

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: The future of the Foundation Phase and childcare in Wales

Timing: Morning, Thursday, 6th November 2014

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



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
Aled Roberts AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Education Spokesperson, Welsh Liberal Democrats
- 9.05 - 9.20 **Effective implementation of the Foundation Phase - learning from best practice**
Mererid Wyn Williams, Assistant Director, Estyn
- 9.20 - 10.10 **Delivering the Foundation Phase - impact and remaining challenges**
How successful have early years providers been so far in embedding the Foundation Phase, and how can examples of best practice throughout Wales be better shared? Has the move to implement "whole-phase" and "whole-school" approaches been successful in improving the transitions from a Flying Start, childcare or home setting into the Foundation Phase and on to Key Stage 2? How has the roll-out of the National Literacy and Numeracy Framework (LNF) impacted the delivery of the Foundation Phase? What lessons can be learnt from the outcomes of the stocktake? What more could be done to facilitate the successful application of the Foundation Phase? How well are schools engaging with parents as part of its delivery? Are measures needed to ensure that the Foundation Phase adequately prepares children for being 'school-ready'?
Professor Chris Taylor, Professor of Education Policy, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University and Lead Researcher, Evaluation of Foundation Phase Flexibility Pilots
Sandra Welsby, National Development Manager, NDNA Cymru
Carolyn Asante, Head, Ely and Caerau Children's Centre, Cardiff
John Cannon, Headteacher, Ysgol Bryn Hedydd, Denbighshire
Questions and comments from the floor with **Mererid Wyn Williams**, Assistant Director, Estyn
- 10.10 - 10.20 **Independent Review of Childcare and Early Education Registration, Regulation and Inspection**
Professor Karen Graham, Professor of Early Childhood Studies, Glyndwr University and Review Lead, Independent Review of Childcare and Early Education Registration, Regulation and Inspection
- 10.20 - 11.05 **Improving the standards of childcare and early years education in Wales**
Should the Welsh Government adopt the recommendations of the Independent Review of Childcare and Early Education Registration, Regulation and Inspection to introduce a Single Quality Framework for all early childhood provision, to replace the current dual responsibilities of Estyn and the CCSIW? What more could be done to develop the skills of the existing early years workforce? How might the shortage of Welsh Language practitioners in the early years workforce, and the shortage of Welsh-medium settings, be addressed? What measures should be included in the Welsh Government's 10-year Workforce Plan to improve the quality of early years degree courses and apprenticeships, and increase the number of graduate-level qualified professionals working in the childcare sector? Should the Welsh Government introduce a minimum qualification level for early years professionals as called for in the Independent Review? What more could be done to encourage greater co-ordination across Welsh Government early years programmes to ensure the TAF (Team Around the Family) can be most effective? In light of the recent announcement in England for a new Early Years Pupil Premium, should the Welsh Government extend the Pupil Deprivation Grant to include nursery pupils?
Claire Protheroe, Direct Services Manager Wales, PACEY Cymru
Roberta Hayes, Director of Learning and Development, Care Council for Wales
Dr Gwenllian Lansdown Davies, Chief Executive, Mudiad Meithrin
Tina Haddon, Flying Start Co-ordinator, Bridgend County Borough Council
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Karen Graham**, Professor of Early Childhood Studies, Glyndwr University and Review Lead, Independent Review of Childcare and Early Education Registration, Regulation and Inspection
- 11.05 - 11.10 **Chair's closing remarks**
Aled Roberts AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Education Spokesperson, Welsh Liberal Democrats
- 11.10 - 11.35 Coffee
- 11.35 - 11.40 **Chair's opening remarks**
Jenny Rathbone AM, Labour Assembly Member, Cardiff Central
- 11.40 - 11.50 **What can Wales do to better support families?**
Anand Shukla, Chief Executive, Family and Childcare Trust
- 11.50 - 12.35 **Supporting families - engaging parents and addressing the challenges of childcare**
To what extent have Welsh Government efforts to encourage greater parental engagement with their child's learning been successful so far? What measures need to be taken to increase the number of quality childcare settings in Wales, particularly in rural areas; what role should local authorities, the third sector and private providers play? How could local level services be better co-ordinated to maximise family support? What more can be done to improve information services for parents to make them more aware of the support that is available? How might more Local Authorities increase the flexibility of their Flying Start programmes to enable more consistent full-time availability? What impact might this have on supporting parents who wish to seek full time employment? Does the Out of School Childcare Grant for Local Authorities succeed in addressing the shortage of wrap-around childcare? What are the barriers that prevent businesses from adopting more family-friendly working hours and could these be overcome? What more could be done to address the above UK-average rise in the cost of childcare in Wales?
Alma Belles, Manager, Family Information Service, Wrexham County Borough Council
Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager, Caerphilly County Borough Council
Vicki Shotbolt, Chief Executive Officer and Founder, The Parent Zone
Ian Mitchell, Director, Mitchell Meredith Chartered Accountants
Questions and comments from the floor with **Anand Shukla**, Chief Executive, Family and Childcare Trust
- 12.35 - 12.55 **Early years and childcare policy**
Professor David Egan, Professor of Welsh Education Policy, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Member, Welsh Government Early Years and Childcare Partnership Board
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Jenny Rathbone AM, Labour Assembly Member, Cardiff Central
Sean Cudmore, Deputy Editor, Policy Forum for Wales