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Press Release – for immediate release

Pioneering New Approach to Initial Teacher Education in Wales Introduced

The first programmes of initial teacher education to be accredited by the Education Workforce Council's (EWC) ITE Accreditation Board are launched this month.

The new programmes have been assessed and evaluated and will continue to be monitored by the Board to ensure they meet the accreditation criteria set by the Welsh Government.

Introduced in line with recommendations from Prof. John Furlong's review of ITE in 2015, the programmes take an entirely new approach to teacher education where universities and schools work closely together and share their knowledge. This pioneering approach is intended to raise the quality of provision, and attract candidates with the right skills, qualifications and aptitude to enter a career in teaching.

Prof. John Furlong, former chairperson for the ITE Accreditation Board and adviser to the Welsh Government and the EWC, said:

"The new approach is needed because education in Wales is changing fundamentally. The curriculum, assessment, management and leadership and professional development will all look very different in a few years' time."

He added:

"Taken together, the changes indicate a very different idea of what it will mean to be a teacher in Wales in the future where teachers don't just have to understand the 'what' of teaching and learning, they also have to understand the 'how' and the 'why'."

This month sees new programmes being delivered by the Cardiff Partnership, CaBan – Chester (Caer) / Bangor North Wales Partnership, the Aberystwyth ITE Partnership and Yr Athrofa: Professional Learning Partnership (APLP).

Elaine Sharpling, director of ITE at the APLP, University of Wales Trinity Saint David (UWTSD), said:

"Our new curriculum is innovative and forward-thinking and the APLP's new suite of teacher education programmes have been designed with Wales' ambitious reform agenda firmly in mind.

"In short, our new national curriculum will require a new type of teacher and we are delighted to have been able to play our part in the transformation of ITE for the benefit of all in Welsh education."

ENDS



Notes for Editors

1. The Education Workforce Council is the independent regulator in Wales for teachers in maintained schools, further education teachers and learning support staff in both school and FE settings, as well as youth workers and people involved in work-based learning.
2. Under the Education Workforce Council (Accreditation of Initial Teacher Training) Additional Functions) Order 2017, EWC has a statutory responsibility to:
 - accredit programmes of Initial Teacher Education (ITE)
 - monitor compliance of accredited programmes against Welsh Government criteria
 - withdraw accreditation of programmes.
3. From September 2019, all initial teacher education programmes offered by partnerships in Wales must be accredited by the EWC. This new function is carried out by EWC's ITE Accreditation Board, who play a vital role in ensuring that initial teacher education programmes in Wales are assessed as being fit for purpose against stringent new criteria set by the Welsh Government.