

## **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

### **DRAFT STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME May 2003 - December 2004**

#### **Introduction**

1. The Education and Lifelong Learning Committee is one of the National Assembly's seven subject committees. The responsibilities of the subject committees are set out in Standing Orders 9.7 and 9.8.
2. Standing Order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The Panel of Chairs has agreed that committees' work programmes should be strategic and cover an 18-month to 2-year time frame, supported by more detailed work programmes covering a three-month period. This work programme sets out the Committee's strategic priorities, following the National Assembly elections in May 2003 and covers the period until December 2004.

#### **Remit**

3. The Committee's remit is based on the portfolio of the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning - Jane Davidson AM. Amongst other things, the minister is responsible for schools, further education and skills development, higher education, the youth service and the careers service.

#### **Aims**

4. The Committee aims to promote and encourage long term and sustained improvement in the quality of education in Wales, with the aim of extending high-quality education and lifelong learning opportunities to all the people of Wales.

#### **Priorities**

5. With such a broad remit, the Committee has developed a strategic approach to its work. Priorities for the coming year are as follows:
  - *Policy development SO 9.7(i)* - the Committee will focus on those areas of policy development where it can make the greatest impact, and will seek to complement, rather than duplicate policies being developed by the Minister. It is anticipated that the Committee will carry out a policy review on certain aspects of special educational needs (to be confirmed). It is anticipated that this review will start in September 2003 and be completed before the summer recess in 2004. The Committee will also consider other options for policy reviews.
  - *Scrutiny of the Minister SO 9.7(ii)* - the Minister will report to the Committee monthly on current developments within the portfolio. Once a year the Committee will scrutinise the Minister on performance against

targets. The Committee may also undertake thematic scrutiny sessions from time to time, notably in relation to the delivery of *The Learning Country* programme.

- *Scrutiny of relevant public, voluntary and private bodies SO 9.7 (iii)* - the Committee will keep under review the discharge of public functions by the following bodies: Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW), the National Council - ELWa (the funding body for post 16 education and training in Wales), the General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW), ACCAC (the Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales) and Estyn (Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales):
  - HEFCW – autumn term 2003 and 2004
  - GTCW – summer term 2003 and 2004
  - ACCAC – autumn term 2003 and 2004
  - National Council - ELWa - autumn term 2003 and 2004
  - Estyn – spring term 2004
  
- *Other items SO 9.8* - the Committee will also consider the following items as they arise:
  - *proposed legislation affecting Wales SO 9.8(i) and SO 22* – each term the Minister will outline forthcoming secondary legislation to enable the Committee to identify areas where it wishes to be consulted. Following the National Assembly's consideration of the Queen's speech, the committee will consider any draft primary legislation remitted to it by plenary. The committee will also consider draft secondary legislation referred to it by the Business Committee;
  - *proposals for the Assembly's budget SO 9.8(ii)* – the Committee will indicate its budget priorities in the summer term each year and comment on the draft budget in the autumn term;
  - *complaints SO 9.8(iii) and 21* – the Committee will consider any complaints referred to it;
  - *public appointments SO 9.8(iv) and 20* – the Committee's public appointment nominees will take part in the process of appointments to public bodies as vacancies arise;
  - *other matters referred by the Assembly SO 9.8 (v)* – the Committee will consider other matters referred to it by the National Assembly including other committees.