CYPE(6)-13-23 - Paper to note 22

Children, Young People and Education Committee
Welsh Parliament
Cardiff Bay,
Cardiff,
CF99 1SN

26 April 2023

Views on the implementation of the Curriculum and Assessment (Wales) Act 2021

Dear Jayne,

Thank you for your letter. Following our previous submission in August 2022, I'd like to highlight the following matters:

Admission to HE is still greatly impacted by social and economic background, so the FE sector would watch with interest whether the current qualification reforms, and implementation of the Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, have an impact on this. When it comes to learners studying HE at an FE institution, it is important to remember that they are typically older, and have work and/or family commitments. These students are also usually from lower socio-economic backgrounds, so the committee might like to bare this in mind, especially with the current cost of living crisis, and how it might affect the choices of this cohort of learners.

Looking slightly outside the scope of this 'check-in', the sector has raised a concern around how the new GCSEs will prepare young people for AS and A levels, which will remain unchanged, and how these might affect admissions to FE institutions. This is something I'm happy to discuss further at a later date.

Finally, the sector echoes previous statements of concern around the skills needed for learners to succeed in higher education. Good levels of literacy, numeracy and digital literacy are key to achievements, so we anticipate that the new curriculum should underpin this crucial requirement. Colleges too often see learners leaving school with very low levels of literacy and numeracy, however the sector is hopeful that the implementation of the new curriculum will resolve this matter, and learners will continue their education journey with the basic skills required to support them into higher education.

The FE sector is keen to continue giving evidence to this ongoing inquiry, and look forward to providing an update at the next 'check-in'.

Yours sincerely,

Guy Lacey
Chair, ColegauCymru

Uned 7 Cae Gwyrdd, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Caerdydd CF15 7AB
www.colegaucymru.ac.uk helo@colegaucymru.ac.uk Ff: 029 2052 2500
Cwmni Cofrestredig Rhif 2832103 Elusen Gofrestredig Rhif 1060182

Unit 7 Cae Gwyrdd, Greenmeadow Springs, Tongwynlais, Cardiff CF15 7AB
www.collegeswales.ac.uk hello@collegeswales.ac.uk T: 029 2052 2500
Registered Company No 2832103 Registered Charity Number: 1060182