

Minister's Engagements from 27th February - 27th March 2003

27th February

SPCH - Launch of ILAs Event

3rd March

SPCH - Launch revised publication 'Bullying - a positive response'

VISIT - Tir-y-berth Primary School

ATTEND - Presentation by Nat Council-ELWa on their Planning & Funding Review

MTG - Eleri Wyn Lewis re: future BBC Educational strategies

SPCH - 'Transition & Special Needs at 14+' at NASEN Meeting

4th March

SPCH - Wales Annual Conference 2003

MEET - Canllaw competition winner

MTG - Cenydd Thomas/Dave Evans re: Financial Future of Boys & Girls Clubs of Wales

5th March

SPCH - WSSA Conference 'Future Schools'

SPCH - Launch of Wales Global Symposium

ATTEND - Cabinet 'Open Mic' Q&A Session

6th March

SPCH - Open Integrated (Early Learning) Centres

SPCH - Launch with Jane Hutt AM Brondyffryn Trust Appeal

SPCH - WLGA Education Executive Dinner

7th March

SPCH - Launch/Conference KS3 Materials

SPCH - Closing remarks at 'New Deal Participants into work in Wales Celebration Event'

10th March

SPCH - Launch 'Aim Higher Campaign'

VISIT - Ponthir VC Primary School

MTG - Charles Clarke MP and Peter Hain MP RE: Student Support

ATTEND - SEN Reception with the Blairs

12th March

MTG - Re: Future of the 2 E-Learning Groups

PRESENT - Schools Support Project Presentations

ATTEND - Mtg of Wales New Deal Task Force

MEET - Singaporean High Commissioner

13th March

PRESENT - Certificates at Science Week Events

SPCH - 'Have we moved on?' SEN RNIB Conference

VISIT - Student Counselling Service at Cardiff University

SPCH - Civic Dinner for 6th Form pupils of Torfaen

14th March

SPCH - CYDAG AGM

VISIT - Franksbridge County Primary School

VISIT - Cedewain Special School

VISIT - Welshpool High School

SPCH - NUS Conference

15th March

SPCH - NATFHE Conference

17th March

SPCH - Conference on Education for Sustainable Development

MTG - RNID re: update on latest work

SPCH - Launch of PE & School Sport Action Plan

MEET - Students re: REAL UK

ATTEND - Ebbw Vale Master-Plan presentation

MTG - YHA Wales

18th March

SPCH - Launch of 'TACADE'

MTG - Karen Sinclair AM & Mike Scott re: NEWI and HEFCW / HEFCE Funding/Cross Border Issues

19th March

SPCH - NASUWT Cymru Annual Conference

ATTEND - Production of 'The Queen Must Die'

20th March

ATTEND - Treasury & Cabinet Office Project to boost e-learning meeting

VISIT - Chepstow Comprehensive School

21st March

SPCH - Launch ALG with Colin Jackson

SPCH - Bridgend Fabian Society

24th March

SPCH - Basic Skills Agency post 16 - Quality Mark Conference

SPCH - Officially Launch New UWIC Learning Centre

MTG - Bi-annual with AUT/NATFHE/UNISON

MTG - Amnesty International Wales

26th March

SPCH - Launch Gwendraeth Community Website

MEET - Pontprennau residents

ELL COMMITTEE MEETING 27 MARCH 2003 MINISTER'S REPORT

UPDATE ON NGfL CYMRU

1 Introduction

NGfL Cymru was successfully launched on 30th January.

2. The Minister met with the Advisory Panel for ICT in Schools and the Cymru Ar Lein/ELWa E-Skills Group on 12 March.

The Chairs of the two groups gave an overview of work so far and their current positions. This formed the basis of the subsequent discussion.

In summing up the discussion, the Minister agreed that 'doing things twice' must be avoided at all costs. Co-operation was vital between the two groups to ensure that this did not happen. The learner centric approach was challenging – especially in the light of the way things had been done in the past. She emphasised that she was the 'Education *and* Lifelong Learning' Minister and that the 14-19 agenda would go some way to breaking down barriers. Learning should be fun and competence with ICT would come if it were sold as something which could provide enjoyment.

The e-learning strategy was, at present, a 'fluid' document and all parties needed to go through it carefully. By the summer a broad paper of principles on joint working between the two groups was needed to take to ELL Committee. The two groups needed to agree these principles and to define areas for joint working in the future and areas of individual focus, and ideas on how things could best be taken forward. Joint sub-groups dealing with particular issues were perhaps the best way of organising such joint activity. Presentations from the two groups would be needed for ELL Committee at that time.

3. Portal Development

Following the feedback from the soft and hard launches, Curriculum Data Wales (CDW) have continued to develop the portal with a range of additional information and resources being added in all areas. There are now some 1500 items of curriculum resource and information, supported by links to external sources of information.

Between the 12th of February and the 12th March 2003 the site has attracted some 9,500 visits, averaging 327 per day. The top three pages being:

- Schools in Wales
- Virtual Teachers Centre
- Good Practice

4. Content Development

The Field Officers who have been in post are active within LEA's and schools and have already identified a range of classroom materials that can be transferred. CDW are keen to ensure that only 'suitable' materials are published

on NGfL and that the Field Officers have a key role to play in quality assurance along with this group. Support from both LEA's and teachers has been extremely positive and there appears to be a strong will to support the principles of the project.

Links have also been made with colleges including UWIC and Trinity College and the field officers have already in some cases and will in others speak to tutors and students of PGCE courses. The support from the colleges has been extremely good and they are keen to ensure that students have access to the resources within NGfL Cymru as part of their training.

This half term the Field Officers are concentrating on working with the resources they have already identified within schools and developing, where appropriate, new resources. This is set in the context of continuing to liaise with LEAs and schools.

The key focus for resources will be Welsh 1st and second 2nd language targeted at numeracy, literacy, history, geography which are the areas where we currently have less resource.

Learntings Limited are to continue to develop new resources, focussed on Welsh needs, at an average rate of 20 per calendar month.

A productive meeting has taken place with ACCAC looking at the key issues relating to Quality Assurance and further meetings have been arranged with ACCAC subject officers to ensure cohesion between their work and that of NGfL Cymru.

5. Other Issues

Discussions have taken place with various organisations to explore the scope for joint working to enhance the resources within NGfL Cymru:

- Food Standards Agency Cymru (Education)
- The Met Office (Education)
- Meeting has been set up with the Welsh Language Board re. Athrowan Bro
- Meeting has been set up with the Welsh Books Council
- Wales Science Year – Agreed materials will be transferred to NGfL
- MathCymru – As above, once the project complete
- Photo Library Wales – This site provides access to thousands of quality images of Wales but publication of the images is subject to copyright. Photo Library Wales are prepared to licence the images to NGfL, which will allow all schools, teachers and pupils to use the images for education purposes without breaching copyright. Awaiting feedback from the Assembly on funding.
- WorldWideWales.TV – Again, a similar situation, but for the provision of video clips of a significant number of areas in Wales. Funding is the key issue.

BECTa are setting up a content sub-group with representation from England and the Celtic Countries. The Assembly have invited NGfL Cymru to attend the sub-group along with an Assembly representative.

In a visit to BECTa on the 17th Feb a range of issues were discussed including standards, Metadata and tagging and curriculum on-line. BECTa were extremely supportive and offered help as when required.

Meetings have taken place with the ADEW ICT and QA Groups and will continue on a regular basis. Both meetings were extremely useful and will influence the strategy development for the next 2 years.

A Consultative Group (Teachers Associations, ACAC, ESTYN and GTCW) met on 18th March.

Welsh-medium provision for children with special educational needs

Suggested Timetable:

April/May 2003	Formation of Welsh language sub-group of the Welsh Advisory Group on Special Educational Needs (WAGSEN). The sub-group to focus on strategic development of Welsh-medium provision and, where appropriate, the implementation of the Roberts report recommendations
June 2003	Consultation period commences for Speech and Language Action Group report. The report incorporates recommendations in respect of Welsh language issues
August 2003	Conclusion of National Steering Group for SEN in Wales audit of SEN provision (including Welsh-medium)
September 2003	National SEN Steering Group to work with WAGSEN sub-group, WLB, LEAs and others to develop policy recommendations
October 2003	Pupil Support Division SEN Conference with LEAs to include focus on Welsh-medium issues.

ASSEMBLY MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE ON 27 MARCH 2003

Completers of initial teacher training courses who subsequently did not take up teaching posts

1. The minutes of the ELL Committee on 27 February recorded the following query:-

"One Member asked for data concerning the number of people who completed ITT but who did not take up teaching posts in Wales. The Minister undertook to provide relevant data in her next report on 27 March."

2. No data is readily available which provides a complete summary of the number of people who complete initial teacher training but who do not take up teaching posts in Wales.

3. Published data on initial teacher training completers from Wales entering teaching is in a limited format. However, this does not demonstrate how many completers did not ever take subsequent teaching posts, but only how many were not in service one year on.

4. The last available figures published show that of 1,960 successful completers (both undergraduate and postgraduate) of initial teacher training courses in Wales in 2000, 830 (42.3%) were not in service in Wales and England on 31 March 2001. This compares with 21,800 completers in England for 2000, with 4,980 not in service on 31 March 2001 (22.8%).

5. Data on moves in to teaching posts needs to be considered alongside other factors, including the potential demand for teachers at any one time. The last published figures showed that teacher vacancies in Wales remain low – just 108 vacancies in maintained schools across the whole of Wales in January 2002. This gives a vacancy rate in Wales of only 0.4%, compared with 1.2% – 4,535 vacancies – in England. The recent General Teaching Council for Wales survey showed, for example, that each primary post in Wales advertised attracted over 20 applicants. A greater number of vacancies means that newly qualified teachers are likely to find it easier to find a permanent post straightaway (and thus be included in the statistics noted in paragraph 4) in England at present than in Wales.

6. It should also be noted that the data noted in paragraph 4 has considerable limitations which mean that the number of completers from 2000 in Wales who subsequently did not (or will not) take up teaching posts at all is likely to be noticeably lower than the published figure recorded above:-

- The published data only looks at service at one point in the following year. Successful completers from 2000 entering service after 31 March 2001 are not recorded.
- This data may also show some in service teachers as not in service because their service details are not recorded. These may include entrants to the

independent sector who are not in the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) and entrants to part-time service outside the maintained nursery, primary and secondary sector who are not in the TPS.

- Teachers who take up posts through private supply agencies and who are not in the TPS will also not be recorded.
- The Wales figure does not include those trained through the Open University who were from Wales (these are all recorded for England as the OU is accredited in England).
- The figures shown are provisional data and the numbers shown as in service may increase as a result of late receipt of annual service returns.

7. The available information is broken down as follows (it should be noted that all the figures quoted here and in paragraph 4 have been rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore may not necessarily sum):-

Successful completers of initial teacher training courses in Wales in 2000	In service in Wales at 31/03/01		In service in England at 31/03/01	
	Number	as a %age of those in service	Number	as a %age of those in service
Total (of 1,140 completers)	660	57.9	480	42.1
Maintained schools:				
Nursery and primary	230	20.2	240	21.1
Secondary	410	36.0	210	18.4
Special and PRU	-	-	-	-
FE, HE & Independent	20	1.8	30	2.6

Successful completers of initial teacher training courses in England in 2000	In service in Wales at 31/03/01		In service in England at 31/03/01	
	Number	as a %age of those in service	Number	as a %age of those in service
Total (of 16,820 completers)	80	0.5	16740	99.5
Maintained schools:				
Nursery and primary	10	0.1	7720	45.9
Secondary	70	0.4	8150	48.5
Special and PRU	-	-	80	0.5
FE, HE & Independent	-	-	780	4.6