

Further Education Mergers and Partnerships in Wales

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Context

- Assembly Election
- New Assembly Powers
- Transformation Programme
- Review of F.E. Governance
- Review of Structure of Education
- 14-19 Education Measure
- F.E. Funding in Wales
- Minister's Priorities



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Assembly Election

- Labour Administration 30 seats
- Leighton Andrews Minister
- Jeff Cuthbert Deputy Minister
- Labour minority administration



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New Assembly Powers

- Referendum
 - 63.5% in favour
 - 35.4% turnout
- Powers to pass legislation without gaining assent of Westminster Parliament in 20 devolved areas including education



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Transformation Programme

- Intention to transform for the better 16-19 education in Wales
- Called for proposals from all Welsh LEA's and Further Education Colleges
- Gave no specific direction to LEA's or Colleges



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Examples of Transformation

- Formal mergers between colleges
- Formal regional configuration of colleges and universities
- Tertiary System
- Formal linking of LEA's to provide a single service



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Formal Mergers between Colleges

- Two types:
 - Type A: both college corporations dissolve and a new merged corporation is set up
 - Type B: One College Corporation is dissolved and taken over by the other.

Department for Education and Skills
involvement Mergers in Wales



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Mergers and Merger Proposals

- Deeside and Welsh College of Horticulture - 1 Aug 2009 - Type B
- Llandrillo and Meirion -Dwyfor - 1 April 2010 - Type B
- Deeside and Llysfasi - 1 Aug 2010 - Type B
- Gorseinon and Swansea - 20 Aug 2010 - Type A
- Barry and Glan Hafren - Planned 1 Aug 2011 - Type A
- Coleg Harlech/WEA (N) and WEA South planned 1 Aug 2012 - Type A
- Coleg Menai and Coleg Llandrillo (discussions) - No Date, possibly April 2012?
- Coleg Morgannwg and Ystrad Mynach College (discussions) - No Date, possibly Aug 2012?



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Number of educational institutions in Wales in 2011

- 21 Further Education Colleges
- 170 School Six Forms
- 80+ Training Providers
- 12 Universities



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Number of educational institutions in Wales by 2013

- 8-12 Further Education Colleges?
- c100 School Six Forms?
- 24 Work-based Learning Contracts
- 6 Universities (plus Open University and University of Wales)?



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Formal Collaboration between FE and HE

- South-west Wales Confederation
- Swansea Metropolitan University
- Trinity St David's College
- Coleg Sir Gar
- Pembroke College

Interest from other players



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Tertiary System

- Either a system shared between schools and a college e.g. Cardiff
- Or a Tertiary College e.g. Ebbw Vale and Merthyr Tydfil



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Review of F.E. Governance

- Concept of ownership of a college by its users and stakeholders
- Concept of a Social Enterprise
- Board of Directors (6-12 members)
- Membership Body (25-50 members)



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Review of F.E. Governance

- Report out for consultation
- Main proposals likely to be accepted
- The devil is in the detail
- Timing with mergers issue



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Review of Structure of Education in Wales

- Main proposals concern LEA's
- Unacceptable PISA results to be improved
- Colleges to remain independent
- F.E. to reduce to 8-12 Corporate entities
- Strong Regional Drive



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14-19 Education Measure

- Introduced a duty on all schools and colleges to offer a minimum of 30 courses to include a minimum of 5 vocational courses to all pupils/students at 14 and 16.



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F.E. Funding in Wales

- Overall reduction of 1.4% in FE in 2011/12
- Total core funding £303.2m (1.6% reduction)
- Intend to give 2.5% increase in 2012/13 and 1% increase in 2013/14
- Continuation of funding for Pathways to Apprenticeship (£8.5m) and Adult Skills (£17.1m)
- Welsh Government priorities - health, schools and skills



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Minister's Priorities

- Promote progression through learning into employment
- Maintain volume of learning
- Continue to raise standards
- Improve Welsh PISA results 5 places
- Welsh Medium Vocational Provision
- Continue merger and collaboration programme



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Diolch yn fawr



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