



Education Workforce Council - breaking new ground in education

On 1st April Wales will make UK history by establishing the first single body to register and regulate school and Further education teachers and school and FE learning support staff. The Education Workforce Council, formed by reconfiguring the General Teaching Council for Wales, was created through the Education Wales Act 2014.

The role and remit of the EWC reflect the changes occurring in the delivery of education in Wales, for example, closer working between schools and the FE sector and a significant increase in the number of learning support staff in schools and colleges.

The aims of the Council are:

- to contribute to improving, the standards of teaching and the quality of learning in Wales, and
- to maintain and improve standards of professional conduct amongst the education workforce.

Chief Executive, Hayden Llewellyn, said:

“The EWC will regulate education practitioners in the interests of the public. We hope to build on the sound regulatory record of the GTCW and deliver public assurance that education practitioners are properly qualified and maintain the high professional standards expected of them. We will be a modern regulator which provides the accountability the public deserve by supporting professionalism amongst those we regulate.

Through its functions, the EWC will help to establish for the first time, a clear picture of the composition of the education workforce as a whole. We will be able to report key workforce data such as qualification levels and Welsh language skills, as well as gender and age. We think this will

be a major factor in improving education policy, planning and implementation in Wales.

The EWC will have a major role in helping to raise standards of teaching and learning through the New Deal for education practitioners announced by the Minister. Notably we will be able to directly help them to develop and improve their practice through the innovative Professional Learning Passport”.

Education Minister, Huw Lewis added:

“Establishing a single body responsible for the entire education workforce marks a genuine shift in policy direction and recognises the continuation of education from the Foundation Phase through to post 19. A joined up workforce is a pre-requisite for achieving the step change proposed by Professor Donaldson in his review Successful Futures.

I have every confidence that the EWC, under Hayden’s leadership, will play an important role in maintaining and raising teaching standards and ensuring our young people receive the very best learning and support opportunities”.

Key stakeholders have welcomed the establishment of the EWC, recognising the opportunities it represents to contribute to raising standards of education in Wales and improve the status of all education professionals.

Greg Walker, Chief Executive of Colleges Wales, welcomes the establishment of the EWC:

“The EWC is a major development for lecturers and learning support staff in the post-16 education sector. The formal role of the Council in promoting professionalism and ensuring high standards is without precedent in our sector and is to be welcomed. We will work closely with the EWC to ensure that it fulfils its important mission for the benefit of learners and staff.”

Joanne Morgan, EWC Council member with a background in learning support, says:

“With the significant increase in the numbers of teaching assistants involved in the delivery of teaching and learning programs, the professional registration of teaching assistants is to be warmly welcomed.”

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The Education Workforce Council (EWC) we regulate education practitioners in Wales in the interests of learners and the general public. We enhance the status of the workforce by promoting high standards of professional conduct and competence and by ensuring these standards are maintained.

Contact

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