

Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee

ELLS(2) 12-06(p1) Annex D

Welsh Medium Initial Teacher Training Review – Specification

Overview

1. Following a review of the provision of initial teacher training (ITT) in Wales, the Welsh Assembly Government has decided that one of the work areas needed to take forward changes in ITT provision in the light of the review is a more specific review to look at the future supply and demand issues for Welsh medium teachers.
2. This paper sets out the background to this work and details the terms of reference for the review.

Background

3. The Welsh Assembly Government commissioned Professor John Furlong to undertake a review of initial teacher training (ITT) provision in Wales in 2005. The review's terms of reference focussed primarily on how ITT course intake targets, courses and course availability might better deliver newly qualified teachers in suitable numbers appropriate to meet the needs of maintained schools in Wales. The review report was published on 12 January 2006 and is available at:-

<http://www.learning.wales.gov.uk/pdfs/itt-provision-wales-e.pdf>

4. A paper which set out how the Welsh Assembly Government intends to take forward changes in ITT provision in the light of the review report was published on 29 March 2006. The paper describes the principal components of an ITT Change Plan, which includes a short term change plan concentrating on the main issues which need to be addressed in 2006-07. A medium term change plan has also been included, which outlines a wide variety of issues which will need to be looked at beyond 2006-07.
5. A copy of the Welsh Assembly Government's paper ("Initial Teacher Training Provision – Next Steps") is attached. The ITT Change Plan for 2006-07 is at annex A to that paper.

Definitions

6. ITT is defined as covering courses at accredited institutions in Wales which lead to trainees meeting the Qualified Teacher Status (QTS) standards. It also includes training currently provided through employment based programmes in schools (the Graduate Teacher Programme and Registered

Teacher Programme) which lead to trainees meeting the QTS standards.

7. The Review will only be concerned with the needs of maintained schools in Wales and matters relating to the future supply and demand issues for Welsh medium teachers in those schools.

Overall requirements of the Review

8. The aim of the review is to examine the future supply and demand issues for Welsh medium teachers, and produce robust modelling methods to assist with better planning in setting intake targets for ITT courses to more effectively meet the likely future needs of maintained schools in Wales.

Related work

9. Improvements in teacher supply statistical work generally are being taken forward by the Statistical Directorate during 2006-07 – they will examine the Welsh data aspects of the Department for Education and Skills' Teacher Supply Model and the scope which might exist for enhancing both the inputs to and the outputs from the Model to add data (from both Assembly and external sources – e.g. the Higher Education Statistics Agency, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, the General Teaching Council for Wales's Register) which is more specific to and reflective of issues of concern in Wales.

Detailed terms of reference

10. Taking account of the Welsh Assembly Government's policies set out in its ITT Change Plan (see paragraphs 4 and 5 above) the Review should examine and make recommendations on:-

- (a) the development of clearer figures on the current and future demand for teachers able to teach through the medium of Welsh in maintained schools in Wales; and
- (b) the production of robust modelling methods to assist with better planning in setting intake targets for ITT courses to more effectively meet this demand.

11. In undertaking this work, the Review should examine and make recommendations on the following:-

- (a) what currently constitutes a defined "Welsh medium ITT course" – in particular, is there a definitive definition(s) which relate to a course where a trainee gains a certificate of competence in Welsh medium teaching; and are there other definitions in use for other purposes (e.g. supporting Welsh medium for funding or development purposes) – and advise whether a single / different standard(s) should apply for all Welsh medium ITT which produces trainees with certificates, and, if so, specify it/them
- (b) the existing statistical resources covering Welsh medium ITT and Welsh medium teachers – working particularly where necessary with the Assembly's Statistical Directorate, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the Higher Education Statistics Agency – and consider what additional and essential information can be realistically and practically collected to assist with Welsh medium ITT intake planning.

- (c) how statistical information and course definitions might be used in a robust modelling method to assist in planning for future Welsh medium ITT.
- (d) on what basis realistic and achievable indicative ITT course intake targets (to be used to help test the practicality of more detailed full targeting later on) might be produced for Welsh medium ITT as part of the overall intake target setting process. In doing so the review should consider in particular the practicalities of applying such targets to courses with small numbers and whether there would be any adverse effect on overall recruitment in trying to meet such targets.

Conduct of the Review

12. In undertaking this work, the Review should draw together new and existing evidence and invite submissions from relevant stakeholders within Wales, including the Assembly's Statistical Directorate, the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales, individual initial teacher training providers, the Universities Council for the Education of Teachers (Cymru), the Higher Education Statistics Agency, Higher Education Wales, Estyn, the General Teaching Council for Wales, and the Welsh Language Board.

Timing

13. The review should start on 14 September 2006 and report by 15 March 2007 at the latest.

Related issues outside the scope of the Review

14. The overall aim of the Review is to produce very specific and targeted results relating to Welsh medium ITT intake planning in a very short timescale. It should not attempt to go beyond this specific area as a further review is being planned for a later date to look at longer-term and more systemic Welsh medium issues such as what developments might be needed to ITT to take account of policy changes and to improve Welsh language skills and numbers. The Review should also not consider the marketing of teaching as a career or ITT promotional work, including teaching incentives.