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Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru
Welsh Assembly Government

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Consultation Document

Local curriculum in higher education institutions

Consultation on draft regulations to apply the provisions of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 relating to local curriculum to institutions in the higher education sector in Wales

Date of issue: **11 November 2010**

Action required: Responses by **06 January 2011**

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Local curriculum in higher education institutions

Overview

This consultation aims to gather views on the Welsh Assembly Government's proposals to make Regulations under section 33Q of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 that will apply the local curriculum provisions to higher education institutions in Wales.

The provisions relating to the local curriculum were inserted into the Learning and Skills Act 2000 by the Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009.

How to respond

The consultation response form is available for completion as a separate Word document on the consultation home page. This consultation will be open for a period of eight weeks, publishing on 11 November 2010 and closing on 6 January 2011, to provide for the final regulations to come into force appropriately in the spring term of 2011. Responses to this consultation should be e-mailed to 14-19@wales.gsi.gov.uk to arrive by **6 January 2011** at the latest.

Further information and related documents

Large print, Braille and alternate language versions of this document are available on request.

Useful links:

Learning and Skills Act 2000

www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2000/21/contents

Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009

www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/mwa2009/mwa_20090001_en_1

Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009: Local Curriculum for Students aged 16 to 18 Guidance

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/pathways/learningpathwayspublications/learningandskills/?lang=en>

Contact details

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Data protection

How the views and information you give us will be used

Any response you send us will be seen in full by Welsh Assembly Government staff dealing with the issues which this consultation is about. It may also be seen by other Welsh Assembly Government staff to help them plan future consultations.

The Welsh Assembly Government intends to publish a summary of the responses to this document. We may also publish responses in full. Normally, the name and address (or part of the address) of the person or organisation who sent the response are published with the response. This helps to show that the consultation was carried out properly. If you do not want your name or address published, please tell us this in writing when you send your response. We will then blank them out.

Names or addresses we blank out might still get published later, though we do not think this would happen very often. The Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004 allow the public to ask to see information held by many public bodies, including the Welsh Assembly Government. This includes information which has not been published. However, the law also allows us to withhold information in some circumstances. If anyone asks to see information we have withheld, we will have to decide whether to release it or not. If someone has asked for their name and address not to be published, that is an important fact we would take into account. However, there might sometimes be important reasons why we would have to reveal someone's name and address, even though they have asked for them not to be published. We would get in touch with the person and ask their views before we finally decided to reveal the information.

Summary

The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009 (“the Measure”) inserts provisions into the Learning and Skills Act 2000 that provide a statutory basis for 14-19 Learning Pathways. The 14-19 Learning Pathways policy has the potential to transform provision and support for learners, raise achievement and attainment, prepare young people for high skilled employment or higher education and enable Wales to compete in Europe in the 21st century. Encompassing the basic principles of this policy in a legal framework ensures that the policy will be implemented in a consistent way to the benefit of 14-19 year old learners across Wales.

The Measure secures the creation of local curricula that will contain a wide range of courses and opportunities which learners aged 14-19 in Wales will have right to elect from. The Measure also sets out the entitlement of learners to follow their elected course of study.

Welsh Ministers will form the local curriculum for learners aged 16 to 18, advised and informed by local knowledge and expertise of those who are under a duty to assist the Welsh Ministers in planning the local curriculum. This includes local authorities, the governing body and head teacher of any maintained secondary school and the governing body and principal or other head of an institution within the further education sector.

There will be a minimum number of courses of study to be included within a local curriculum and local area curricula contain a wide range of courses of study both academic and vocational in nature.

Where are we now?

In July 2010, the Welsh Assembly Government issued *The Learning and Skills Wales Measure 2009: Local Curriculum for Students aged 16 to 18 Guidance*. This guidance sets out actions required to support the 16 to 18 provisions in planning the local curriculum and joint working.

Where a further education college has merged, or merges in future, with a higher education institution, this institution would fall outside of the scope of these provisions and duties. This would be the case even where the principal purpose of that site would remain the delivery of further education, including the delivery of further education to learners aged 16 to 18.

The draft regulations would apply provisions of the Measure that are concerned with the local curriculum for persons aged 16 to 18, to institutions within the higher education sector in Wales.

Useful links:

The Learning and Skills (Wales) Measure 2009:

www.opsi.gov.uk/legislation/wales/mwa2009/mwa_20090001_en_1

The Learning and Skills Wales Measure 2009: Local Curriculum for Students aged 16 to 18 Guidance:

<http://wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/pathways/learningpathwayspublications/learningandskills/?lang=en>

Why are we proposing change?

The draft Regulations would ensure that learners aged 16 to 18 undertaking secondary education or further education in a higher education institution would enjoy the same provisions as those in schools or further education institutions.

The learners would benefit from the same entitlement to choose and follow courses of study within a local curriculum as those learners undertaking their education in schools or further education institutions.

Higher education institutions, that provide secondary or further education to learners aged 16 to 18, would be under the same duties in relation to the provision of the local curriculum as schools and further education institutions.