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Press Article

Wales leads the way with registration of learning support workers

From Friday, 1 April 2016, Wales will be the first UK nation to include learning support workers in schools and FE colleges on its national register of education practitioners. This is the Education Workforce Council's latest expansion after the inclusion of FE teachers a year ago.

There are currently over 28,000 learning support workers in Wales, whose occupations vary from teaching assistants to technicians and learning coaches. They will join the 43,000 school and FE teachers already on the register, as part of a drive to raise standards and regulate the entire education workforce in Wales.

The move is recognition of the important yet often undervalued work of learning support workers and the integral role they play in Wales' education system.

Chief Executive of the Education Workforce Council, Hayden Llewellyn said, "Registering school and further education teachers and learning support staff in one professional body makes sense for a country the size of Wales, and will be central to the development of an education workforce ready to meet the demands of a changing education landscape in Wales, including developing and delivering a new curriculum in our schools.

"Registration also enhances the status of learning support staff, enabling greater access to training and career development opportunities.

"We are coming to the end of a year-long engagement campaign and have met practitioners from Anglesey to Monmouthshire. The response has been overwhelmingly positive and we appreciate the help and support of support staff and their unions."

Education Minister Huw Lewis added, "I very much welcome this news. The registration of learning support workers is good news for parents, learners, employers and the general public. We are determined to raise the standards of teaching and learning in Wales.

"Registration of the education workforce will play a key role in achieving this and help improve the overall quality of education our young people receive and I am delighted that Wales is leading the way within the UK on this issue".

Learning support workers who are unsure of their status or who need more information about the registration process should contact EWC's qualifications and registration team on 029 2046 0099 or e-mail registration@ewc.wales

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