

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee - 22 September 2004

Learning Pathways 14-19

1. Introduction

1.1 This paper provides the Committee with an update on developing a distinctive 14-19 strategy for Wales, and provides Members with the opportunity to comment on the published Learning Pathways 14-19 Guidance.

2. Background

2.2 'The Learning Country' set out the issues for Wales in developing appropriate provision for all our young people, especially between the ages of 14-19. The Welsh Assembly Government's proposals for making this happen were set out in 'Learning Country: Learning Pathways 14-19' (October 2002), and in 'The 14-19 Action Plan' (April 2003). The target is that "95 per cent of young people should be ready for high skill employment or higher education by 2015".

2.3 Since the publication of the Action Plan we have taken forward the preparation of the Learning Pathways 14-19 Guidance. This has involved wide-ranging consultation with partners from education, training and employment (over 170 individuals were involved in the various task and finish groups) - and young people (150 were involved in 3 regional events. The 14-19 project has been cited as an exemplar of real partnership in action and the Guidance has been welcomed across all sectors.

2.3 The Welsh Assembly Government published an Internet-only version of the Guidance on 9 July 2004. The Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning launched a hard copy version in Bangor on 13 September 2004. Members of the Committee have been provided with a copy. The Guidance will be updated as Learning Pathways 14-19 rolls out in the coming years.

3. The Key Elements of Learning Pathways 14-19

Learning Pathways		
1	INDIVIDUAL LEARNING PATHWAY	Individually tailored learning pathway leading to appropriate qualifications and awards of credit, recognised learning at the right level (s) at the right time for the learner to meet needs, aptitudes and interests and running from 14-19 and beyond

2	WIDER CHOICE AND FLEXIBILITY	Wider choice of relevant options from a range of domains, and greater flexibility to vary speed and direction of pathway
3	CORE OF LEARNING	Learning gained from wide range of experiences and opportunities according to interest to develop key and wider essential skills
Support For Learners		
4	LEARNING COACH	Entitlement to learning support – opportunity to discuss learning and progress on regular basis
5	PERSONAL SUPPORT	Access to personal support when needed – self-referral or by agreement with learner, referral by someone else, eg. mediation work, anger management
6	CAREERS ADVICE AND GUIDANCE	Impartial careers advice and guidance

4. The Benefits

4.1 Learning Pathways will:

- contribute to an improvement in the proportion of 16 year olds with level 2 qualifications and the proportion with level 3 qualifications at 19
- impact positively on the number of young people leaving full time education with no or few qualifications;
- support an improvement in the proportion of 16 year olds progressing to further learning, full time or work-based;
- mean more young people achieve their potential;
- provide a positive focus on achievement where young people's success is celebrated
- support young people's capacity to be more independent, make choices and participate in the democratic process
- impact positively on basic skills, workforce skills and sustainable employment, enhancing employment opportunities and contributing to an increase in real GDP and a reduction in poverty
- impact positively on reducing anti-social behaviour

5. Funding in 2004-05

5.1 £1.1 million has been secured to support the development of 14-19 Networks in each local authority area. A further £240,000 has been secured to fund pilots in the key areas of: Learning Coach; Personal Support; Work Focused Experience; and Community Participation. The results of the pilots will be fed

into the Guidance.