

Petitions Committee – Briefing Paper

PET(3)-13-10: 2 November 2010

Part 1: Evidence Sessions: Work Based Learning for vulnerable young people

Evidence Session 1 – Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning

The committee will take evidence from the following witnesses as part of its inquiry into Work Based Learning for vulnerable young people:

- Leighton Andrew, Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning
- Teresa Holdsworth, Deputy Director of Business and Skills Division, Welsh Assembly Government
- Andrew Clark, Acting Deputy Director, Higher Education & Further Education Policy, Welsh Assembly Government
- Caroline Turner, Deputy Director, Expert Services

The inquiry has arisen from the committee's consideration of a petition submitted by Action for Children.

The Minister will also answer questions in relation to petition P-03-170 Mencap Cymru – Petition to increase the number of people with a learning difficulty employed by the public sector in Wales.

The witnesses have provided additional information which is provided in annex 1.

Evidence Session 2 – Job Centre Plus and Department for Work and Pensions

The committee will take evidence from the following witnesses as part of its inquiry into Work Based Learning for vulnerable young people:

- Linda Badman, Director, Job Centre Plus Wales
- June Price, Welsh Assembly Government Liaison Manager/Future Jobs Fund Manager, Job Centre Plus Wales
- Rowan Foster, Young People's Employment Division, Department for Work and Pensions

The witnesses have provided additional information which is provided in annex 1.

P-03-270 – Action for Children

Petition wording

We call on the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Welsh Assembly Government to provide more work based learning provision that better meets the needs of more vulnerable young people, that really moves them on and ensures they achieve at least NVQ2 level qualifications. We would particularly like to see more provision for homeless young people seeking training who are not in the care of a local authority.

Link to the petition: <http://www.assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/admissible-pet/p-03-270.htm>

Petition raised by: Action for Children / Gweithredu dros Blant

Number of signatures: 1 (the petition was submitted as an organisation)

Previously considered by the Committee on: 19 January, 23 March, 11 May, 25 May, 15 June, 29 June, 28 September and 12 October 2010

P-03-170 MENCAP Cymru - Petition to increase the number of people with a learning difficulty employed by the public sector in Wales.

Petition wording

We call upon the National Assembly for Wales to urge the Assembly Commission and the Welsh Assembly Government to take a lead in employing more people with a learning disability, and to encourage other public sector employers, such as the NHS and Local Authorities, to employ more people with a learning disability

Only 1 in 10 people with a learning disability who want to work are in any form of paid employment. This is unfair.

Link to petition: <http://assemblywales.org/gethome/e-petitions-old/eform-sign-petition-old/p-03-170.htm>

Petition raised by: MENCAP Cymru

Number of signatures: 134

Previously considered by the Committee on: 13 January, 10 February, 19 May, 7 July, 22 September, 10 November 2009, 15 June and 28 September 2010.

Part 2: New petitions

This section provides brief background information on petitions to be given initial consideration by the Committee on 2 November 2010.

1. P-03-303 Against Homophobic Bullying

Petition wording

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue compulsory guidance to all schools (faith, state or private) concerning homophobic bullying. We strongly urge that changes are implanted quickly and urgently.

Background

This petition was raised by Oliver Townsend and collected 440 signatures by 26 October. In accordance with Committee procedures the Chair has written to the Minister for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning . A copy of this letter is included below.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Leighton Andrews AC/AM
Minister for Children, Education and
Lifelong Learning
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-303

27 October 2010

P-03-303 Against Homophobic Bullying

The Petitions Committee has received a petition from Oliver Townsend which had collected 440 signatures by 26 October:

We, the undersigned, call on the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to issue compulsory guidance to all schools (faith, state or private) concerning homophobic bullying. We strongly urge that changes are implanted quickly and urgently.

The committee would like to know your views on the issues raised by the petition and would particularly like to hear whether you plan to introduce any compulsory guidance for schools addressing the issue of homophobic bullying.

Many thanks for your consideration of this petition.

Yours sincerely

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

2. P-03-304 Amendment to the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

Petition wording

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to amend the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, so that the definition of the nearest suitable school for the purposes of provision of free/subsidised transport includes a reference to the fact that it provides the Welsh Curriculum/Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

Background

This petition was raised by Councillor Arfon Jones and collected 17 signatures by 26 October. In accordance with Committee procedures the Chair has written to the Deputy First Minister. A copy of this letter is included below along with additional information provided by the petitioner.

Y Pwyllgor Deisebau

Petitions Committee

Ieuan Wyn Jones AC/AM
Deputy First Minister
Welsh Assembly Government
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

Our ref: P-03-304

27 October 2010

P-03-304 Amendment to the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008

The Petitions Committee has received a petition from Councillor Arfon Jones which had collected 17 signatures by 26 October:

We the undersigned call upon the National Assembly of Wales to urge the Welsh Government to amend the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008, so that the definition of the nearest suitable school for the purposes of provision of free/subsidised transport includes a reference to the fact that it provides the Welsh Curriculum/Cwricwlwm Cymreig.

The petitioner provided additional information which is included below. The Committee would welcome your views on the issues raised by the petition, and specifically, if the Welsh Government plan to propose any amendments to the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008.

Many thanks for your consideration of this petition.

Yours sincerely

Christine Chapman AM
Chair, Petitions Committee

Enc: Additional information provided by the petitioner

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Ffôn / Tel: 029 2089 8998
E-bost / Email: petition@wales.gov.uk

Gwybodaeth ychwanegol:

Mae gwahaniaethau sylweddol rhwng y Cwricwlwm Cymreig a'r cwricwlwm yn Lloegr, er enghraifft, y Cyfnod Sylfaen a Bagloriaeth Cymru, a dylai Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru a'r Cynulliad Cenedlaethol ynghyd â'r Awdurdodau Lleol yng Nghymru, geisio annog rhieni a phlant i gael eu haddysg yng Nghymru, ac os y byddant yn gwrthod, ei fod yn syml yn ddewis y rhieni ac ni ddylai Awdurdodau Lleol yng Nghymru fod o dan ddyletswydd i gludo plant i ysgolion y tu allan i Gymru'

Additional information:

There are significant differences between the Welsh Curriculum and the curriculum in England for example the Foundation phase and the Welsh Bacc and the Welsh Assembly Government and the National assembly together with Welsh Local Authorities should seek to encourage parents and children to be educated in Wales and if they decline it should be a purely parental choice and Welsh LA's should be under no obligation to transport children to schools outside Wales

**Committee Service
October 2010**