

## Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

### ASSEMBLY MINISTER'S REPORT TO THE EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING COMMITTEE ON 13 JUNE 2001

This report updates the Committee on the specific issues upon which it wished to be kept informed since my previous report of 9 May. I also thought it would be helpful if I provide regular information to you about forthcoming items of secondary legislation. An indicative timetable to Summer recess is attached at **Annex A**. **Annex B** sets out my major engagements since the last report.

#### 1. Early Years Provision

Our report, "*Laying the Foundation: Early Years Provision for Three Year Olds*" recommended that I;

- i. commission an audit of current levels of provision and estimates of future demand which would form the basis for planning and development needs and cost implications; and
- ii. consider establishing an advisory panel to make recommendations on the development of the strategy and its implementation plan.

Both of these have been achieved.

Whilst the majority of the audit data has been received, a number are still outstanding. Officials are liaising closely with those local authorities to ensure the remaining data is returned as soon as possible. The data will then be analysed, summarised and presented to the next meeting of the Early Years Advisory Panel next week.

The Panel held its inaugural meeting on 25 April. I was pleased to be able to launch it and I look forward to attending further meetings. The Panel is made up of representatives of providers of both the maintained and non-maintained sector, training providers, ACCAC, Estyn, the Welsh Language Board, the Welsh Local Government Association together with others with an interest in developing provision in this area.

#### 2. ICT in Schools

The Committee's report on ICT in Schools was formally adopted by the Assembly in plenary on 13 March 2001. Work is currently in hand on the implementation of the principal three recommendations - setting up the Advisory panel, the ICT Task Force and NGfL Cymru. Officials have been exploring the most effective way of establishing each body having regard to available resources and the need to comply with the Code of Practice on appointments. I expect to make an announcement on the way forward shortly.

In terms of the report's wider recommendations on ICT provision in schools, I have recently approved proposals from local education authorities for rolling out the ICT for Learning strategy in their areas. These plans provide for the establishment of ICT suites and other facilities in over 240 schools across Wales and are expected to contribute to significant improvements in pupil-computer ratios from September onwards. A small working party is

being established with LEA representatives to look at monitoring and evaluation issues including the proposed ICT audit.

As previously agreed with the Committee, I will be providing a fuller report on progress with this initiative in July.

### **3. Initial teacher training – primary places**

I have indicated that we are proposing reductions in primary initial teacher training targets in Wales. This is partly because of reduced intake targets for Wales and England produced by the Teacher Supply Model, and partly because of the need to redress the balance of provision for primary training in Wales and England

The intake targets set each year for recruitment to initial teacher training are based on projections of the number of qualified teachers which are likely to be required in Wales and England. This is based on a supply and demand model developed by the Department for Education and Employment.

The modelling is used to determine the number of newly qualified teachers who need to complete initial teacher training courses in order to balance supply and demand in maintained nursery, primary and secondary schools in Wales and England. Targets for recruitment to initial teacher training are obtained by factoring in information about current teacher numbers, rates at which teachers leave the profession (both for retirement and other reasons), future pupil numbers, etc. Assumptions about in-course wastage, the balance between courses of different lengths, and various other factors are included as well.

The model makes no distinction between Wales and England. This is because the interlinked Wales and England teacher and initial teacher training markets, and the small size of Wales, means that information produced by the model for Wales alone would not be statistically valid. Because of this, the targets for Wales and England are separated towards the end of the process, nominally based on the number of teachers in each country.

The Teacher Supply Model currently predicts reduced demand for primary teachers for several years, based on demographic changes that will result in lower pupil numbers in the future. Because of the timelag between students entering initial teacher training courses and taking up teaching posts, the reduction in intake targets needs to be introduced now.

The Welsh primary teacher workforce is about 6.5% of the Wales and England total. However, the primary intake target for Wales over the last few years has gone above this, averaging about 8.5% of the total Wales and England intake targets. This means that we are training more than a proportionate share of the Wales and England market.

Changes therefore need to be made. If we did not alter the intake targets we would oversupply the primary teacher market, which would neither serve would-be teachers nor the wider education system. Continuing to produce a disproportionate share of primary teachers in Wales and England simply means expending money in Wales without benefit to Wales.

I recognise that it would cause difficulties if changes were made suddenly. We are therefore looking for a phased reduction in the number of places. I also recognise that we should not make reductions arbitrarily – we need to consider the effect on issues such as the provision

of Welsh medium places, the viability of courses, and so on. I have therefore asked to see proposals from the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales on how a series of managed reductions in primary provision could be introduced from 2002-03. Work on this is in progress.

#### **4. Corus: Education, Training and Employment Measures**

At the joint meeting of the Education and Lifelong Learning and Economic Development Committees on 23 May, I undertook to provide regular reports of the activities undertaken by the Employment Service, Careers Wales and ELWa for those affected by the Corus redundancies.

Uncertainty about which individuals will be made redundant has resulted in a high percentage of the early enquiries being of a general nature. The Employment Service had received almost 3,000 enquiries as at 1 June, which resulted in over 400 referrals for specialist advice to Careers Wales, and a similar number to ELWa. Once redundancy notices have been issued, the most appropriate level of support can be targeted precisely.

Despite the uncertainty, alternative employment has already been secured for 30 individuals and more are anticipated shortly. The Employment Service and ELWa are discussing other opportunities with a number of larger employers. Training opportunities have been offered to 29 individuals, as well as recruitment subsidies to encourage new employers to take on redundant individuals, and travel subsidies and other assistance to help those intending to set up in business. Examples of the training courses being taken up range from HGV driving, code welding, forklift truck driving, driving instructor training and various levels of Information and Communication Technology.

#### **5. Physical Education and School Sport**

The PE and School Sport Task Force has produced its report and I am broadly content with its recommendations. I am issuing the Task Force report for consultation this month, and a copy together with the consultation letter has been circulated to the Committee to note.

I believe in the importance of PE and school sport and the vital contribution that it makes to maintaining children's health and physical fitness. I am, therefore, making £500,000 available this year to take forward a number of the recommendations in the report - including the development of programmes for the continuing professional development of all teachers and the establishment of pilot Curriculum Development Centres to identify, strengthen and develop good practice in physical education and school sport. A National PE and School Sport Co-ordinator will be appointed, supported by a Steering Group, to oversee this work and develop plans for implementation of other areas of the Report.

#### **6. Education and Youth Council**

I attended on 28 May both the Education and Youth Councils in Brussels alongside the lead UK Minister and spoke in particular at the Youth Council in strong support of the Commission's proposal to publish a White Paper on Youth later this Autumn. This was a message that I

reinforced the following day in an extremely productive meeting with the Commission's Education Commissioner, Mrs Viviane Reding. During my meeting I invited her to visit Wales later this year and agreed that I would consider with my ministerial colleagues from England, Scotland and Northern Ireland whether during that visit it might be possible to hold a major Youth Summit in Wales at which she could formally launch her White Paper in the UK. I am hoping to meet my ministerial colleagues in the next week or so to discuss this possibility and also other key issues affecting both Youth and our future handling of education issues with the European Commission. With our increasingly divergent policies on a number of aspects of education and youth I believe it is vital that we review how we present a unified UK line at such Councils in the future.

## Annex A

### Legislative programme Standing Order 22 (Assembly General Subordinate Legislation)

#### indicative timetable to summer recess

Title	Intention of the legislation	Projected timetable			Comments
		Business Committee	Legislation Committee	Plenary	
The Education (School Government) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To rectify inadvertent omissions, correct drafting errors and clarify certain provisions of the Education (School Government) (Wales) Regulations 1999			19 June 2001	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate
The Parent Governor Representatives (Wales) Regulations 2001	To replace the 1999 Regulations in light of the Local Government Act 2000, requiring the election of parent governor representatives to scrutiny committees			26 June 2001 To be re-timetabled with a view of making the Regulations in the next session	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate
The Inspection of Education and Training (Wales) Regulations 2001				28 June 2001	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate

Title	Intention of the legislation	Projected timetable			Comments
		Business Committee	Legislation Committee	Plenary	
The General Teaching Council for Wales (Functions) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To allow GTCW to record on its register terms of any disciplinary order that it imposes	5 June 2001	19 June 2001	5 July 2001	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate ELL committee informed of proposals and invited to comment on 21 March 2001
Teacher Training Incentive (Further Education) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To introduce new payments for students undertaking PGCE training at certain Teacher Training colleges	5 June 2001	19 June 2001	10 July 2001	Standard procedure - resolution in plenary with debate
The Education (School Day and School Year) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To extend the period in which schools are able to utilise additional INSET days for the purpose of performance management training	5 June 2001	19 June 2001	10 July 2001	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate
The Learning and Skills Act 2000 (Commencement No 4) (Wales) Order 2001	To further commence the Learning and Skills Act 2000 in Wales	12 June 2001	26 June 2001	10 July 2001	Accelerated Procedure - resolution in plenary without debate
Title	Intention of the legislation	Projected timetable			Comments
		Business Committee	Legislation Committee	Plenary	
The Education (Foundation Bodies) (Wales) Regulations	To provide for formation of foundation body groups as well as	12 June 2001	26 June 2001	17 July 2001	Accelerated procedure – resolution in plenary without debate

2001	schools leaving groups and for the winding up of Foundation Bodies				
The Education (Change of Category of Maintained Schools) (Wales) Regulations 2001	To lay down procedures which will enable maintained schools to change from one category to another	12 June 2001	26 June 2001	17 July 2001	Accelerated procedure – resolution in plenary without debate
The Education (Assisted Places) (Incidental Expenses) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001				19 July 2001	
The General Teaching Council for Wales (Additional Functions) (Amendment) (Wales) Order 2001	To allow GTCW to keep information on disciplinary orders on those whom for a variety of reasons can not be included on the GTCW's register of teachers	5 June 2001	5 July 2001		Accelerated Procedure – resolution in plenary without debate  ELL committee informed of proposals and invited to comment on 21 March 2001
Title	Intention of the legislation	Projected timetable			Comments
		Business Committee	Legislation Committee	Plenary	
The Education (Assisted Places) (Amendment) (Wales) Regulations 2001				19 July 2001	





## **Annex B**

### **JANE DAVIDSON, AM: OFFICIAL ENGAGEMENTS – 10 MAY to 13 JUNE 2001**

#### **11/5**

Speech – Glan Lloyd Awards Ceremony, Bryn Celynnog Comprehensive School, Beddau

Speech – Student Community Action Conference, Builth Wells

#### **12/5**

Speech – Community & Youth Workers Union Annual Conference, Plymouth

#### **14/5**

Meeting – Ufi Cymru, Cardiff

Speech – Objective 1 Lifelong Learning Project, Burton's Biscuits, Cwmbran

#### **15/5**

Speech – Common Purpose, UWIC, Cardiff

Speech – NIACE Dysgu Cymru Adult Learners' Week, Neuadd

Meeting – Professor Sir John Cadogan, Assembly

#### **16/5**

Visit – Amelia Trust Farm, Llancarfan

Visit – Cowbridge School

Visit – Llantwit Major School

Meeting – Dutch Ambassador, Assembly

Meeting – Cardiff Chamber of Commerce Trade & Industry, Assembly

Speech – Rhondda Cynon Taff Governors' Association, Coed-y-lan School, Abercynon

#### **17/5**

Speech – Dotcom-kidz Awards Ceremony, Assembly

#### **18/5**

Speech – Swansea Skills Service

Speech – NIACE Dysgu Cymru Adult Learners' Awards Ceremony, Swansea

#### **21/5**

Meeting – Dyscovery Centre, Assembly

Meeting – Baroness Helena Kennedy, QC, British Council, CP

**22/5**

Meeting – NATFHE, Assembly

**23/5**

Speech – Cardiff CCET, Millennium Stadium

Meeting – Steiner Teacher Training & Kindergartens in Wales, Assembly

Meeting – HMI, PE in Schools Task Force, Assembly

**24/5**

Meeting – Canadian High Commissioner, Assembly

Speech – Wales education 2001 Conference, Cardiff

Speech – Welsh Language Board European Year of Languages, Cardiff

Speech – Special Headteachers Conference, Llandrindod Wells

**25/5**

Meeting – CBI Business Breakfast, Swansea

Speech – Fforwm Annual Conference, Hensol

**28/5**

Meeting – UKrep, Brussels

Meeting – Education Council, Brussels

Meeting – Youth Council, Brussels

**29/5**

Speech – STORM (Self-confidence Training Opening up Recreation Motivation) Conference, Brussels

Visit – Wales European Centre, Brussels

Meeting – Commissioner Reding, Brussels

**30/5**

Interview – TES, Assembly

**4/6**

Visit/Meeting – Carmarthen College & CCET, Llanelli

Visit – Burry Port Infants' School

**6/6**

Visit – Llwynu Infants' School, Abergavenny

Meeting – Vale of Glamorgan CCET, Rhose

Visit – Grangetown Nursery School, Cardiff

Meeting – Ethnic/EO Groups, Assembly

Meeting – ACCAC, Assembly

Meeting – Enid Rowlands, ELWa, Assembly

**7/6**

Meeting – Quality Assurance Authority for HE, Assembly

**8/6**

Speech – ACCAC IIP Awards, Cardiff

Visit – Corus Advice Centre, Llanwern

Visit – Corus Advice Centre, Ebbw Vale

**!3/6**

Visit – Barry College

Meeting – School Teachers' Review Board, Assembly

Video-conference launch – ELWa/Coleg Powys, Assembly

Meeting – Association of University Teachers, Assembly