

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: The future direction of 14-19 education policy in Wales

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 20th March 2014

Venue: Radisson Blu Hotel Cardiff, Meridian Gate, Bute Terrace, Cardiff CF10 2FL



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Draft agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Arwyn Jones, Education Correspondent, BBC Cymru
- 9.05 - 10.15 **Options for the future of 14-19 education in Wales**
Aled Roberts AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Education Spokesperson, Welsh Liberal Democrats
Simon Thomas AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Education Spokesperson, Plaid Cymru
Angela Burns AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Shadow Minister for Education, Welsh Conservatives
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.15 - 10.45 **Delivering a national qualifications system for Wales**
Huw Evans OBE, Chair, Qualifications Wales Advisory Board, Welsh Government
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.45 - 10.50 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Arwyn Jones, Education Correspondent, BBC Cymru
- 10.50 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Byron Davies AM, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales
- 11.20 - 12.05 **Qualifications reform and changes to post-16 funding**
Will the proposed reforms to GCSE syllabuses improve public and employer confidence in the rigour of the qualifications? Should universities be asked to take a formal role in A-level course design, as is being developed in England? What measures can the Welsh Government take to ensure that the creation of a set of qualifications for Wales, distinct from those available in England, doesn't have a negative impact on access to universities and employment outside of Wales? How can recognition of the Welsh Baccalaureate be widened outside of Wales? Should Qualifications Wales - the new regulatory body for qualifications - also be responsible for awarding qualifications, if so what would be the implications and what lessons can be learned from the similar model operating in Scotland? Should the provision of vocational qualifications remain in-line with England and Northern Ireland on the 'three-country basis', as suggested in the 14-19 Qualifications Review, and if so will new qualifications being developed in England meet the standards deemed necessary by the Review? What will be the likely impact of the introduction of programme funding, as opposed to the per qualifications model? In what ways are cuts to Further Education college funding likely to affect provision?
Darren Evans, Chief Reporter, TES Cymru
Hugh Lester, Partnership Executive, WJEC
Christopher Parry, Headteacher, Lewis School, Pengam
Simon Pirotte, Principal, Bridgend College
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Quality options for all learners - the future for 14-19 Learning Pathways and Apprenticeships**
How likely is it that the Welsh Government will meet the goal - set out - in 2001, of "95% of young people by the age of 25 to be ready for high skilled employment or Higher Education by 2015"? What have been the most successful elements of the 14-19 Learning Pathways and what are the key remaining challenges? Have the concerns around definition and recognition of the Learning Coach role, noted in the 2008 evaluation, been suitably addressed? What are the causes of the recent falls in Welsh university applicants, and could changes to 14-19 Learning Pathways help address the trend? Should the redesigned Welsh Bacc be the basis of 14-19 learning in Wales - as suggested in the Review of 14-19 Qualifications - and if so should education providers be required to deliver the Welsh Bacc? What will the Welsh Government, local authorities, colleges and other education professionals need to put in place in order to successfully implement the proposed 'Youth Guarantee' of training opportunities for all young people over 16 by September 2015? Is there a case for raising the statutory education or training participation age in Wales in-line with the rise to 18 in England? What more can the Welsh Government do to promote Apprenticeships as a pathway for young people and increase participation amongst 16-19 year olds? What steps could the Welsh Government take to encourage the development of Higher Apprenticeships with equivalent value and esteem as degrees?
Professor Emeritus Danny Saunders OBE, Vice Chair, Forum for Access and Continuing Education
John Graystone, Chief Executive, CollegesWales
John Taylor, Chair, Careers Wales
Greg Dixon, Headteacher, Connah's Quay High School, Flintshire
Phil Bailey, Engineering Services Director, Mabey Bridge
John Fabes, 14-19 Network Coordinator, Cardiff Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Byron Davies AM, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales