

Cyflwynwyd yr ymateb hwn i ymgynghoriad y [Pwyllgor Plant, Pobl Ifanc ac Addysg](#) ar [Flaenoriaethau'r Chweched Senedd](#)

This response was submitted to the [Children, Young People and Education Committee](#) consultation on [Sixth Senedd Priorities](#)

CYPE SP 63

Ymateb gan: Daniel Roberts, Swyddog Polisi ac Ymchwil, Canolfan Cydweithredol Cymru
Response from: Daniel Roberts, Policy and Research Officer, Wales Co-operative Centre

Beth yn eich barn chi yw'r prif flaenoriaethau neu'r materion y dylai'r Pwyllgor eu hystyried yn ystod y Chweched Senedd? Os oes modd, nodwch eich barn o ran sut y gallai'r Pwyllgor fynd i'r afael â hyn.

What do you consider to be the main priorities or issues that the Committee should consider during the Sixth Senedd? Where possible, please set out your view about how the Committee could address them.

Wales Co-operative Centre – Policy and Research Officer

The Wales Co-operative Centre is a not-for-profit co-operative organisation that supports people in Wales to improve their lives and livelihoods. We are working for a fairer economy. We help to create and retain wealth within our communities through the growth of co-operatives and social businesses and by providing people with the skills to take more control of their own lives and strengthen their communities.

Thema 1: Addysg oedran ysgol | Theme 1: School-age education

Social Enterprise

'*Transforming Wales through Social Enterprise*' is a ten-year vision and action plan for the social enterprise sector in Wales that was launched in July 2020. It was co-produced by social enterprises and social enterprise support agencies in Wales and has the support of Welsh Government. Outcome Two of the document is that "More people will choose a social enterprise model to start a new business". We of course recognise that this an ambitious aim and in order to achieve this outcome, we need to have social enterprise education embedded in our curricula.

Enterprise education starts at a young age in Wales through the Enterprise Troopers; the National Primary Schools competition supported by Big Ideas Wales. Many of the business ideas that have been generated through the programme have had a social



and community focus, and this year there will be a specific category for social enterprise. Our Social Enterprise Stakeholder Group is sponsoring the award, and we will also be taking part in training events and developing resources for primary teachers to aid them in the teaching of social enterprise.

A number of activities have taken place to promote social enterprise education within secondary schools. Work has been done by Social Business Wales and Big Ideas Wales to develop a Social Enterprise Challenge for the Welsh Baccalaureate. Awareness-raising sessions have also been provided for Careers Wales advisors and business engagement teams to look at the potential of social enterprise ideas and work placement opportunities. Big Ideas Wales also have social enterprise role models that visit schools to talk about the work that they have been doing and the potential of social enterprise. It is hoped that by raising awareness and through continued promotion, young people can engage and be inspired by social businesses in their local communities through their studies, such as the Welsh Baccalaureate or through work placements or volunteering opportunities.

There is good practice to build on to meet this objective. We urge the committee to consider how social enterprise can be embedded in the learning experience for young people in Wales in its work. Social enterprises already make a significant contribution to local communities across the country through their focus on resilience and well-being, and ensuring that pupils are able to access these benefits, learn about the social enterprise model and become the next generation of social entrepreneurs would be a considerable benefit across Wales.

Digital Inclusion and Skills

Covid-19 has also had a huge impact on the children and young people of Wales and their education. The cost of devices and connectivity has put extra pressures on families, and on schools, creating new barriers for pupils from poorer backgrounds. As the school system works to recover from the lost time caused by the pandemic, young people who had to overcome more barriers to access education online must be paramount. In addition, while the acceleration of the digitisation of learning has considerable benefits, we must learn the lessons of the pandemic and ensure that this is accessible for every student as we move on from Covid-19.

Thema 2: Addysg bellach ac addysg uwch | Theme 2: Further and higher education

Social Enterprise

Martin Downes, Social Enterprise Officer at the Wales Co-operative Centre, has undertaken a number of Hackathon events with students across Wales. These events allow students to come together, to identify social problems, and to develop



potential solutions through social business ideas. There have been 6 social enterprise hackathon events so far, with 414 FE and HE student participants across Wales, with these events supported by 31 partner organisations. Hazel Israel, Education and Skills Adviser at Bantani Education and chief architect of the Essential Skills and Welsh Baccalaureate qualification suites, said that:

“The students were engaged, energised and enthusiastic. The structured focus on solutions and building practical proposals was courage in action. In this experimental environment, students bubbled and fizzed with reflective understanding, compassionate involvement and a sense of ethical, civic and social responsibility.”

We are passionate about embedding this model within our FE and HE education systems, and are working with institutions across Wales to do this. We would urge the committee to explore how this can be done in a consistent way to ensure that everyone in Wales is able to access the opportunities it presents.

We are also working with academics to look at how we can promote the role and the resilience of the social enterprise sector in Wales, and this will include research relating to the role of social enterprise education. Training events have taken place with the Enterprise Champions within Further and Higher Education Institutions in Wales.

Thema 3: Iechyd a lles, gan gynnwys gofal cymdeithasol (i'r graddau y maent yn ymwneud â phlant a phobl ifanc) | Theme 3: Health and well-being, including social care (as they relate to children and young people)

Thema 4: Plant a phobl Ifanc | Theme 4: Children and young people

