

# Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

ELL(2)-10-04(p5)

**Date:** Wednesday 7 July 2004

**Venue:** Committee Rooms 3&4, National Assembly for Wales

**Title** Forward Work Programme - July 2004 to December 2005

## **Purpose**

The Committee is invited to agree the attached forward work programme.

It comprises two parts:

Part 1 The Strategic Programme for July 2004 to December 2005;

Part 2 The Detailed Forward Work Programme for Autumn 2004.

## **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

### **FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

#### **PART 1 : STRATEGIC FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME**

##### **July 2004 to December 2005**

1. Standing order 9.9 requires subject committees to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months. The Strategic Forward Work Programme sets out the Committee's priorities for the coming 18 months. It is complemented by detailed programmes covering around three months at a time.

2. In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio follows that of the Assembly Minister:

- Nursery and early-years education in Wales;
- Standards of school education in Wales, including the activities of Estyn;
- School organisation in Wales, including approval of school mergers and closures;
- Oversight of local education authorities in Wales;
- The National Curriculum in Wales;
- All matters relating to pupils with special educational needs;
- All activities of the Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales and matters relating to academic qualifications generally;
- Funding of foundation (previously grant-maintained) schools in Wales;
- Teaching standards in Wales, including via the General Teaching Council for Wales;
- Appraisal of teachers in Wales, but not their pay and conditions (Teachers' pay etc. is not devolved);
- Policy on further and higher education in Wales;
- All activities of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales and the National Council for Education and Training in Wales;
- Control of fees charged to students by higher education institutions in Wales (NB this is largely a matter of primary legislation – see the Teaching and Higher Education Act 1998. But the Assembly has the power in Wales to control 'supplementary' fees, e.g. in relation to use of laboratory equipment or field visits);
- Careers policy, including all activities of Careers Service companies;
- Youth services and youth issues generally;
- Provision and support of work-based and other vocational training in Wales;
- The inspection of training providers and careers service companies; and
- Provision of supply-side employment programmes, including the New Deal but excluding others provided by the Employment Service (not devolved).

1. The Committee's Responsibilities are set out in Standing Orders :

"9.7. Each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Minister is accountable to the Assembly;
- ii. keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- iii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

8. Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed primary, secondary and European legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO24;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 21;
- iii. perform its functions under Standing Order 23(complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 22; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

### The Committee's Aims and Objectives

4. The Committee's aim is to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation, to ensure that the people of Wales have access to a broad range of opportunities for education and lifelong learning. The Committee believes that education is the key to a fulfilling life and a prosperous nation.

5. In reviewing and developing policy, the Committee will make recommendations that will lead to high quality, cost effective services that are properly regulated and inspected.

### The Committee's Priorities

6. The Committee's strategic focus for the period of the forward work programme will be on the following issues which, together with its responsibilities under Standing Order 9.7 and 9.8, will be its priorities for meetings:

- Teacher's continuing professional development, particularly in relation to performance management;
- Provision for the implementation of recommendations stemming from the Committee's policy review of special educational needs;
- Iaith Pawb: the supply and development of teaching staff able to teach through the medium of Welsh;
- Post-16 provision, including school sixth forms;
- Higher Education, with particular regard to reconfiguration;
- Early Years provision;
- Primary legislation remitted by the Assembly:

Higher Education Bill;

School Transport Bill

- Secondary Legislation as identified by the Committee for scrutiny.

- Policy Reviews:

Special Educational Needs: early identification and intervention

Special Educational Needs: statementing process

Special Educational Needs: transition

School Transport

- Scrutiny of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies and other organisations:

National Council for Education and Training (ELWa)

Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)

Estyn (Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales)

ACCAC (Curriculum, Assessment and Qualifications Body)

General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW)

Careers Wales

### The Statutory Schemes

The Committee will also take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with the local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the sustainable development scheme. The Committee will also have regard to the requirements of the Race Relations Act.

The Committee will consider a report of the Assembly Minister's meetings with the Voluntary Sector at least once a year in accordance with section 3.7 of the Voluntary Sector Scheme.

## **EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

### **Part 2: Draft Detailed Forward Work Programme**

**Autumn Term 2004**

ELL(2)-11-04	Time	Topic
	9.15am - 10.00am	Minister's Report
21 September 2004	10.00 am - 11.00am	Draft Budget (Budget Planning Round) 2004
	11.00am - 11.15am	Break
	11.15am - 12.30pm	First consideration of Committee's draft report: Policy Review of SEN - Early Identification and intervention
		Paper to note: Report of Committee's rapporteur groups' visits to ASPBs and other relevant bodies

ELL(2)-12-04	Time	Topic
30 September 2004 (Optional Meeting)	2.00pm - 3.00pm	Second consideration of Committee's Draft Report: Policy Review of SEN - Early Identification and Intervention
	3.00pm - 4.00pm	Policy Review: School Transport - evidence gathering

ELL(2)-13-04	Time	Topic
	9.00am - 9.45am	Minister's Report
13 October 2004	9.45am - 10.30am	Ufi Cymru
	10.30am-10.45am	Break:
	10.45am - 12.30pm	Scrutiny of ASPBs and other organisations

ELL(2)-14-04	Time	Topic
	9.15am - 9.45am	Minister's Report
10 November 2004	9.45am - 10.15am	Extending Entitlement - Progress update
	10.15am - 10.30am	Break
	10.30am - 11.00am	Work Based Learning

11.00am - 11.30am	LEA Budget Statistics
11.30am - 12.30pm	Final - consideration of Committee's Draft Report: Policy Review of SEN - Early Identification and Intervention

ELL(2)-15-04	Time	Topic
18 November 2004  (Optional Meeting)	2.00pm - 4.00pm	Policy Review: School Transport - evidence gathering

ELL(2)-16-04	Time	Topic
	9.15am - 10.00am	Minister's Report
1 December 2004	10.00am - 10.30am	Children's Commissioner - Clwyd Report
	10.30am - 10.45am	Break:
	10.45am - 11.45am	Policy Review: School Transport - evidence gathering
	11.45am - 12.30pm	National Service Framework for Children