

Equality of Opportunity Committee

Minutes (EOC(3)-08-08)

Date: Wednesday 4 June 2008

Time: 9.00 – 11.35

Venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Ann Jones (Chair), Vale of Clwyd
Eleanor Burnham, North Wales
Christine Chapman, Cynon Valley
Chris Franks, South Wales Central
Mark Isherwood, North Wales
Bethan Jenkins, South Wales West
Nick Ramsay, Monmouth
Joyce Watson, Mid and West Wales

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Tom Jackson, Clerk
Claire Griffiths, Deputy Clerk
Helen Roberts, Legal Adviser

Others in Attendance

Jane Hutt, Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
John Griffiths, Deputy Minister for Skills
Dr Dennis Gunning, Head of Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills
Mair Watkins, Head of Additional Learning Needs Branch
Bob Waller, Head of Skills Policy, Employability and Knowledge Transfer.
Ann Evans, Head of Qualifications and Learning Division
Fran Targett, Citizens Advice Cymru
Mark Freeman, Careers Wales

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed Committee Members and members of the public.

Apologies were received from Angela Burns and Huw Lewis. Nick Ramsay substituted for Angela Burns.

1.2 The Chair advised that a motion was scheduled to be taken in plenary later today to elect Nick Ramsay to the Committee in place of Angela Burns. She added that she had written to Angela Burns thanking her for her contribution.

Item 2: Service Provision for Disabled Young People

Paper: EOC(3)-08-08(p.1)

2.1 The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills gave an update to her paper and responded to Member's questions.

Action Points

Committee to consider whether to look at the results of the pilot (scheduled to end in March 2009) into community transport concessionary fares initiative.

Committee to consider whether to examine the report on the implementation of the direct payment scheme arrangements.

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills agreed to send the Employers Engagement Task Force Report (published in January 2008) to the Chair.

The Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills agreed to send details of the Want to Work statistics to the Chair.

The Chair to request a further update from the Minister on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee Report – Service Provision for Disabled Young People – in January 2009.

Item 3: Inquiry into Migrant Workers

Paper: EOC(3)-08-08(p.2)

3.1 Chris Franks declared that his wife is involved with ESOL training.

3.2 The Deputy Minister for Skills gave an update to his paper and responded to Member's questions.

Action Points

The Deputy Minister for Skills agreed to write to the Chair regarding the cost of subscribing to the UK NARIC database.

The Deputy Minister for Skills agreed to write to the UK Government to ascertain whether the UK NARIC figures can be disaggregated to show usage from Wales.

Item 4: Inquiry into Migrant Workers

Paper: EOC(3)-08-08(p.3)

4.1 The Chair welcomed Fran Targett from Citizens Advice Cymru and Mark Freeman from Careers Wales. The panel responded to Members' questions.

Action Points

The Chair to write to the Minister for Social Justice and Local Government to ascertain what communication he has had with the UK Government on the issue of a Fair Employment Commission.

Fran Targett agreed to provide statistical evidence of vulnerable people employed in non-regulated areas (hospitality and cleaning).

Fran Targett agreed to send a briefing paper to the Chair on the Legal Service Commission and its implications.

Mark Freeman agreed to write to the Chair with further details of the British Regional Information Training Scheme run by Coleg Llandrillo.

Mark Freeman agreed to write to the Chair advising whether Careers Wales will make representations to the UK Government about the establishment of a Fair Employment Commission.

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