

# **Answers to the Written Assembly Questions for answer on 14 February 2011**

[R] signifies that the Member has declared an interest.

[W] signifies that the question was tabled in Welsh.

## **Contents**

- 2 Questions to the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning
- 3 Questions to the Deputy First Minister and Minister for the Economy and Transport
- 3 Questions to the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing
- 4 Questions to the Minister for Health and Social Services

***To ask the Minister for Children, Education and Lifelong Learning***

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** Is it the intention that the increased Flying Start funding from 2012-14 will lead to an increase in the number of children benefitting from the scheme. (WAQ57117)

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** Is it the intention that the increased Flying Start funding from 2012-14 will lead to an increase in the number of areas benefitting from the scheme. (WAQ57118)***Transferred for answer by the Deputy Minister for Children***

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

**The Deputy Minister for Children (Huw Lewis):** Flying Start is our flagship early years programme and provides a path towards improving the life chances of children in our most disadvantaged communities. In determining how best to deploy additional resources we have earmarked £2.5million for investment in this important programme. We will be holding discussions with stakeholders in the coming months to set out how this additional investment will be targeted.

Evaluation evidence has shown us that Flying Start is having a real, positive impact on children - when they go to school they are ready to learn, better behaved and more confident at mixing with other children – and we want to ensure that the benefits for these children and their families continue to be maximised.

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** Will the Minister list the five schools in Wales where FSM (Free School Meal) learners outperformed their ‘non-FSM’ counterparts in 2009 as stated in the New Child Poverty Strategy for Wales – February 2011. (WAQ57119)

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

The five schools are listed below. The analysis only include schools with at least 10 pupils eligible for free school meals.

**Level 2 threshold including a GCSE grade A\*-C in Mathematics and either English or Welsh first language, 2009**

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>School Name</b>
Swansea	Pontarddulais Comprehensive School
Swansea	Dylan Thomas Community School
Rhondda Cynon Taf	Blaengwawr Comprehensive School
Torfaen	Fairwater High School
Cardiff	Mary Immaculate High School

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** What training requirements are incorporated when 21st Century Schools contracts are placed in Wales. (WAQ57122)

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

The 21st Century Schools programme will encourage local authorities to secure community benefits such as training and apprenticeship opportunities, through the adoption of a ‘Community Benefits’ approach to procurement which includes equality of opportunity, local supply chain opportunities especially for smaller organisations and positive environmental impacts.

We will actively encourage links with local training providers, where possible, to ensure that training opportunities, whether it is re-training and/or up skilling, can be made available to assist with job creation and the regeneration of areas of Wales.

***To ask the Minister for the Economy and Transport***

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** Will the Minister make a statement on the Welsh Assembly Government's policy on reopening stations on the Cambrian lines. (WAQ57124)

***Answer issued on 14 February 2011***

We have been supporting TraCC, the Mid Wales transport consortium, to look at the feasibility of opening new railway stations at Bow Street and at Carno.  
We are awaiting the completion of TraCC's final report and we will then consider its recommendations.

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** Which new railway stations have been opened in the past three years in Wales and what was the financial contribution by the Welsh Assembly Government to each project. (WAQ57125)

**Mick Bates (Montgomeryshire):** What railway stations have been reopened in the past three years in Wales and what was the financial contribution by the Welsh Assembly Government to each project. (WAQ57126)

***Answer issued on 06 April 2011***

I have funded new railway stations on the Ebbw Vale Line and at Abercynon in the last three years.

In 2008, the Ebbw Vale Railway reopened for passenger trains with new stations located at Ebbw Vale Parkway, Llanhilleth, Newbridge, Crosskeys, Risca & Pontymister and Rogerstone. The cost for the 6 stations was £15.5m, at an average cost of £2.6m/each. Of the 6 stations; 4 were single platforms and 2 had twin platforms.

In 2009, the remodelled station at Abercynon opened and this allowed the closure of Abercynon North Station which was on a different site. The Welsh Assembly Government contributed £13.2m to this project which also included the redevelopment of the railway infrastructure and signalling at Abercynon, a two mile passing loop and new platform face at Merthyr Tydfil.

***To ask the Minister for Environment, Sustainability and Housing***

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** Will the Minister make a statement on the roll out of Arbed in the Western Valleys Strategic Regeneration Area. (WAQ57123)

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

There are currently 29 arbed projects being delivered across Wales' Regeneration Areas. The £30m investment made by the Welsh Assembly Government has attracted significant additional funding.

There are currently five grantees delivering schemes either partly, or wholly, in the Western Valleys Regeneration area. Grantees are Coastal, Linc, Gwalia and Valleys 2 Coast housing associations and the

City & County of Swansea Council. The specific properties and the areas which make up the projects were nominated by these grantees within limits set by the arbed programme.

All these projects are now being delivered. The total investment in the Western Valleys Regeneration Area from the arbed budget was originally set at £5.45m; however the size of investment for all arbed schemes is dependent on projects being able to deliver the measures they originally proposed. Practical issues including the suitability of measures to particular properties or low private sector take-up of measures impact on the final investment made to individual projects. Current investment in the Western Valleys Regeneration Area is £4.85m plus leveraged funding.

Measures being delivered in these projects include solid wall insulation, solar hot water panels, solar photovoltaic panels and air source heat pumps. Wales based businesses (businesses based solely in Wales and those which have a large employment base in Wales) are represented across these technologies and across the supply chain including product manufacture, system installations and scheme management

A clear indication of the outcomes including the number of homes helped, supply chain support and the amount of combined arbed and leveraged funding will be available after the project delivery date of March 31st.

***To ask the Minister for Health and Social Services***

**Jenny Randerson (Cardiff Central):** What plans does the Minister have to improve mental health services for children with learning disabilities. (WAQ57120)

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

We are strengthening the range of Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). The CAMHS financial commitment supports a range of actions, including the development of CAMHS learning disability services. Since 2008 we have invested an extra £6.9m in CAMHS services and £8m in a school-based counselling service.

In June 2010, we launched “Breaking the Barriers: Meeting the Challenges” to improve CAMHS provision. The action plan includes a specific commitment on CAMHS and learning disabilities. We have established a multiagency Delivery Assurance Group, to oversee the implementation of the action plan, which first met in January and I will report on progress against the plan in September.

I am currently considering ways to evaluate and survey existing good practices, training, support and resources in the remainder of the 2010/11 period.

**Brian Gibbons (Aberavon):** What training requirements are incorporated when major NHS contracts are placed in Wales. (WAQ57121)

***Answer issued on 16 February 2011***

This information is not held centrally. Welsh Health Supplies, which manages the majority of major contracts for products and services for the NHS in Wales, includes training as part of a contract where it is required or deemed necessary.