

Education and Lifelong Learning Committee

ELL2-02-05(p.7)

Policy Review: Special Educational Needs (Stage 2)

Terms Of Reference and Programme

Terms of Reference

The Committee will:

- Examine how local education authorities are having regard to the requirements of the SEN Code of Practice for Wales, concerning assessment and statements;
- Examine the implications of the distinction between those children and young people with SEN who have a statement, and those who have not;
- Examine how local education authorities create positive incentives for schools to review their policy and practice, to ensure that all children and young people with SEN benefit from inclusive education;
- Examine how local education authorities and schools provide parents with assurance that their children's needs are being met;
- Identify best practice in multi-agency working in the assessment of SEN;
- Consider whether the current assessment framework makes the best use of skills and resources - both human and financial;
- Examine the provision of advice and support through the medium of Welsh, concerning assessment and statements; and
- Make recommendations to the Assembly Minister on how current arrangements for assessing SEN could be improved.

Programme

The Committee will:

- Agree terms of reference and provisional programme in January 2005;
- Carry out a written and web-based public consultation during spring 2005;
- Gather evidence, including formal presentations and informal visits, between April and July 2005;
- Clerk to prepare a draft report during the summer recess;
- Consider draft report during the autumn term; and
- Publish report and hold a plenary debate before Christmas 2005.