

**EDUCATION and LIFE-LONG LEARNING COMMITTEE**

**FORWARD WORK PROGRAMME - STRATEGIC January 2001 - April 2002**

**Duties of the Committee**

The Education and Life-Long Learning Committee is one of seven subject committees. The responsibilities of the subject committees are set out in the National Assembly's Standing Orders:

"9.7. each subject committee shall

- i. contribute to the development of the Assembly's policies within the fields for which the relevant Assembly Secretary is accountable to the Assembly;
- (ii) keep under review the expenditure and administration connected with their implementation; and
- ii. keep under review the discharge of public functions in those fields by public, voluntary and private bodies.

Each subject committee shall also, within the relevant fields,

- i. advise on proposed legislation affecting Wales, including performing its functions under SO22;
- ii. provide advice to the Assembly Cabinet on matters relating to allocation of the Assembly's budget in accordance with Standing Order 19;
- iii. perform its function under Standing Order 21 (complaints);
- iv. perform any functions assigned to it under the Code of Practice on Public Appointments Procedure made by the Assembly under Standing Order 20; and
- v. consider matters referred to it by the Assembly within its fields."

Standing Order 9.9 requires the subject committee to maintain a rolling programme of work covering periods of at least 12 months.

**The Committee's Aims and Objectives**

The Committee will seek to contribute to the achievement of the aims and objectives set out in "Better Wales", the National Assembly for Wales's strategic plan and "Putting Wales First: A Partnership for the People of Wales", the First Partnership Agreement of the National Assembly for Wales. In particular, to make Wales 'prosperous, well educated, skilled, healthy and environmentally rich' a country where the people of Wales be given 'every chance to fulfil their potential.'

**The Statutory Schemes**

The Committee will also take account of the National Assembly's statutory schemes for relations with the local authorities and the voluntary sector, and the

sustainable development scheme.

### The Committee's Priorities

"Better Wales" sets out a number of issues for early action by the Assembly. The Committee will play a major role in progressing the actions identified in Chapter 4 'Better opportunities for learning'. In particular:

- o a fresh approach to provision for the under-fives throughout Wales;
- o no infant class with more than 30 pupils;
- o a new fund to lift youngsters' educational achievement and engage them in creative activities;
- o action to combat disadvantage in schools, reduce exclusions and raise relative performance;
- o more investment to improve school buildings;
- o a strengthened teaching profession which is valued and rewarded;
- o a National Grid for Learning, with links to museums and libraries.

The Committee has decided to spend a large proportion of its time developing policy for specific identifiable issues that will help improve the provision of education in Wales so as to ensure that the potential of all children is realised and that Wales' status as a learning country is enhanced.

"Putting Wales First: A Partnership for the People of Wales" established a number of principles for education and lifelong learning that will guide the Committee as it takes forward its programme of work. These include the priorities of providing for high quality, lifelong education to all the people of Wales and putting in place policies to achieve long term and sustained improvement in the quality of education in Wales.

The Committee is to consider adopting revised framework principles for education policy in Wales to cover its full remit. This will build on the framework principles paper agreed by the Pre 16 Education and Early Years Committee, set out in paper PRE 16 03-99(p.4) the overarching principles of which are to:

- Ensure that education is of high quality for all;
- Inclusive;
- Based on a partnership approach.

Specifically the Committee intends to undertake the work outlined below. In relation to Policy Development the Committee has expressed an interest in each of the specific areas identified. The final selection and timing of reviews will depend on information available to provide background to the review, the impact of the legislative timetable, new developments in education and the Committee's wish to be responsive to current needs as they arise. A revised timetable including specific policy development reviews will be put to the Committee for agreement at least once a term.

Policy Development (SO 9.7(i))	Timescale	Better Wales' and Partnership Targets



**Monitoring of ASPBs**

(SO 9.7(iii))

No full review is planned but meetings to look at annual report.

- ACCAC
- Estyn
- CETW

- October 2001
- March 2001
- April 2002

**Legislation**

(SO 9.8(i) and SO 22)

As necessary

**Budget**

(SO 9.8 (ii))

Annually

- By 30/9 – initial views on priorities
- By 30/11 – views on preliminary draft budget
- By 30/1 – views on allocated resources.

<b>Public Appointments</b> (SO 9.8(iv))	As necessary	
<b>Scrutiny of Assembly Secretary</b>	Monthly	

**Committee Secretariat**

January 2001