

## Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: The future of Apprenticeships in Wales

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2016

Venue: Cardiff Marriott Hotel, Mill Lane, Cardiff CF10 1EZ

Agenda subject to change



- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Jeff Cuthbert AM**, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales
- 9.05 - 9.30 **Policy priorities and next steps for Apprenticeships in Wales**  
**Andrew Clark**, Deputy Director, Further Education and Apprenticeships Division, Welsh Government  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.30 - 9.55 **The European Commission's contribution to Apprenticeships in Wales**  
**Julie Fionda**, Member of Cabinet, Commissioner for Employment, Social Affairs, Skills and Labour Mobility, European Commission  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 9.55 - 10.40 **Designing Apprenticeships for Wales**  
*Views on the Welsh Government response to key questions in the consultation, 'Aligning the apprenticeship model to the needs of the Welsh economy': who should design and accredit Apprenticeships in Wales; should Qualifications Wales take a lead role and how could employer-led panels fulfill this role? Were Qualifications Wales to become the awarding organisation for Apprenticeships, how should employers be involved in the design process? Should all Apprenticeships be Level 3 or higher, if so what should fill the gap for vocational training at Level 2? Should all Apprenticeships be occupationally-specific and, if so, what challenges does this present for delivery? How should essential skills such as literacy and numeracy be developed within Apprenticeship frameworks? What should be the shape of the assessment system within the Apprenticeship frameworks; is there a need for external moderation and should Wales adopt a grading system? To what extent is compatibility with the Apprenticeship system in England a priority and will the proposed changes in Wales have an impact on transferability?*  
**Bill Twigg**, Senior Apprenticeships Manager, City & Guilds  
**Roy Cavanagh**, Training and Education Executive, Seddon  
**Simon Pirotte**, Principal, Bridgend College  
**Professor David James**, Director, ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Centre and Author, *Fostering High Quality Vocational Further Education in Wales*  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 10.40 - 10.45 **Chair's closing remarks**  
**Jeff Cuthbert AM**, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales
- 10.45 - 11.15 Coffee
- 11.15 - 11.20 **Chair's opening remarks**  
**Rhun ap Iorwerth AM**, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Spokesperson for Economy, Enterprise and Transport, Plaid Cymru
- 11.20 - 12.10 **Expanding participation and funding Apprenticeships**  
*What more can be done to engage employers, particularly SMEs, in offering Apprenticeships? How can the esteem of Apprenticeships be improved in order to encourage more young people to participate? What steps can the Welsh Government take to increase the number of apprenticeships available in the Welsh language? Is the existing funding model fit for purpose and how should Welsh Government respond to changes to funding such as the employer-led model proposed in England? What would be the impact of the Welsh Government proposal to limit public funding to only apprentices entering new job roles?*  
**Ebbi Ferguson**, Deputy President, NUS Wales  
**Iestyn Davies**, Chief Executive, CollegesWales  
**Arwyn Watkins**, Chair and Managing Director, Cambrian Training Company  
**Bridget Bartlett**, Deputy Chief Executive, The Chartered Institute of Building  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.10 - 12.55 **Developing Apprenticeship progression routes - the next steps for Higher Apprenticeships in Wales**  
*How should policy address barriers - such as concerns about costs and time restraints - standing in the way of a greater range of sectors, and employers within them, offering Higher Apprenticeships? What should the future funding model for Higher Apprenticeships look like and should this come under the remit of the Higher Education Funding Council for Wales? What role should universities in Wales play in delivering Higher Apprenticeships, and how will Higher Apprenticeships fit with existing vocational undergraduate and masters provision? Should Wales follow Northern Ireland in developing Level 8 Higher Apprenticeships equivalent to a doctorate?*  
**Rachel Searle**, Programme Lead, All Wales Academy for Local Government, Skills For Justice UK  
**Alison Cox**, Project Manager, Serco  
**Professor Steve Thomas**, Professor of Innovation and Engagement, University of South Wales  
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**  
**Rhun ap Iorwerth AM**, Member, Enterprise and Business Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Spokesperson for Economy, Enterprise and Transport, Plaid Cymru  
**Jonny Roberts**, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales