

Cross Party Group on FE and Future Skills
26 September 2017 - The Changing Face of FE

Chair: John Griffiths AM
Presenters: Mark Jones, Principal and CEO Gower College Swansea
Dafydd Evans, Principal and CEO Grŵp Llandrillo Menai,

Meeting minutes:

Aim:

To discuss and explore potential opportunities for the future skills landscape of Wales. To promote understanding amongst Assembly Members and wider stakeholders about the issues facing further education and future skills in Wales. To evidence the importance of education as a crucial part of building the inclusive society we all want to see with FE at the heart of this.

Two presentations from the sector were delivered (presentations attached). The focus of the presentations was to share information on the changes, successes and challenges facing FE colleges in recent and future years. The colleges were referred to as key economic drivers in Wales.

After the presentations, the Chair opened the floor to a question and answer session:

Question and Answer session:

Some challenging and interesting questions came from the floor, noted below:

- Whether it was time to make a concerted effort to move to a tertiary system across more parts of Wales; the need for a continuing evidence base to make the case for this; and the role a wide range of stakeholders could play in this.
- The need to educate parents on potential alternatives to sixth forms.
- Whether the new post-compulsory body envisaged as part of the Hazelkorn Review reforms can be successful. Need the aspiration for change.
- Whether the FE brand needs to be modernised or re-named, to move away from the notion of Further Education Colleges towards colleges as key 'economic drivers'?
- The need to consider inviting relevant ministers to attend some future CPG meetings to respond to some of the discussion points.
- Challenge – clarity is needed on higher skills delivery – how funding works, responsibility, timescales, frameworks etc.

Forthcoming Meetings

- **Employability Plan - Aligning plans for Future Skills**
Tuesday 30 January 2018, 18:30 – 20:00
Conference Room C & D – Tŷ Hywel
- **Subject tbc**
Tuesday 22 May 2018, 18:30 – 20:00 Conference Room C & D – Tŷ Hywel