



**Northern Ireland
Assembly**

**COMMITTEE FOR EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING
MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

WEDNESDAY, 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

ROOM 29, PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Present: Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

Mr Sammy Douglas MLA
Mr David Hilditch MLA
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA
Mr Chris Lyttle MLA
Mr Fra McCann MLA
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA
Mr Alistair Ross MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)
Mr Vincent Gribbin (Assistant Assembly Clerk)
Mr Johnny Lawless (Clerical Supervisor)
Ms Noreen Hayward (Clerical Officer)

Apologies: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr David McClarty MLA

The meeting opened in public session at 10:02 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to Mr David McClarty MLA wishing him a speedy recovery.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Committee considered the arrangements for its event showcasing the work of the 6 Northern Ireland regional further education colleges on 1 October in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings.

Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting 10:07 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to issue a press release regarding the event.

- The Committee noted the success of its showcase event for Apprenticeship Programmes on 24 September 2013 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to add a visit to businesses offering apprenticeships to its list of possible briefings.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 18 September 2013

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the previous meeting.
- The Chairperson advised Members that the Department has proposed to hold a walk through briefing of the Steps to Work Programme at its meeting on 4 December.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to schedule the briefing in its Forward Work Programme.

- The Chairperson advised Members that the Change Manager of the North West Regional College will attend the planned update briefing scheduled for 20 November 2013.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Correspondence from Ulster Supported Employment Limited (USEL) inviting the Committee to visit one of its sites.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to visit USEL as part of its Inquiry into Post 19 SEN provision.

- Correspondence from the Office of the First Minister and deputy First Minister inviting the Committee to take part in a stakeholder event on the implementation of Delivering Social Change Signature Projects on 13 November 2013 in the Long Gallery, Parliament Buildings.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the correspondence to the Department for comment on the Delivering Social Change Signature Projects relevant to the Department.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment including the Department for Enterprise, Trade and Investment's Action Plan for Horizon 2020.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response regarding the provision for young people with severe learning difficulties.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response providing information on the teams dealing with the Review of Apprenticeships and the Review of Youth Training.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Response from the University of Ulster regarding the assistance it provided to students affected by the closure of crèche facilities.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

6. Forward Work Programme

The Committee noted the draft Forward Work Programme up to 11 December 2013.

7. Departmental briefing on the October Monitoring Round 2013

The official joined the meeting at 10:12 am.

The Committee was briefed by Mr John Smith, Director of Finance on the October Monitoring Round 2013.

Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting at 10:17 am.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The official left the meeting at 10:35 am.

8. Departmental briefing on the Summary of Responses on the Parental Leave Consultation

The officials joined the meeting at 10:36 am.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Tom Evans, Deputy Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division and Dr Alan Scott, Employment Relations Policy and Legislation Branch on the Summary of responses on the Parental Leave Consultation,

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Officials agreed to inform the Committee when the responses to the Consultation are on-line.

The officials left the meeting at 10:51 am.

10:52 am The Committee moved into Closed Session.

9. Consideration of the draft report on the Committee Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in Northern Ireland

The Committee agreed to move to agenda item number 13.

The Committee considered the recommendations of its Inquiry into Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) in Northern Ireland.

Mr Sammy Douglas joined the meeting at 10:56 am.

Mr Chris Lyttle joined the meeting at 10:59 am.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the recommendations in the report as amended and subject to comments made by the Committee for Education.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to forward the recommendations relevant to the Committee for Education for its consideration and comment.

Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting at 11:31 am.

11:33 am The Committee moved into Public Session.

10. Departmental update on the Pathways to Success Strategy.

The Committee moved to agenda item number 9.

The officials joined the meeting at 11:34 am.

The Committee was briefed by Mr Colin Jack, Director, Strategy, European and Employment Relations Division, Dr Tracy Power, Deputy Director Analytical Services and Mr Brian Smart, Head of NEET Strategy and Policy Branch on the Pathways to Success Strategy.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Mr David Hilditch left the meeting at 11:55 am.

Agreed: The officials agreed to provide further information regarding action point 15, Improved Educational Attainment and what are the difficulties faced and how successful the advertisements were on 24 June 2013 to identify the first tranche of graduate teachers.

Agreed: The officials agreed to invite the Committee to its NEETs Conference in November 2013.

Mr Chris Lyttle left the meeting at 12:10 pm.

The officials left the meeting at 12:20 pm.

Mr David Hilditch re-joined the meeting at 12:21 pm.

11. Any other Business

The Committee moved to agenda item number 10.

None.

12. Date, time and place of next meeting

The Committee moved to agenda item number 11.

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 25 September 2013 at 10.00 am in in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

12:22 am. The Committee moved into Closed Session.

13. Briefing from Professor Roy McConkey on Post 19 SEN

Professor McConkey joined the meeting at 12:23 pm.

The Committee was briefed by Professor Roy McConkey, Professor of Developmental Disabilities at the University of Ulster on Post 19 Special Educational Needs (SEN) Provision

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

Professor McConkey left the meeting at 12:43 pm.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting information on the further education provision for adults with learning difficulties in all the 6 regional colleges.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:44 pm.

Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA
Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

9 October 2013