

21 October, 2021

LLANELLI RURAL COUNCIL

Minute Nos: 245 – 252

At a Meeting of the **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE** of the Llanelli Rural Council held at the Council Chamber, Vauxhall Buildings, Vauxhall, Llanelli and via remote attendance on Thursday, 21 October, 2021 at 4.45 p.m.

Present: Cllr. A. G. Morgan (Vice Chairman (in the chair))

Cllrs.

H. J. Evans
S. N. Lewis

J. S. Phillips
A. J. Rogers

245. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. T. Devichand and S. M. Donoghue.

246. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

247. KOOTH ONLINE COUNSELLING SERVICE

- 1) Kooth – Introductory Video
- 2) Kooth – Email from Skills Academy Wales
- 3) Kooth – Frequently Asked Questions

The Training Manager presented members with an overview of the Kooth online counselling service for learners aged 16-25, which had been in place since September 2021. Kooth was an excellent resource as it was a free, safe and anonymous online mental well-being community for young people offering self-help articles, discussion boards and a team of accredited counsellors and emotional well-being practitioners who provided guided and outcome focussed support. The Training Department was now promoting the online service to learners and it was proving to have a very positive effect on their well-being.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

248. BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION APPRENTICESHIP DELIVERY

- (1) EQA Report July 2021 – City and Guilds

Members were provided with a presentation update on the work performed by the Business

21 October, 2021

Administration Apprenticeship Delivery Team by the Senior Assessor including an overview of the findings of the team's most recent external quality assurance report. Members were informed the centre had a mixture of paper and e-portfolio learners and was progressing well with the qualifications and its direct claims status was recommended to stay in place for all except the two level four qualifications as these were relatively new to the centre and further sampling was required. In this regard the report highlighted this could be accommodated in November 2021. Overall the report outcomes were more than satisfactory.

Following discussion, the Senior Assessor and her team were thanked for the work achieved thus far and it was

RESOLVED the presentation and report update be noted.

249. LOGISTICS PROVISION AND BUSINESS GOWTH

The Apprenticeship Co-ordinator led Members through the latest Logistics Apprenticeships recruitment opportunities. She explained that these had been very buoyant especially with a national shortage of drivers in the sector - the Apprenticeships currently supported 61 LGV Licences. This was helping address the current driver shortage countrywide.

In addition to repeat business, new contracts had been secured over the last 12 months which had been encouraging with further apprenticeship opportunities in the pipeline.

Members were reminded that the Welsh Government's Personal Learning Account (PLA) funding would end next year. A personal learning account allowed eligible individuals the opportunity to complete the vocational qualification – Level 2 Certificate in Driving Goods Vehicles and to achieve the professional LGV Category C Licence. Between the apprenticeship framework and the personal learning accounts there were 90 learners currently on programme. Given the high number of learners the Apprenticeship Co-ordinator explained that moving forward there was a need for additional administrative support as the Logistics provision was increasing.

Following discussion, the Apprenticeships Co-ordinator and her team were thanked for the work achieved thus far and it was

RESOLVED the information be noted.

250. TRAINEESHIP PROVISION

- (1) Half Year Performance Statistics.
- (2) Presentation on Traineeship Opportunities and Success (online)

The Quality and Wellbeing Officer led members through a presentation on traineeship provision focussing her attention on the above two activities and also explained how Training Department staff would continue supporting the Prince's Trust programme which in turn would help in the transition from this programme by offering a pathway for learners to progress on to engagement and level 1 traineeships. Currently the centre had 38 new starts covering the period 1 April to 30 September 2021.

21 October, 2021

Following discussion, the Quality and Wellbeing Officer and her team were thanked for the work achieved thus far and it was

RESOLVED the information be noted.

251. PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT, 1960

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the following matter be considered in private and that the power of exclusion of the public under Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings Act, 1960) be exercised.

252. TRAINING CONTRACTS

The Training Manager provided an update report on recent developments in Training Department contracts and drew members’ attention to the Jobs Growth Wales + programme which would succeed the current Traineeship and Jobs Growth Wales programme which would come to an end in March 2022. The successful bidders to deliver the new jobs growth programme were Pembrokeshire College, ACT Training and ITEC Skills, both the latter organisations were based in Cardiff. Members were informed that in view of Neath Port Talbot College being unsuccessful with its bid, the Training Department was now in contact with the three winning tenderers with a view of securing a contract to deliver the new programme locally as a sub-contractor organisation. While Welsh Government had yet to issue contracts to the winning tenderers it was hoped the position would be resolved by early November 2021. It was difficult to plan with any degree of certainty future work activities until this happened.

RESOLVED that the information be noted.

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The Meeting concluded at 5.53 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 9 November, 2021 adopted by the Council.