

# Cross-Party Group Annual Report

## Group membership and office holders

### Name of Group Chair:

Luke Fletcher MS (Plaid Cymru)  
Joyce Watson MS (Welsh Labour)

### Names of other Members of the Senedd:

Paul Davies MS (Welsh Conservatives)  
Heledd Fychan MS (Plaid Cymru)  
Mabon ap Gwynfor MS (Plaid Cymru)

### Name of Secretary and Organisation:

Jeff Protheroe / ColegauCymru  
Lisa Mytton / National Training Federation for Wales

### Names of other external members and organisations represented:

Aled Jones-Griffith – Grŵp Llandrillo Menai  
Barry Walters - Pembrokeshire College  
Ceri Murphy - Itec Training Solutions Ltd  
Faith O'Brien - Cambrian Training Company  
Geraint Williams - St David's Catholic Sixth Form College  
John Nash - TSW Training Ltd  
Johnathon Morgan - Coleg y Cymoedd  
Jude Holloway - Educ8  
Kathryn Robson - Adult Learning Wales  
Kelly Fountain - Gower College Swansea  
Lisa M Thomas - The College Merthyr Tydfil  
Mark Dacey - NPTC Group of Colleges  
Nicola Gamlin - Coleg Gwent  
Richard Spear - ACT Training Ltd  
Sarah John - ALS Training Ltd

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Sharon James – Evans - Cardiff and Vale College  
Vanessa Cashmore - Coleg Sir Gâr / Coleg Ceredigion  
Vivienne Buckley - Bridgend College  
Yanina Williams - Coleg Cambria

## Other meetings of the Group since the last AGM

### Meeting 1

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#### Date of Meeting:

23 September 25

#### Attendees:

Joyce Watson MS, Co-chair and Senedd Member for Mid & West Wales  
Cefin Campbell MS, Senedd Member for Mid & West Wales  
Amy Williams, Policy Officer, ColegauCymru  
Barry Walters, Principal, Pembrokeshire College  
Billy Jones, Communications and Research Officer – office of Luke Fletcher MS  
Caryn Grimes, Manager, Cardiff Capital Region Skills Partnership  
Chris Laity, Policy Officer, Universities Wales  
Deio Owen, Llywydd / President, NUS Wales  
Faith O' Brien, Managing Director, Cambrian Training Company Ltd  
Gareth Matthews, Director, Itec Training Ltd  
Hariett Barnes, Director of Research, Innovation and Skills, Medr  
Heather Davidson, Head of Apprenticeships, Medr  
James Scorey, Deputy Principal, Cardiff and Vale College  
Jane Lewis, Manager, Regional Skills Partnership South West Wales  
Janis Richards, Membership Director (Wales), Make UK  
Jeff Protheroe, Strategic Adviser – Work-based Learning and Employability, ColegauCymru  
Jonathan Morgan, Principal and Chief Executive, Coleg y Cymoedd  
Jude Holloway, Managing Director, Educ8 Training Ltd  
Karen Smith, Communications and Marketing Manager, National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW)  
Kelly Edwards, Director for Partnerships and Strategic Development, ColegauCymru  
Lisa M Thomas, Principal and Chief Executive, The College Merthyr Tydfil  
Lisa Mytton, Strategic Director, National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW)  
Lleu Williams, Head of Engagement, Qualifications Wales  
Lucy Hopkins, Communications Manager, ColegauCymru  
Marek Zemanik, Senior Public Policy Adviser (UK Nations), CIPD  
Mark Dacey, Chief Executive Officer, Grŵp NPTC Group of Colleges  
Nicola Thornton-scott, Assistant Principal for Work-based Learning and Skills, Grŵp NPTC Group of Colleges

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Nitesh Patel, Communication Officer – office of Joyce Watson MS  
Paul Kift, Interim Principal, Gower College Swansea  
Rachel Cable, Director of Policy and Public Affairs, ColegauCymru  
Rhys Goode, Strategic Adviser – Policy and Partnerships, ColegauCymru  
Richard Spear, Managing Director, ACT Training Ltd  
Ryland Doyle, Research and Communications Officer– office of Mike Hedges MS  
Sarah John, Director, ALS Training Ltd  
Sharon James – Evans, Principal, Cardiff and Vale College  
Siân Lloyd Roberts, Manager, North Wales Regional Skills Partnership  
Vivienne Buckley, Principal and Chief Executive, Bridgend College

### **Summary of the issues discussed:**

The meeting focused on Medr’s consultation on Wales’ Future Apprenticeships Programme (2027). An opening presentation was delivered by Medr’s Head of Apprenticeships, Heather Davidson, focused on reshaping Wales’ apprenticeship system to be more flexible, inclusive, and responsive to evolving economic and learner needs. Central to Medr’s proposal is a shift from a procurement-based funding model to a grant-based approach, aimed at fostering collaboration among providers and enabling strategic partnerships. The meeting provided a forum for discussion, where stakeholders emphasised the need for agility in programme design to meet changing labour market demands and regional variations, while also raising concerns about the slow pace of framework and qualification reviews that could hinder innovation.

Inclusivity, employer engagement, and learner support were key themes throughout the meeting. There was strong support for maintaining an all-age programme, reaching under-represented groups, and embedding the Welsh language. Members called for broader employer participation, especially among SMEs, and suggested wage subsidies, incentives, and a brokerage service to streamline employer involvement. The importance of wrap-around support for apprentices and impartial career advice and guidance in schools was highlighted to promote apprenticeships as an equal alternative to academic routes. Finally, improving data collection on learner outcomes was seen as vital for shaping future policy and assessing programme impact.

The group discussed nominations for Co-chairs. Heledd Fychan MS (by proxy) nominated Joyce Watson MS and Luke Fletcher MS to continue as Co-chairs, and this was seconded by another member of the group. Additionally, the secretariat position was discussed, with Billy Jones (on behalf of Luke Fletcher MS) nominating both ColegauCymru and the National Training Federation for Wales (NTFW) to continue in the role, which was also seconded.

### **Meeting 2**

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#### **Date of Meeting:**

N/A

**Attendees:**

**Summary of the issues discussed:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Meeting 3**

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**Date of Meeting:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Attendees:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Summary of the issues discussed:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Professional lobbyists, voluntary organisations and charities the Group have met during the previous year.**

[names of lobbyists/organisations/charities should be included as follows, e.g.]

**Name of Organisation:**

N/A

**Name of Group:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

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**Name of Organisation:**

Click or tap here to enter text.

**Name of Group:**

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## Annual Financial Statement

**Cross Party Group Title:**

Apprenticeships

**Date:**

10/11/25

**Name of Chair:**

Luke Fletcher MS  
Joyce Watson MS

**Name of Secretary and Organisation:**

Jeff Protheroe – ColegauCymru / CollegesWales  
Lisa Mytton – National Training Federation for Wales

Title	Description	Amount
<b>Group's Expenses</b>	None	£0.00
<b>Costs of all goods</b>	Catering	£249.60
<b>Benefits received by the group or individual members from external bodies</b>	No benefits received.	£0.00
<b>Any financial support or other support.</b>	No financial support was received.	£0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>£249.60</b>

Services provided to the Group, such as hospitality.  
All hospitality paid for [include the name of the group/organisation].

Catering for the meeting on 23 September 2025 provided by Compass Group

Date	Name and description of provider	Costs
<b>24 September 2025</b>	Compass Group, Senedd caterers	£249.60
<b>Total</b>		<b>£249.60</b>