



14 – 19 Learning Pathways

Introduction

The *Learning Country*ⁱ introduced proposals to consult on the development of policy in the 14-19 field with all stakeholders. A consultation documentⁱⁱ in 2002 outlined proposals to transform provision for 14-19 year olds as part of the Welsh Assembly Government's aim that by 2015, 95% of young people are ready for high skill employment or qualified for higher education.

In general terms Learning Pathways are the learning experiences of each individual 14-19 year old. They involve developing an entitlement for each learner and they include a balance of formal learning, wider choice, flexibility and a Learning Core 14-19, together with a blend of support to meet learners' needs.

All young learners will be entitled to a learning pathway framework, which aims to help them achieve. This has six key elements:

- Individual Learning Pathways to meet the needs of each learner;
- Wider choice and flexibility of programmes and ways of learning from a collaborative options menu;
- A Learning Core which runs from 14 through to 19 wherever young people are learning and which includes skills, knowledge, understanding, attitudes and values and common experiences;
- Learning coach support;
- Access to personal support;
- Impartial careers advice and guidance.

Progress on the implementation of Learning Pathways was included in a paper provided by the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills to the Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee on 21 March 2007ⁱⁱⁱ.

Overview of current statutory powers of the Assembly

- The *Education and Inspections Act 2006*^{iv} received Royal Assent on 8 November 2006. Section 178 of the Act contained wide powers for the Assembly to make subordinate legislation, known as 'framework powers'. A draft Order in Council^v to convert the framework powers in the Act into powers for the Assembly to make Assembly Measures in the same policy areas was debated and approved by the Assembly in Plenary on 7 March 2007. Powers included in the Order include those in connection with the entitlement to primary, secondary and further education and to training.
- "Education and training" is field 5 of Schedule 5 of the *Government of Wales Act 2006*. This means that the National Assembly for Wales can seek Measure-making powers over education matters through Legislative Competence Orders.

Key Welsh Government documents from the Second Assembly:

The *Learning Country: Vision into Action*^{vi} is the Welsh Assembly Government's strategic plan for education, lifelong learning and skills in Wales until 2010.

Learning Pathways 14-19 Guidance II^{vii} was published in January 2006, this includes an up-dated Action Plan. <http://www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2007/20070910.htm>

Legacy issues from the Second Assembly

The Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee's legacy paper highlighted the following issues for the attention of the Third Assembly:

- Monitoring and implementation of 14-19 Learning Pathways.

Useful Links

- The Welsh Assembly Government has a website covering education and lifelong learning issues: <http://new.wales.gov.uk/topics/educationandskills/?lang=en>

Further information

For further information on any aspect of Learning Pathways, please contact Anne Thomas, Members' Research Service (Anne.Thomas@wales.gsi.Gov.UK), 029 2089 8966

ⁱ Welsh Assembly Government, [The Learning Country](#), 2001

ⁱⁱ Welsh Assembly Government, [Learning Country: Learning Pathways 14-19](#), 29 October 2002

ⁱⁱⁱ National Assembly for Wales, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills Committee paper, (ELLS(2)-05-07(p.1) Annex B), [The Learning Country: Vision into Action](#), 21 March 2007

^{iv} The [Education and Inspections Act 2006](#) (C40)

^v The [National Assembly for Wales \(Legislative Competence\) \(Conversion of Framework Powers\) Order 2007](#) (No.910/2007)

^{vi} Welsh Assembly Government [The Learning Country: Vision into Action](#) 26 October 2006

^{vii} Welsh Assembly Government, [Learning Pathways 14-19 Guidance II](#), January 2006