

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar:

Next steps for employability in Wales: skills development, the new 'Economic Contract' and preparing for the future

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 20th September 2018

Venue: Jurys Inn Cardiff, 1 Park Place, Cardiff CF10 3DN



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
John Griffiths AM, Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee and Chair, Cross-Party Group on Further Education (FE) and Future Skills
- 9.05 - 9.35 **The priorities for implementing the Employability Plan**
Senior speaker to be confirmed
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.35 - 10.35 **Implementing Working Wales - Improving skills and employment pathways in the Welsh economy**
What options are there for providing lifelong learning opportunities and upskilling the Welsh workforce? How should plans vary regionally, to address local skills shortages? How might the design and delivery of apprenticeships be improved to better meet the skills needs of key sectors and to create employment pathways for those who need them most? What steps can be taken to ensure that any new model of employment support both meets current skills gap and prepares Wales for future skills needs?
Jonathan Martin, Deputy Principal, Merthyr Tydfil College
Jane Lewis, Regional Partnership Manager, South West and Mid Wales Regional Skills Partnership
Jeff Protheroe, Director of Operations, National Training Federation for Wales
Iestyn Davies, Chief Executive, ColegauCymru
Dr Louise Bright, Director, Research & Business Engagement, University of South Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.35 - 10.40 **Chair's closing remarks**
John Griffiths AM, Chair, Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee and Chair, Cross-Party Group on Further Education (FE) and Future Skills
- 10.40 - 11.10 Coffee
- 11.10 - 11.15 **Chair's opening remarks**
Russell George AM, Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
- 11.15 - 12.05 **Assessing the new 'Economic Contract' for employers and the workforce, and promoting inclusive hiring practices**
How might employers be better incentivised to take responsibility for staff upskilling, morale and wellbeing? What role do trade unions play in producing a productive and healthy workforce? What steps might be taken to ensure all workplaces are inclusive, provide equal pay for equal work, and are free from workplace harassment? How might the Welsh Government seek to extend their Economic Contract beyond those employers who receive Government support, and ensure it is adopted across the Welsh economy?
Siân Cartwright, Head of Learning, Wales TUC
Gareth Parry, Chief Executive, Remploy
Josie Winter, Clinical Director, Advanced Clinical Solutions
Avril Lewis, Managing Director, ESTnet
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Preparing for the future - Brexit, automation and the green economy**
What will the Welsh economy look like in 10, 20, 50 years time? What is needed for Wales to achieve the aims of the Future Generations Act of wellbeing and prosperity for all, in the long-term? What should be the strategic priorities for Wales in building a resilient economy, anticipating future skills shortages and securing a flexible workforce? Are more radical ideas needed to take advantage of potential changes? What should be the priorities for seeking to future-proof the economy in Wales whilst also considering wider environmental, social and cultural priorities?
Professor Andrew Henley, Director of Research Engagement and Impact, Cardiff Business School; Co-Leader, Economic and Social Research Council Productivity Insights Network and Board Member, Institute for Small Business and Entrepreneurship
Professor Iain Donnison, Director, BEACON, Institute of Biological, Environmental & Rural Sciences, Aberystwyth University
Professor Paul Harrison, Interim Dean, Computing, Engineering and Science and Pro Vice-Chancellor for Research, University of South Wales
Jenni Edwards, Managing Director, ESC International
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Russell George AM, Chair, Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Wales