

## Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee

### Report to Plenary under Standing Order 9.9:

#### Legacy Report - 2003 to 2007

#### Introduction

The Education Lifelong Learning and Skills (ELLS) Committee is one of the Assembly's seven subject committees. Prior to the change in Ministerial titles on 1 April 2006, the Committee was named the Education and Lifelong Learning Committee.

This report is made under Standing Order 9.9, which requires subject committees to report to the Assembly from time to time on their progress in fulfilling their work programme. The report is made separately from the Committee's [Annual Report for 2006-07](#), and includes key issues that any successor Committees may wish to consider during the Third Assembly.

Copies of all the Committee's reports, agendas, papers, minutes and transcripts of meetings can be found on the [National Assembly website](#).

#### Strategic Overview

#### Remit and Responsibilities

The Committee's remit has mirrored the portfolio of the Assembly Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. This portfolio covers amongst other things school, further education, higher education, skills development, the youth service and the careers service. The full remit at the end of the Second Assembly is attached as Annex 1.

The Committee membership is listed below:

Peter Black (Chair)	Liberal Democrats	South West Wales
Jane Davidson (Minister)	Labour	Pontypridd
Christine Chapman	Labour	Cynon Valley
Jeff Cuthbert	Labour	Caerphilly
William Graham	Conservative	South Wales East
Irene James	Labour	Islwyn
Janet Ryder	Plaid Cymru	North Wales
Owen John Thomas	Plaid Cymru	South Wales Central

The following Assembly Members have also served on the Committee during the Second Assembly: Leighton Andrews; David Davies; Mark Isherwood; Helen Mary Jones; and Denise Idris Jones.

#### Work and Achievements

The Committee met 60 times during the Second Assembly. It also met jointly with the Health and Social Services, Equality of Opportunity and Social Justice and Regeneration Committees on 27 January 2005, 13 March 2006 and 8 March 2007, to consider the Annual Reports of the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

The Committee met in Port Talbot in September 2005 and also held the launches of the policy review into Additional Educational Needs in Meadowbank Special School, Cardiff in November 2004 and Trinity Fields Special School, Ystrad Mynach in March 2007.

The Committee's aim over the four years has been to scrutinise the policies of the Welsh Assembly Government and to monitor their implementation to promote and encourage long term and sustained improvement in the quality of education in Wales, with an emphasis on extending high quality education and lifelong learning opportunities to all the people of Wales.

The work of the Committee during the Second Assembly can be found in the Committee's [Annual Reports to plenary](#).

### **Legacy to Successor Committees**

The Committee has identified the following issues as ones that successor Committees should consider as part of their work programmes during the course of the Third Assembly. These issues are not set out in any particular order of priority.

### **Scrutiny of Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies**

The Assembly Sponsored Public Bodies and other relevant bodies that are within the remit of the Committee are:

- **Estyn** – Estyn is the office of Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Education and Training in Wales. It is independent of, but funded by, the National Assembly for Wales under Section 104 of the Government of Wales Act 1998
- **The General Teaching Council for Wales** - The General Teaching Council for Wales (GTCW) is the statutory self-regulating professional body for the teaching profession in Wales
- **Higher Education Funding Council for Wales** - The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) was established in May 1992 under the Further and Higher Education Act 1992, to promote internationally excellent higher education in Wales, for the benefit of individuals, society and the economy, in Wales and more widely.
- **Careers Wales** - Careers Wales is an all-Wales service that gives people of all ages free careers information, advice and guidance. Funded by the Welsh Assembly Government, Careers Wales was set up in 2001 bringing together six careers companies across Wales under one name.

The Committee recommends that there should be continued monitoring of these organisations focussing in particular on:

- their corporate plans;
- scrutinising the performance of the body during the reporting period and considering priorities and challenges for future years; and
- how the body is working with the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (DELLS).

### **Department for Education Lifelong Learning and Skills**

During the Second Assembly a number of organisations' functions were merged with the Welsh Assembly Government to form an expanded Department for Education Lifelong Learning and Skills. These were:

- the National Council for Education and Training (ELWa);
- ACCAC (Qualifications, Curriculum and Assessment Authority for Wales)
- Dysg (previously the Welsh operation of the Learning and Skills Development Agency); and
- the Wales Youth Agency.

The Committee recommends that general monitoring of the Department's performance and delivery, following the merger of the Welsh Assembly Government and the bodies concerned, should be a continuing priority.

### **Scrutiny and monitoring of Higher and Further Learning**

The Committee recommends that within the area of Higher and Further Learning, particular attention should be paid to the following issues:

- The operation of the new Tuition fees and student support regime in Wales and the cap on fees post 2009.
- Proposals for Reconfiguration of the Higher Education Sector in Wales.
- Monitoring implementation and progress since the publication of the Graham Review<sup>1</sup> into part-time student support.
- Monitor and track progress of the Initial Teacher Training Change Plan following the publication of the Furlong Report<sup>2</sup>.
- Monitor the implementation of the review being Chaired by Sir Adrian Webb into the mission and purpose of Further Education in Wales in the context of the "Learning Country: Vision into Action"<sup>3</sup>.
- Monitor the progress of the availability of Welsh-medium provision in Higher Education.

### **Skills**

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<sup>1</sup> [Graham Review: Review of Part Time Higher Education Study in Wales – Welsh Assembly Government June 2006](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Furlong Report January 2006](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Consultation Document: The Independent Review of the Mission and Purpose of Further Education in Wales](#)

In the area of improving Skills, the Committee recommends that particular attention should be paid to the following issues:

- Monitor the progress and implementation of the 14-19 Learning pathways agenda.
- Monitor the implementation of the roll-out of the Welsh Bacalaureate.
- Monitor the progress of the Work Based Learning Action Plan.
- Monitor the availability and continuation of Community Learning.
- Monitor the implementation of the recommendations of the Leitch Report<sup>4</sup>.

### **Early Years and Schools**

In Early Years and Schools provision, the Committee recommends that particular attention should be paid to the following issues:

- Monitoring the review of the National Curriculum that is currently underway.
- Monitoring the implementation of the roll-out of Flying Start and the Foundation Phase, provision for 3 to 7 year olds.
- Monitor the progress of the current Government's target for all school buildings being fit for purpose by 2010.

### **Counselling and Advocacy**

- Monitor the implementation of policy and actions following recommendations from the Clywch Report<sup>5</sup>.
- Monitor the implementation of policy as a result of the Committee's recommendations made its policy review of Additional Educational Needs.

### **Iaith Pawb**

- Monitor progress of Iaith Pawb<sup>6</sup> – A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales within Education.

### **Workforce Planning**

- Monitor progress with regard to Continuing Professional Development

### **Consideration of Annual Reports**

- Chief Inspector for Education and Training in Wales; and
- the Children's Commissioner for Wales.

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<sup>4</sup> [Leitch Report: Review of Skills December 2006](#).

<sup>5</sup> [Clywch Report](#).

<sup>6</sup> [Iaith Pawb: A National Action Plan for a Bilingual Wales](#).

## Arrangements for Monitoring the Children's Commissioner's Annual Reports

Successor Committees will also wish to consider the particular scrutiny arrangements that should apply for monitoring the Children's Commissioner's Annual Reports.

In the Second Assembly monitoring was through a joint meeting of the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee, the Health and Social Services Committee, the Social Justice and Regeneration Committee and the Equality of Opportunity Committee.

At their meeting on 8 March 2007, the joint Committees agreed that it would be desirable in the third Assembly for the annual monitoring meeting to be carried out by a Committee of the whole Assembly. They also agreed that it would be desirable for a Children's Committee to be established in the Third Assembly to look at the range of cross-cutting issues that affect Children.

## Policy Reviews

The Committee has carried out a number of Policy Reviews during the Second Assembly. Successor Committees will wish to keep under review progress in implementing those recommendations accepted by the Assembly Government. The reviews concerned are:

- Additional Educational Needs:
  - Phase 1 – November 2004: Early Identification and Intervention<sup>7</sup>,
  - Phase 2 - May 2006: Statementing<sup>8</sup>
  - Phase 3 - March 2007: Transition<sup>9</sup>
- School Transport<sup>10</sup> – April 2005

In addition, successor Committee's will also wish to keep under review progress in implementing recommendations made by the Committee on School Funding in its report on school funding in Wales<sup>11</sup> (June 2006).

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<sup>7</sup> [Early Identification and Intervention November 2004](#)

<sup>8</sup> [Statutory Assessment Framework \(Statementing\) May 2006](#)

<sup>9</sup> [Transition March 2007](#)

<sup>10</sup> [School Transport May 2005](#)

<sup>11</sup> [School Funding Arrangements in Wales June 2006](#)

### The Committee's Portfolio

In accordance with s57(4) of the Government of Wales Act 1998, the Committee's portfolio mirrors 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;
- Powers relating to tuition fees and student support, conferred to the National Assembly by the Higher Education Act 2004;
- 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).