

FE and Future Skills CPG

The role of FE colleges in providing a sustainable workforce pipeline in Health & Social Care

Conference Room C&D – Ty Hywel

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Anne Evans	ColegauCymru	
Catherine Smith	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	
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David Hagendyk	LWI	
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Geraint Jones	NPTC Group of Colleges	
Grant Santos	Educ8 Limited	
Ian Jones		
Emil Evans	Cardiff and Vale College	
Joanne Thomas	The College Merthyr Tydfil	
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Karen Phillips	Coleg y Cymoedd	
Kate Crabtree	Qualifications Wales	
Kelly Sherwood	NPTC Group of Colleges	
Lesley Fudge	Pembrokeshire College	
Lucy Breckon	Pembrokeshire College	
Malcom Williams	Social Care Wales	
Mark Jones	Gower College Swansea	
Mark Dacey	NPTC Group of Colleges	
Meri Huws	Comisiynydd y Gymraeg	
Nicola Meek	The College Merthyr Tydfil	
Nigel Downes	Royal College of Nursing Wales	
Paul Flanagan	Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	
Phil Boshier	Welsh Assembly	
Sabine	Shadowing with ColegauCymru	

Sandra Taylor	Coleg Gwent	
Simon Brown	Estyn	
Stephen Griffiths	Workforce, Education & Development Services, NWSSP	
Sue Evans	Social Care Wales	
Viv Buckley	Coleg Pen y Bont / Bridgend College	
Jane Jones		
Sharon Davies		
Ceri Tracey		
Hywel White	City & Guilds	
Suzi Gray	City & Guilds	
Liz Harding		
Jonathan Martin		
Jim Hehir		
Huw Irranca Davies AM		
Darren Millar AM		
Llyr Gruffydd AM		

Kate Crabtree, Qualifications Wales: Kate discussed how the sector review worked. Health and Social Care qualifications were selected first as health is a devolved issue, a massive employer in Wales and accounts for a large portion of provision in the FE sector. The huge range of qualifications in this area were found to be confusing and there was a lack of consistency. City & Guilds and WJEC won a consortium bid and are producing a bespoke suite of qualifications for Wales – these will go live in September 2019.

Chris Jones, HEIW (Health Education and Improvement Wales) Aspiration is to be one of the great enablers. One of the major challenges is to understand millennials as they will be working for 50+ years and then another 10-15 years of potentially working to support someone else. There is a need to take risks and be innovative, as well as and facing the challenge of producing a workforce which is understood elsewhere in the UK.

Meri Huws, Welsh Language Commissioner: There is a clear message that we need a better bilingual workforce in Wales. The Welsh language standards mean we need more bilingual workers. Everyone should have a taste of the Welsh language offer – we can do this by placing Welsh language skills as part of the education offer. Welsh needs to be embedded into all education provision.

Stephen Griffiths, NHS: There are a multitude of careers within the NHS, not all require higher education routes. NHS needs to look more closely into what opportunities are available for FE learners. Stephen said he would like education delivered in an FE setting, including higher level skills. The need for a bilingual workforce was discussed again.

Mark Jones, Gower College Swansea: Welcomed the review by Qualifications Wales as there is a lot of change happening in the FE sector. Fifteen per cent of learners from Gower College

are on Health & Social Care pathways. He commented that there is still work to do with 14-16 provision – pathways need to be clear.

Minister for Children, Older People and Social Care, Huw Irranca-Davies: The Minister posed many questions to the audience. People are living longer so how do we meet their needs? How do we make the sector sustainable? Is Wales the place to experiment with a social care levy? How do we address workforce issues and make health & social care a life-long profession to enter? How can we attract the older generation who have more life experience/challenges? People with non traditional experiences have a lot to offer. It is important to upskill the older generation who come into this area of work later in life. Government must deliver a living wage and improve conditions of workforce.