

27 April, 2017

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 554 – 559

At a Meeting of the **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli, on Thursday, 27 April, 2017 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. M. V. Davies (Chairman)

Cllrs.

R. E. Evans J. S. Phillips
W. V. Thomas

554. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand, S. M. Donoghue and C. A. Rees.

555. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

556. THE FUTURE OF APPRENTICESHIPS POLICY – WELSH GOVERNMENT

The Training Manager informed Members that the Welsh Government had published various priorities in relation to the delivery of the Apprenticeship Framework in Wales over the last six to twelve months.

At a recent Policy Forum for Wales Keynote Seminar, a speech was delivered which summarised the main priorities that training providers needed to meet in 2017. The Training Manager informed Members of the key issues featuring in the speech and the matters that needed to be met in 2017 as follows:

- There existed a strong and successful Apprenticeship Programme in Wales.
- Welsh Government had committed to creating a minimum of 100,000 apprenticeship opportunities in Wales.
- There would be an emphasis in priority areas.
- There would be an emphasis in higher level skills.
- Equality of access and delivery through the medium of Welsh were also priorities.
- The Apprenticeship Levy would have an impact in Wales.

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- The Welsh programme would continue to be based on national Occupational Standards and would be an all age programme although 16-19 year olds would be a priority.
- Foundation Apprenticeship should be completed on route to progressing to level 3.
- Quality delivery was a priority with emphasis on literacy and numeracy skills, teaching and learning standards meeting the requirements of a new Common Inspection framework.
- Delivery Staff would be registered as practitioners with the Educational Workforce Council.
- Providers were encouraged to enter Skills Competitions to showcase Welsh provision and success.
- Employability had been identified as a key priority for tackling poverty.

Following general discussion, it was

RESOLVED that the information report be noted.

557. THE COUNCIL'S TRAINEESHIP PROGRAMME – 'WHERE WE ARE'

The Chairman welcomed the Programme Development Officer to the meeting and invited her to address Members.

The Programme Development Officer began by informing Members what the trainee programme was about. The programme was split into two levels:

- Engagement – not work ready;
- Level One – work ready.

There were a total of 45 learners on engagement and 26 on level one across the two training centres in Llanelli and Carmarthen. The training department had secured placements with various businesses in the areas such as Hywel Dda Health Board, Debenhams, Halfords and Tesco.

It was also intended to engage with local secondary schools both in Llanelli and Carmarthen, to make them aware of what traineeship opportunities were available to them, and how sometimes it can be a more suitable option for some individuals who may not wish to go to college.

The Programme Development Officer then detailed some of the topics covered in the classroom by learners who are on the engagement programme and these included employability skills, equality and diversity, health and safety and effective communication.

Members were also informed that the number of learners suffering with mental health issues was on the increase and therefore outside organisations like Iechyd Da had been approached and were now coming into the centres to support learners in various ways in order to try and improve their life skills.

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To end the presentation the Programme Development Officer presented two very different case studies of learners who had come onto the engagement programme with various issues, but after a lot of hard work, support and commitment had gained confidence and self worth had now been successfully employed.

Members asked whether the six month engagement programme was flexible if some learners were not ready for employment. The Programme Development Officer informed them that LRC Training was probably the only flexible learning provider in the area and was renowned for its pastoral support.

RESOLVED that the information ne noted.

558. ESTYN – CHANGES TO THE INSPECTION FRAMEWORK

Members were informed that ESTYN would be introducing a new Common Inspection Framework from September 2017 and this would require Education and Training Managers to prioritise the improvement of teaching and learning. The key features would be:

- Reduced notice of periods for inspection;
- Four day inspections not five;
- There would be five key questions in the new Common Inspection Framework;
- New focus on Wellbeing and Care Support and Guidance especially safeguarding;
- Improved teaching would be key to raising standards.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

559. SKILLS COMPETITIONS

The Training Manager informed Members that the Welsh Government were encouraging training providers to showcase Welsh talent and work based learning programmes. He added that there were several opportunities to promote the Training Department through skills competitions.

Members stated that after seeing the earlier case studies referred to in Minute No. 556 above, that perhaps as a starter these learners could be entered into the competitions.

RESOLVED that the initiative be supported and that the Training Manager make the necessary arrangements to commence entering future skills competitions.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.25 p.m.

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The afore-mentioned Minutes were declared to be a true record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman presiding thereat and were, on 16 May, 2017, adopted by the Council.