

## Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

### Enterprise in Schools and the Entrepreneurship Action Plan

#### Purpose

To inform the Committee about Enterprise Education activity in Schools in the context of the Entrepreneurship Action Plan for Wales.

#### Summary

This paper provides brief background information about how Enterprise in Schools has developed over recent years and summarises current activity.

#### Timing

The paper is for information only and there are no particular deadlines or time constraints which will affect the Committee's consideration of this item.

#### Background

It has long been recognised that young people must be prepared for the challenges and opportunities of adult life. The *Building Excellent Schools Together White Paper (BEST July 1997)*, The *Education and Training Action Plan for Wales (March 1999)* and the ACCAC review of the school curriculum in Wales all confirmed this.

In September 1997 Ministers asked for the ACCAC review to take account of the need to prepare students for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult working life. The non - statutory *Framework for Work Related Education for 14 – 19 Year olds in Wales* (introduced into schools in September 2000) was the result. The Framework stipulates that all 14 – 19 year olds should have work experience and at least two out of the following – An Enterprise activity, mentoring support from employers for action planning and setting personal goals, vocational or vocationally-related courses or direct inputs from employers into the curriculum or coursework assignments.

Complementing that guidance, a National Framework for Careers Education and Guidance in

Schools and Colleges is currently being completed by ACCAC and should be available for use in the 2002 – 03 school year. The Framework will encourage both pre and post 16 pupils and schools to identify opportunities for, and recognise the importance of, enterprise and entrepreneurship.

## **Consideration**

The Assembly provided additional funding of £500k in 1999 – 2000 to boost education business links activities, particularly to increase business awareness and enterprise skills in secondary schools. This recognised the fact that more needed to be done to make Wales a more entrepreneurial society. At that time, Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) were commissioned by the National Assembly for a wide range of activities to promote links between education and business to help young people gain an understanding of the world of work and encourage employers to provide specialist contributions to enrich the design and delivery of the curriculum.

Additional targets were agreed with TECs in 1999 – 2000 for the numbers of pupils in Key Stages 3 and 4 provided with the opportunity to participate in enterprise/business awareness activities and undertake projects involving setting up and running a business with employer support.

Since April 2001, funding and responsibility for the Enterprise element of education business links has passed from TECs to Careers Wales companies. In pursuit of the Entrepreneurship Action Plan (mainly Key Action 2, Strand 1 and Key Action 2 Strand 2), they are expected to support schools in providing opportunities for all 14 – 19 year olds to have the opportunity to participate in activities that promote an understanding of business and an awareness of entrepreneurial skills. This includes participation in a wide range of locally and nationally developed programmes including Business Awareness days, Enterprise Weeks, Industry Days, Enterprise in Focus, Achievers International and Young Enterprise Team, Company and Project Business programmes.

All of these programmes provide a basic understanding of how business operates and an awareness of enterprise. In 2001 – 02, 250 schools and around 17,000 young people in Key Stages 3 and 4 are expected to participate in such programmes. Over 11, 000 will also participate in programmes which include an element of business – start up and running a simulated company. A large number of primary schools and primary pupils are also involved with projects that include elements of enterprise.

Careers Wales supports secondary schools and FE institutions in the provision of a minimum of one week of work experience for young people both pre and post 16 (In 2001 – 02, 38,500 young people pre 16 and 21,900 post 16). They have also been asked to set targets to increase the percentage of placements with small and medium size employers (SMEs), with

emphasis on placements with relatively new businesses to provide experience of start – up and entrepreneurship. In 2001 – 02 some 64% of placements are expected to be with SMEs and Careers Wales companies will use the year to identify how such placements could be further developed to provide entrepreneurial opportunities.

Careers Wales are currently exploring funding options (European Social Fund and Knowledge Exploitation Fund) for £350k over the next three years. If obtained, this funding will enable them to audit existing entrepreneurship career materials and resources, research develop and deliver training courses for advisors and teachers, design and pilot entrepreneurship work experience and commission, promote and distribute an enterprise resource pack. Progress will depend upon the securing of ESF resources.

Other activities that currently contribute in this area include Teacher Placements in industry and business and the Leadership Programme for Serving Heads which enables head teachers to form links with leaders in the private sector, thus enabling them to gain a better understanding of business and entrepreneurship.

Entrepreneurship in schools and colleges is also a current focus of attention in the European Commission which has commissioned a review of the measures undertaken in Member States and an assessment of the effectiveness of the most important of them.

## **Compliance**

The powers under the Employment and Training Act 1973 and the Education Reform Act 1988 have been transferred to the Assembly and delegated to the Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning. There are no issues of regularity or propriety.

## **Financial Implications**

There are no additional financial implications for the Assembly arising from this advice as any expenditure will be accommodated within existing administrative costs budgets.

## **Action for the Committee**

To note as a basis for discussion

## **Contact Point**

Clive Jenkins

Training, Skills and Careers Policy Division (TSCP1).

