



Northern Ireland  
Assembly

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

**WEDNESDAY, 24 JUNE**

**ROOM 29 PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS**

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

Mr Sydney Anderson MLA  
Mr Phil Flanagan MLA  
Mr David Hilditch MLA  
Mr William Irwin MLA  
Ms Anna Lo MLA  
Mr Fra McCann MLA  
Ms Bronwyn McGahan MLA  
Mr Pat Ramsey MLA  
Ms Claire Sugden MLA

In Attendance: Mrs Cathie White (Assembly Clerk)  
Mr Johnny Lawless (Assistant Assembly Clerk)

Apologies: None

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

**1. Apologies**

Apologies are detailed above.

**2. Chairperson's Business**

- The Chairperson advised that some Members from the Committee met informally with the University and College Union, NUS-USI and Mr Dan Gordon regarding the discontinuation of performing arts at Belfast Metropolitan College on Tuesday 23 June 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a briefing from Belfast Metropolitan College on its discontinuation of performing arts courses in the meeting on 1 July 2015.

- The Committee discussed arrangements for dealing with Committee issues during the Summer Recess.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed that the Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson would submit views on releasing or withholding information in any non-routine or contentious Freedom of Information requests during the Recess period and that they would advise the Committee of any such requests at the first meeting back in September.

### **3. Minutes of the meeting held on 17 June 2015**

*Agreed:* The minutes of the meeting on 17 June were agreed.

### **4. Matters arising**

- The Committee noted a list of matters arising from the meeting on 17 June 2015.

### **5. Correspondence**

The Committee considered the following items of correspondence:

- Departmental correspondence providing a summary of its services at June 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Ministerial correspondence giving notice of intention to make an oral statement on the Outcome of the Review of Youth Training.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Ministerial correspondence requesting withdrawal of the notice to make an oral statement on the Outcome of the Review of Youth Training.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from the Chairpersons' Liaison Group detailing the key issues discussed at its meeting on 16 June 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Correspondence from Hawthorn's Adult Centre providing a copy of its service user guide and annual report.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Fit for Work Scheme.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and forward it to Abbey Upholsterers for information.

- Correspondence from Include Youth regarding the discontinuation of funding for Pathways Education Maintenance Allowance.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include in the meeting pack for 1 July 2015 when the Minister briefs the Committee on the European Social Fund.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to write to the Department requesting a breakdown, by geographical spread and of the numbers of young people affected by the cessation of the Education Maintenance Allowance.

- Correspondence from the Northern Ireland Assembly EU Affairs Manager providing the EU Matters Issue - June 2015.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the option to statement a young person with Special Educational Need up to the age of 25.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the response.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the Steps 2 Success contractors response to the Northern Ireland Assembly Research and Information Service paper.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Copy correspondence to the Minister for Employment and Learning from European Social Fund Disability Sector Organisations.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence and include in the meeting pack for 1 July 2015 when the Minister briefs the Committee on the European Social Fund.

- Departmental response to Committee correspondence regarding the increase in student fees.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Ministerial correspondence giving notice of intention to make an oral statement on the Outcome of the Review of Youth Training.

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the correspondence.

- Invitation from NIACRO to the presentation of research findings on Understanding and Improving Employment Pathways in Youth Justice in Northern Ireland

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to note the invitation.

## **6. Forward Work Programme**

- The Committee noted the Forward Work Programme to 1 July 2015.

## **7. Departmental Briefing - Update on the Review of Careers Guidance**

*10:08 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Ms June Ingram, Director of Skills and Industry Division, Ms Frances O'Hara, Head of Careers Service Delivery and Ms Christina Kelly, Deputy Head of Careers and Guidance Services.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*10:25 am Ms Claire Sugden left the meeting.*

*10:26 am Mr Thomas Buchanan joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with statistical information on the number of post primary schools offering non-traditional A'Level courses, for example, computer programming and creative industries.

*10:33 am Mr William Irwin joined the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to schedule a showcase event to promote the new approach to Careers Guidance provision in Northern Ireland.

*10:51 am Mr Phil Flanagan joined the meeting*

*11:03 am The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

## **8. Departmental Briefing - Update on United Youth**

*11:04 am The Departmental officials joined the meeting.*

The Committee was briefed by Ms Yvonne Croskery, Director of Youth Policy and Strategy Division, Ms Carol Magill, Head of New Initiatives Unit and Ms Julie Jamison, New Initiatives Unit.

The briefing was followed by a question and answer session.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with full details on the 13 pilot programmes including a geographical spread of where the programmes are to be delivered.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with the statistical information on the numbers of young people that are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) and those school leavers who will become NEET.

*11:19 am Mr David Hilditch joined the meeting.*

*11:23 am Mr William Irwin left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with the outcomes and principles framework document.

*11:50 am Mr Phil Flanagan left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with a copy of the Together Building a United Community Strategy.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the Headstart Programme.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with details of the Local Council Areas of the 50 organisations that were shortlisted from the 150 concept proposal received under the United Youth Strategy.

*Agreed:* The officials agreed to provide the Committee with an estimated overall cost for the delivery of the United Youth Programme.

*12:09 pm Mr Sydney Anderson left the meeting.*

*12:10 pm The Departmental officials left the meeting.*

*Agreed:* The Committee agreed to request a research paper on the Together Building a United Community Strategy and how it links in with other European Strategies.

## **9. Any other business**

None

## **10. Date, time and place of next meeting**

The Committee noted that the next meeting should be held on Wednesday 1 July 2015 at 10.00 am in Room 29, Parliament Buildings.

*12:11 pm The Chairperson adjourned the meeting.*

**Mr Robin Swann MLA**  
**Deputy Chairperson, Committee for Employment & Learning**

**1 July 2015`**