Action: Secretariat to circulate detailed breakdown of reconfiguration proposals provided by HEFCW.

Action: Minister to give the Committee an update on proposals for mainstreaming the

work of the Welsh Language Board with the work of ELWa and the Government's Welsh Language Unit.

Action: Minister to bring an item to the next Committee meeting about the arrangements for accreditation of community development courses.

Action: Minister to report in due course at detailed options arising from the Clywch report's recommendations on counselling.

Action: Secretariat to add to Forward Work Plan. Discuss at party Spokespersons' meeting.

Item 3: Centre for Information on Language Teaching (CILT) Cymru) (9.50am - 10.35am)

Paper: ELL2 09-05(p.2)

3.1. Ceri James made a PowerPoint presentation and then answered Members' questions.

Item Four: Scrutiny of Secondary Legislation (10.35am - 10.55am)

Paper: ELL2 09-05(p.3), (p.4) and (p.9) Additional Paper

ELL2-09-05(p.3) - "The National Council for Education and Training for Wales (Transfer of Functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order 2005"

ELL2 09-05(p.9) - Motion proposed by Peter Black AM recommending amendments to Regulations
ELL2 09-05(p.3)

ELL2-09-05(p.4) – "The Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (Transfer of functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order."

4.1 The Committee selected the regulations for detailed scrutiny at its meeting on 29 June 2005.

4.2 Amendment 1

The Committee considered the following motion from Peter Black AM in relation to: "The National Council for Education and Training for Wales (Transfer of Functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order 2005" (paper ELL2 09-05(p.3):

"that the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee recommends to the Minister for Education and

Lifelong Learning:

- 1. the amendment of the draft 'National Council for Education and Training for Wales (Transfer of Functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order 2005' so that responsibility for proposing the re-organisation of 6th forms, currently held by the National Council for Education and Training for Wales, is transferred to County and County Borough Councils in Wales; and*
- 2. that the transfer of this function to the National Assembly should be deleted from the Order."*

4.2 Following discussion the amendment was formally moved by Peter Black AM and voted on as follows:

For: Peter Black, William Graham, Mark Isherwood, Janet Ryder, Owen John Thomas

Against: Christine Chapman, Jeff Cuthbert, Jane Davidson, Denise Idris Jones, Irene James

4.6 As there was an equality of votes, the Chair used his casting vote in accordance with Standing Order No. 1.12(ii). The Motion was rejected.

4.7 The Committee recommended approval of the draft regulations.

"The Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales (Transfer of functions to the National Assembly for Wales and Abolition) Order."

4.8 In discussion, it was agreed that:

- As an aid to transparency, it would be helpful, prior to Plenary consideration, to have an information note listing the functions that are to be transferred for both this Order and the ELWa Order.

4.9 No amendments were proposed and the Committee recommended approval of the draft regulations.

Action: Clerk to prepare a report for Business Committee and to lay before the Assembly.

Item 5: Policy Review - Special Educational Needs (Part 2) Evidence from Baroness Warnock (11.10am - 12.10pm)

Paper: None - oral item

5.1 The Chair welcomed Baroness Warnock of Weeke to the meeting.

5.2 The Chair also welcomed David Melding, Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, to the meeting. David Melding declared an interest under Standing Order 4.6 that he was chair of the governing body of Meadowbank Special School, Cardiff and a trustee of Autism Cymru.

5.3 Baroness Warnock gave a short oral presentation and then answered Members' questions.

Item 6: Secondary Legislation Forward Look (12.10pm - 12.15pm)

Paper: ELL2 09-05(p.5)

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

Item 7: Minutes of previous meetings

Paper: ELL2-08-05(min)

7.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the meeting of 29 June 2005.

Papers to note:

The Committee noted the following papers:

Note of Committee's Fact-Finding Visit to Scotland in Respect of the SEN Review (Part 2)

Paper: ELL2-09-05(p.6)

Note of Rapporteur Group Scrutiny Visit to ACCAC

Paper: ELL2-09-05(p.7)

Letter to Chair from Chair of Legislation Committee re "the Education (Induction Arrangements for School Teachers) (Wales) Regulations 2005".

Paper: ELL2-09-05(p.8)