

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee Minutes (ELL2-08-05mins)

Meeting date: Wednesday 29 June 2005

Meeting time: 9.00am -12.38pm

Meeting venue: Committee Rooms 3 & 4, National Assembly, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Assembly Member	Constituency
Peter Black (Chair)	South Wales West
Christine Chapman (Deputy Minister)	Cynon Valley
Jeff Cuthbert	Caerphilly
Jane Davidson (Minister)	Pontypridd
William Graham	South Wales East
Mark Isherwood	North Wales
Irene James	Islwyn
Denise Idris Jones	Conwy
David Melding (Item 4)	South Wales Central
Janet Ryder	North Wales
Owen John Thomas	South Wales Central

Officials in Attendance

Name	Job title
Richard Davies	Group Director, Department for Training and Education (DfTE)
John Howells	Head, Higher Education Division

Judith Cole	Higher Education Division
Judith Nedin	Head, Business Systems Division
Alan Lansdown	Head, Pupil Support Division

Others in Attendance

Name	Representing	Agenda item
Professor Roger Williams	Chair, Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW)	2
Professor Philip Gummett	Chief Executive, HEFCW	2
Professor John Bull		2
Janet Kelly	Head Occupational Therapist, Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	4
Carolyn Dunford	Research / Clinical Specialist Occupational Therapist - Children's Services, Gwent Healthcare NHS Trust	4
Liz Withers	Policy & Campaigns Officer, National Autistic Society Cymru	4
Petula Storey	Head of Advocacy and Advice, National Autistic Society Cymru	4

Committee Service

Name	Job title
Chris Reading	Clerk
Holly Pembridge	Deputy Clerk
Daniella Holland	Support Officer
Joanest Jackson	Legal Adviser

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies, Substitutions, Quorum and Declarations of Interest

1.1 No apologies were received.

1.2 The Chair thanked Members who attended the visit to Scotland. The trip had been very informative and a note of the meeting would be circulated. The Chair suggested that the period for information gathering for the SEN review be extended through the autumn term, with consideration of a draft report early in the New Year. The Committee agreed to this proposal.

1.3 The current Clerk would be moving to a new post. Stephen George would replace him during the summer recess. The Chair extended his thanks on behalf of the Committee to Chris Reading for his support and service to the Committee.

1.4 The Chair also suggested that the Committee might undertake an additional fact-finding visit, to gain a wider perspective of SEN delivery outside of the UK. He asked that Members earmark 24-25 November 2005, in their diaries.

1.5 Jeff Cuthbert declared an interest in accordance with standing order 4.6 (for item 4); he was a governor of Trinity Fields Special School and Resource Centre, Ystrad Mynach.

1.6 A verbatim record of the meeting is available.

Item 2: Minister's Report (9.05-9.50am)

Paper: ELL2-08-05(p.1) and Annexes

2.1 The Minister introduced her report and then answered questions.

Item 3: Overview of Reaching Higher Strategy (9.50-10.55am)

Paper: ELL2 08-05(p.2) and Annexes

3.1 The Chair said that he was a member of the council of the University of Wales, Swansea and Denise Idris Jones said that she was a member of the council of the University of Wales, Bangor.

3.2 Professors Williams, Gummatt and Bull made short presentations and then answered Members' questions.

Item 4: Draft Forward Work Programme (11.15-11.20am)

Paper: ELL2 08-05(p.4)

4.1 The Committee ratified the forward work programme for the autumn term.

Item 5: Secondary Legislation Forward Look (11.20-11.21am)

Paper: ELL2-08-05(p.5)

5.1 The Committee noted the schedule of forthcoming legislation, and agreed to submit any suggestions for future scrutiny to the Clerk.

5.2 The Chair noted that the secondary legislation schedule would be re-circulated to Members due to an inadvertent omission.

Action

- Clerk to re-circulate the secondary legislation schedule

Item 7: Minutes of the previous meetings

Paper: ELL2-06-05(min) and 07-05(mins)

7.1 The Committee ratified the minutes of the meetings of 26 May and 8 June 2005.

7.2 Janet Ryder endorsed the earlier comments of the Chair regarding the outgoing Clerk's contribution to the work of the Committee.

Item 8: Policy Review of Special Educational Needs (Part 2)(11.22am- 12.38pm)

Papers: ELL2 08-05(p.3) and (p.3a)

8.1 The Chair welcomed David Melding, Chair of the Health and Social Services Committee, to the meeting. David Melding said that he was chair of the governing body of Meadowbank Special School, Cardiff and a trustee of Autism Cymru.

8.2 Janet Kelly and Carolyn Dunford spoke to a PowerPoint presentation. A copy of the presentation is available on the Committee's webpages. Liz Withers and Petula Storey made a short oral presentation. Presenters then answered Members' questions.