

John Griffiths AC/AM
Y Dirprwy Weinidog dros Sgiliau
Deputy Minister for Skills



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

Jeff Cuthbert AM
Chair
Proposed Learning and Skills Measure Committee
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

24 November 2008

Dear Jeff,

Implementation Group Meeting 14 November - Update

I am pleased to report that the first meeting of the new 14-19 Learning Pathways Implementation Group held on Friday 14th November 2008 was a constructive first meeting.

It was clear that the group is supportive of the principle of the Measure and are committed to working together to widen choice for young people in Wales.

Representatives from the following organisations were in attendance:-

John Graystone – Fforwm	Elaine Edwards – UCAC
Meurig Rees – CYDAG	Andrew Cooksley – NTFW
Neil Foden – NUT	David Hunt – ATL
Gareth Pierce – WJEC	Meilyr Rowlands – Estyn
Chris Llewellyn – WLGA	Helen Taylor – ASSC
Mark Freeman – Careers Wales	Hugh Pattrick – Governors Wales
Brain Lightman – ASCL	Richard Parry – ADEW
Huw Jones-Williams - NAHT	Rex Phillips - NASUWT

Key points covered in the discussion included:-

- There is widespread support for the proposed Measure, however, there was some variation in views on detail
- Concern was expressed by some representatives with regard to implementation in 2009. There were some misunderstandings with regard to the detail on implementation and these will be considered further at the next meeting.

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- There was broad support from all stakeholders for wider choice through cooperation. There is recognition that many providers will already be working in partnership and cooperating to offer shared provision, but there is also recognition that some have been slower to engage in the necessary cooperation, for these the challenge might be greater.
- Concerns were raised regarding the parity in Welsh Medium provision and expectations concerning the Welsh Medium Education Strategy.
- Some stakeholders raised concerns about workloads and funding.

Although, stakeholders expressed some concerns with regard to the Transformation agenda, a number of these are not directly related to the proposed Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure.

I was particularly pleased to have the opportunity to receive direct feedback on the Measure and listen to the concerns of those who will be vital to its implementation.

I am sure we will all continue to work together to ensure this very important agenda is taken forward as effectively and efficiently as possible.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Soh'.