

Rural Development Sub-committee

Minutes (RDC(3)-05-08)

Date: 17 April 2008

Time: 13:10 - 15:15

Venue: Committee Room 3, Senedd, Cardiff Bay

Assembly Members in Attendance

Alun Davies (Chair), Mid and West Wales
Lorraine Barrett, Cardiff South and Penarth
Mick Bates, Montgomeryshire
Alun Ffred Jones, Arfon
Brynle Williams, North Wales

Committee Service

Claire Morris, Clerk
Joanne Clinton, Deputy Clerk

Others in attendance

Iain Walsh, Director, Economy and Labour Market Policy Division, Department for Work and Pensions
Linda Badman, Director, Jobcentre Plus Wales
Hayley Dunne, Business Development Officer, Chwarae Teg
Dr Brech'ed Piette, Director, Gaining Work, Learning and Advice project, and Head of Lifelong Learning, Bangor University
Ian Thomas, National Development Officer, Citizens' Advice Bureau Cymru
Jonathan Edwards, Public Affairs Officer, Citizens' Advice Bureau Cymru
Suzanne Gainard, Carmarthen Citizens' Advice Bureau
Simon Harris, Chief Executive, Wales Co-operative Centre

Item 1: Introduction, Apologies and Substitutions

1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Item 2: Inquiry into poverty and deprivation in rural Wales: evidence session on economically inactive

2.1 The Chair welcomed Iain Walsh from the Department for Work and Pensions, Linda Badman from Jobcentre Plus Wales, Hayley Dunne from Chwarae Teg and Dr Brech'ed Piette from Bangor University, to the meeting and invited them to introduce their written submissions. Members questioned the witnesses.

2.2 Linda Badman agreed to provide details of the rural locations in which Jobcentre Plus Wales operated specific community-based services and the partners with whom it worked to provide this support.

2.3 Hayley Dunne agreed to provide a comparison of the number of women in work currently against the situation 15 years ago, when Chwarae Teg was formed, and to provide further information on its research and projects. Dr Brech'ed Piette was also invited to provide more information on the GWLAd project.

Item 3: Inquiry into poverty and deprivation in rural Wales: evidence session on economically active

3.1 The Chair welcomed Ian Thomas and Jonathan Edwards from Citizens' Advice Bureau Cymru, Suzanne Gainard from Carmarthenshire Citizens' Advice Bureau, and Simon Harris from the Wales Co-operative Centre, to the meeting and invited them to introduce their written submissions. Members questioned the witnesses.

3.2 Ian Thomas was asked to provide information on the costs in rural areas of running a car to access employment.

3.3 Simon Harris agreed to provide examples of the range of co-operatives currently operating in rural Wales.