



Northern Ireland
Assembly

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

WEDNESDAY, 6 NOVEMBER 2013

**INCLUDE YOUTH OMAGH,
COMMUNITY HOUSE OMAGH**

Present: Mr Robin Swann MLA (Chairperson)
Mr Thomas Buchanan MLA (Deputy Chairperson)

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

The meeting opened in public session at 11:14 am.

1. Apologies

Apologies are detailed above.

2. Chairperson's Business

- The Committee discussed arrangements for its visit to the European Employment Forum in Brussels on 11 November 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to host the European Thematic Desk Officer for dinner on 11 November after its meeting with him.

- The Committee considered a draft press release for the Committee's attendance at the Launch of Include Youth's Transitional Support Service.

Agreed: The Committee agreed the press release.

3. Minutes of the meeting held on 23 October 2013

Agreed: The minutes of the meeting were agreed.

4. Matters arising

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the previous meeting.

5. Correspondence

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental correspondence providing the Annual Progress Report in relation to its duties under Section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 and Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Order 2006.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a summary of the discussions that took place at the Joint Ministerial Council meeting of 4 March 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Committee for the Office of First Minister and deputy First Minister providing a copy of the Departmental response on the European Priorities 2012-2013 Implementation Report.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting further information on:

- the DEL targets that are not yet fully achieved;
- for an update on target number CE 6.1 when the figures for STEM uptake are published in January 2014;
- and for a progress update on how many participants have been assisted to date for target numbers CE 6.4 and CE 7.1 given that the ESF programme does not end until March 2015.

- Correspondence from the Committee for Enterprise, Trade and Investment to the Minister for Employment and Learning regarding the closure of Exploris Aquarium and Seal Sanctuary.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Investment Strategy for Northern Ireland Investing Activity Report for October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the report.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding youth engagement in the European Social Fund (ESF) 2014-2020 consultation.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding post 19 SEN provision in Further Education colleges.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to issues raised by NIACRO regarding the Steps to Work programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to copy the correspondence to NIACRO for information.

- Departmental response to Committee request for additional information regarding the International Survey of Adult Skills.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee request for further information following the briefing from the Royal National Institute for Blind People NI.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to copy the correspondence to the RNIB for information.

- Correspondence from Copius providing further information following their briefing on 9 October 2013.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence requesting information on the Bright Start Programme.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to write to the Department seeking information on why the DEL scoping exercise document on Childcare states that the biggest barrier to work is lack of work experience but does not mention the issue of a lack of employment opportunities.

- Invitation from the Minister for Employment and Learning to an ESF Conference on youth unemployment.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

- Invitation from the Chartered Institute of Marketing to attend the Ireland Marketing Excellence Awards on 7 November 2013 in the Ramada Plaza Hotel, Belfast.

Agreed: The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

6. Forward Work Programme

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

7. Briefing from Include Youth on the Launch of its Transitional Support Service Pilot Project

The representatives joined the meeting at 11:26 am.

The Committee was briefed by Ms Sara Boyce, Policy, Research and Information Controller and Mr John McComb, Employability Manager on the launch of the Transitional Support Service Pilot Project.

Mr Alastair Ross joined the meeting at 11:33 am.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

The representatives left the meeting at 12:11 pm.

8. Any other Business

None.

9. Date, time and place of next meeting

Agreed: The Committee agreed that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 20 November at 10.00 am in Room 29 Parliament Buildings.

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting at 12:12 pm.

Mr Robin Swann MLA
Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning

20 November 2013