

## **CPG for Further Education and Skills**

### **Colegau Cymru Manifesto 2026 Launch**

**Tuesday 7 October 2025**

**Conference Room A, Ty Hywel, and online**

#### **Minutes**

##### **Introduction**

John Griffiths MS, Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting (both in the room and online).

##### **CPG for FE and Skills AGM**

Luke Fletcher MS nominated John Griffiths MS to continue as Chair of the Group (his vote was given in his absence with his permission). His vote was seconded by Mike Hedges MS who also nominated Colegau Cymru to continue as Secretariat.

##### **Putting Learners at the Heart of Further Education**

Lisa Thomas, Principal of The College Merthyr Tydfil, and Chair of Colegau Cymru spoke about the importance of learner voice, and using the Manifesto asks to create an inclusive and enriching environment for all learners in further education.

##### **Colegau Cymru Manifesto Overview**

David Hagendyk, Chief Executive of Colegau Cymru, gave an overview of the Manifesto and the three missions: Grow the economy, improve participation, progression and outcomes, and tackle intergenerational inequality and poverty.

##### **Learner Response – why this matters to learners**

James Jones, a BTECH Level 3 learner from Coleg y Cymoedd gave his experience of college, highlighting his reasons for choosing college over sixth form, and the barriers he's faced.

##### **My experience of FE / My second chance**

John Griffiths MS spoke about his experiences of FE.

##### **Discussion**

John Griffiths MS asked the group for their comments on the Manifesto. There was strong support for the Manifesto and the missions from all those who contributed to the discussion. Sam Rowlands MS spoke of the importance of using skills as a way to drive growth in the economy. There was discussion around lack of pathways for 14-19 year olds, and how can we reintegrate those young people who drop out of education between 14-16. A further discussion was had around the challenges of increasing demand for mental health support, and how colleges are tackling issues such as racism and misogyny.