

Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar: The future for early years - regulatory change, workforce development and improving delivery of the Foundation Phase

Timing: Morning, Tuesday, 20th October 2015

Venue: Park Plaza Cardiff, Greyfriars Road, Cardiff CF10 3AL



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Agenda subject to change

- 8.30 - 9.00 Registration and coffee
- 9.00 - 9.05 **Chair's opening remarks**
John Griffiths AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales
- 9.05 - 9.20 **A flexible approach to supporting children in their early years**
Professor Chris Taylor, Professor of Education Policy, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University and Lead Researcher, Evaluation of Foundation Phase Flexibility Pilots, WISERD
- 9.20 - 10.10 **Next steps for the Foundation Phase: content, accessibility and assessment**
What steps could be taken to address concerns raised in the WISERD evaluation that the Foundation Phase has not led to a reduction in the attainment gap between children from disadvantaged backgrounds and their peers; Will the new Early Years Development and Assessment Framework be likely to be a successful tool for addressing these disparities? How well has the Foundation Phase content and ethos matched with the requirements of the National Literacy and Numeracy Frameworks, and are changes required to ensure compatibility with the aims of the proposed new National Curriculum? What steps can the Welsh Government take to ensure greater consistency in the quality delivery of the Foundation Phase across Wales? What lessons can be learned from the Foundation Phase flexibility pilots in order to widen access and participation in the Foundation Phase's pre-statutory elements?
Sandra Welsby, National Manager, NDNA Cymru
Professor David Egan, Professor of Welsh Education Policy, University of Wales Trinity Saint David and Member, Foundation Phase Expert Group
Rob Williams, Policy Director Cymru, National Association of Head Teachers
Questions and comments from the floor with **Professor Chris Taylor**, Professor of Education Policy, School of Social Sciences, Cardiff University and Lead Researcher, Evaluation of Foundation Phase Flexibility Pilots, WISERD
- 10.10 - 11.00 **Raising workforce standards: leadership, newly qualified teachers, and continuing professional development**
What steps need to be taken in order to make sure the proposed Early Years Learning Hubs have the desired impact of increased best practice sharing and continuous improvement across early years settings? What more should be done to make the early years attractive to high-achieving graduates? What will be the likely impact of proposals for a minimum standard of Level 5-qualified leadership in large settings and the creation of a new work-based learning Level 6 leadership qualification? Is there also a case for an early years-specific Initial Teacher Training route to QTS to be developed? Are the CPD proposals contained within the Welsh Government's 10-year Workforce Plan sufficient to deliver the new minimum standards of Level 2 qualifications for all by 2020 and Level 3 by 2025? Should professional registration be introduced for non-maintained settings? What steps can be taken to improve awareness and understanding of safeguarding issues across the early years workforce?
Linda Davidge-Smith, Interim Associate Head of School, Initial Teacher Education and Training, University of South Wales
Cecile Gwilym, Policy Officer, NSPCC Cymru
Dona Lewis, Deputy Chief Executive, Mudiad Meithrin
Deborah Lawson, General Secretary, Voice the Union
Questions and comments from the floor
- 11.00 - 11.05 **Chair's closing remarks**
John Griffiths AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales
- 11.05 - 11.30 Coffee
- 11.30 - 11.35 **Chair's opening remarks**
Simon Thomas AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and the Welsh Language, Plaid Cymru
- 11.35 - 12.05 **Regulating and inspecting the early years sector**
David Francis, Deputy Chief Inspector, Care and Social Services Inspectorate Wales
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.05 - 12.55 **Delivering healthy and vibrant learning environments: regulating the early years sector**
What is the likely impact of the introduction of the joint-Estyn/CSSIW Inspection Framework for non-maintained settings? With Childcare and Foundation Phase provision being developed in a single framework, as called for in the 'Graham Review of childcare and early education registration, will the provision be enough to build on? What are the strengths of the current inspection frameworks and regulatory system which should be retained and built upon? What will come out of the consultation? How can inspection reports be made more useful and accessible for parents? Should Regional Early Childhood and Care Boards be introduced, as called for in the review, or would these functions be better placed within the existing Regional Education Consortia?
Jane Alexander, Chief Executive Officer, Wales Pre-school Providers' Association
David Dallimore, Research Officer, Bangor University
Councillor Eudine Hanagan, Cabinet Member for Education and Skills, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council
Questions and comments from the floor
- 12.55 - 13.00 **Chair's and Policy Forum for Wales closing remarks**
Simon Thomas AM, Member, Children, Young People and Education Committee, National Assembly for Wales and Shadow Minister for Education, Skills and the Welsh Language, Plaid Cymru
Jonny Roberts, Associate Editor, Policy Forum for Wales