

Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN



12 May 2023

Implementation of education reforms

Dear Committee Members,

The FE sector was very pleased to welcome the recent £2.1m of funding from Welsh Government to support colleges in implementing the Additional Learning Needs (ALN) Act and carrying out their new duties. The implementation of an ALN system within post-16 education has provided a focus and an opportunity for colleges to improve the FE experience for young people. All thirteen further education institutions in Wales have been working hard to ensure that their provision will enable them to meet their new duties under the ALN Act.

However, the sector would like to emphasize that this is only a short term grant, and going forward there is a need for longer term, stable, sustainable funding arrangements to support colleges in effectively delivering their new duties. As highlighted in our response to the Finance Committee's consultation on the Welsh Government budget,¹ colleges have not been immune to the current financial challenges and intense cost of living pressures, therefore long term funding in this area will ensure that learners have the best educational experience, and open up opportunities for colleges to develop new partnerships within their communities. Colegau Cymru believes that all young people should have access to high-quality further education and training and that, wherever possible, this should be available within their own community.

The FE sector is keen to continue giving evidence to this ongoing inquiry, and looks forward to providing an update at the next 'check-in'. In the meantime, if we can provide any further detail on this specific matter, please don't hesitate to let us know.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Dave Hagendyk'.

Dave Hagendyk
CEO, Colegau Cymru

¹ <https://www.colleges.wales/en/blog/post/colegaucymru-highlights-plight-of-fe-sector-in-draft-budget-consultation-as-cost-of-living-pressure-intensify>

