Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar
The way forward for 14-19 learning in Wales: qualifications reform and the role of apprenticeships
Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 4th December 2012
Venue: Llandaff Suite, Park Inn, Mary Ann Street, Cardiff CF10 2JH
Agenda subject to change

FFORWM POLISÏAU CYMRU
POLICY FORUM FOR WALES

8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee

9.00 - 9.05 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Christine Chapman AM, Chair, Children and Young People Committee, National Assembly for Wales

9.05 - 9.35 **Key findings from the *Review of Qualifications 14-19***
Huw Evans, Chair, *Review of Qualifications 14-19*
Questions and comments from the floor

9.35 - 10.25 **The future for 14-19 qualifications**
Is a reduction in the number of different qualifications offered to 14-19 students necessary to improve clarity for employers and students? Do some courses in Wales lack credibility with parents, students, employers and universities, and if so does the Review address this? How has the Review addressed the changes to GCSEs, A-levels and vocational qualifications in England, and what are the possible implications of diverging from a shared set of qualifications with England? Should changes be made to the awarding of qualifications, such as moving to a system of one awarding body per subject or a single awarding body for Wales, particularly for any Wales-only qualifications? What would be the likely impact of the proposed regulator 'Qualifications Wales'? Are the current assessment procedures for qualifications appropriate, and what should be the role of coursework, teacher assessment and examinations? Has the introduction of the Welsh Baccalaureate succeeded in providing a 'more balanced curriculum' for 14-19 students alongside their traditional learning programmes, and what steps could be taken to strengthen the content of the Welsh Baccalaureate?
Gareth Pierce, Chief Executive, WJEC
Professor Ewart Keep, Deputy Director, ESRC Centre on SKOPE (Skills, Knowledge and Organisational Performance), Cardiff University
Greg Dixon, Headteacher, Connah's Quay High School, Flintshire
Professor April McMahon, Vice-Chancellor, Aberystwyth University
Bill Peaper, National Manager - Wales, Semta
Questions and comments from the floor

10.25 - 11.10 **The organisation of 14-19 learning and reducing the number of young people Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETs)**
Are school and college leavers, at either 16 or 18, broadly equipped with the appropriate skills employers or Higher Education Institutions require? In what ways should local authorities, schools and colleges collaborate more effectively to improve quality and choice of 14-19 provision for young people? Have the 14-19 Learning Pathway guarantees of access to a learning coach, personal support and careers guidance been effective in improving post-16 progression? What further steps could be taken to decrease the number of young people becoming NEET? Should the education participation age be raised to 18, in line with England?
Leon Patnett, Head of Policy and Strategy, Careers Wales
Kathryn Durbin, Group Manager, Post 14 Education, Training & Development, Bridgend County Borough Council
Mark Cichuta, General Manager, Cogent Power, Tata Steel
David B Jones, Principal and Chief Executive, Deeside College, Flintshire
Questions and comments from the floor

11.10 - 11.15 **Chairman's closing remarks**
Christine Chapman AM, Chair, Children and Young People Committee, National Assembly for Wales

11.15 - 11.40 Coffee

11.40 - 11.45 **Chairman's opening remarks**
Angela Burns AM, Shadow Minister for Education, Welsh Conservatives

11.45 - 12.05 **National Assembly for Wales Enterprise and Business Committee Inquiry into Apprenticeships in Wales - an overview**
Ken Skates AM, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales
Questions and comments from the floor

12.05 - 12.55 **Apprenticeships in Wales: increasing opportunities and improving numbers**
Has the Welsh Government's Young Recruits Programme been successful in encouraging employers to offer more apprenticeships? What further steps could the Welsh Government take to encourage more businesses, across a wider range of sectors and particularly SMEs, to provide apprenticeship opportunities for young people? How can examples of best practice from well-established apprenticeship providers be shared with other employers as recommended by the Enterprise and Business Committee? What more can be done to develop the Apprenticeship Matching service for both employers and students? Are the Pathways to Apprenticeships programmes effective for those unprepared or unable to find an apprenticeship place, and how can the programme be more closely linked to economic needs and demands within local areas, as recommended by the Enterprise and Business Committee? How effectively are the Welsh Government, employers and colleges working together to improve the perception of apprenticeships amongst students and their parents, in order to increase apprenticeship take-up? Are apprenticeships providing useful and transferable skills that benefit both the apprentice and employers? Will the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for Wales provide adequate minimum requirements for apprenticeship providers?
Arwyn Watkins, Chief Executive Officer, National Training Federation Wales (NTfW) and Managing Director, Cambrian Training Company
Trina Neilson, Chief Executive, Careers Wales
Glyn Jones, Chief Executive Officer, Grŵp Llandrillo Menai
Caroline Bowden, Learning and Development Officer, Bron Afon Community Housing
Sarah Gould, Project and Programme Manager, Lantra Wales
Questions and comments from the floor

12.55 - 13.00 **Chairman's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Angela Burns AM, Shadow Minister for Education, Welsh Conservatives
Jonny Roberts, Senior Producer, Policy Forum for Wales

This seminar is supported by **WJEC**

CBAC WJEC