

Date: Friday 11 May 2001
Time: 10.00am to 12.55pm
Venue: Ucheldre Centre, Holyhead

REPORT BACK FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

1. Following the meeting held on 26 January the Chair wrote to the Minister for Education and Life-long Learning summarising the main points that came out of the Committee's discussion of the development of the Assembly's policy on supporting young people. A copy of the Chair's letter is at annex 1.
2. The Minister for Education and Life-long Learning replied on 28 February. A copy of the reply is at annex 2.
3. The Committee is invited to note the correspondence.

Committee Secretariat

April 2001

Annex 1



Image16.gif (50487 bytes)

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Education and Life-long
Learning
National Assembly for Wales

**Pwyllgor Rhanbarth y Gogledd
North Wales Regional Committee**

Bae Caerdydd / Cardiff Bay
Caerdydd / Cardiff CF99 1NA

14 February 2001

North Wales Regional Committee – Extending Entitlement: supporting young people in Wales

At its meeting on Friday 26 January the North Wales Regional Committee considered the development of the Assembly's policy on supporting young people set out in *Extending Entitlement*. Over 140 members of the public attended to give their views and several clear messages emerged that I should like to pass on to you. I hope that these can be fed into the consultation process.

The Committee was particularly pleased to hear the views of many young people and we hope that young people will be directly involved in the development of Assembly policies on youth support services. In particular, the Committee received short presentations from three youth groups who outlined their main concerns. These included:

- the cost and availability of public transport;
- the lack of leisure facilities;
- the need for better information on health and career issues;
- the need for more opportunities to learn life skills;
- a call for more support for the Welsh language; and
- a concern that young people are stereotyped as drinkers and drug takers.

The point was also made that young people need more information on managing money and the Committee felt this deserves further consideration.

A number of other points were made during subsequent discussion including the need to:

- improve access and services for young people with disabilities;
- support young people with disabilities who want to work but are discouraged from doing so by loss of benefits;
- ensure that young people in rural and urban areas have access to the same quality and range of services;
- offer an adequate package of pay and resources to recruit and retain youth workers;
- assist voluntary bodies with the costs of vetting staff who work with children and young people. It was felt that the Assembly should do what it can to persuade the Home Office to meet these costs;
- assist students facing financial difficulties whilst studying.

The minutes of the meeting are attached for information. I am copying this letter to Jane Hutt, Cynog Dafis and Kirsty Williams.

Yours sincerely

Ann Jones
Chair, North Wales Regional Committee

Annex 2

Minister for Education and Life-long Learning

Ann Jones AM
National Assembly for Wales
Cardiff Bay
Cardiff
CF99 1NA

28 February 2001

Dear Ann

Thank you very much for your recent letter summarising the views and messages that emerged from North Wales Regional Committee's consideration of the Extending Entitlement report. It is extremely helpful to have these brought together as you have done, and I will of course give them careful consideration in the consultation process. In the meantime, you may wish to know that, as a result of the clear messages which emerged about the importance for young people of issues about the cost and availability of public transport, my officials have arranged for young people's views to be fed into the Environment, Planning and Transport Committee's current review of public transport provision in Wales. It will be interesting to see how the Committee deals with this important aspect of public transport provision in the light of the representations made.

Yours

Jane Davidson AM
Minister for Education and Lifelong Learning