



## Annual General Meeting

Metropole Hotel, Llandrindod Wells : 10 March 2009

### Notes from morning session

**Member Organisations Present:** Alun Ackerman (Barry College), Gerry Jenson (Coleg Llandrillo Cymru), Debbie Tebbutt (Coleg Menai), Lyndsay Harris (Coleg Morgannwg), Hala Hanschell (Coleg Powys), Denise Owen (Dysgu Bro Ceredigion Community Learning), Mark Dacey (Neath Port Talbot College) (Chair of OCN Wales), Hywel Davies (Prifysgol Aberystwyth), Ifor Gruffydd (Prifysgol Bangor – Canolfan Iaith), John O’Shea (University of Glamorgan), Maggi Dawson (WEA South), Kath Jones, Janet Jones (Cardiff Community Education), Dale Hughes (Cardiff Council Placement), Lynn Booth (Consensus Vyrnwy Academy), Chris Davies (ACL Lifelong Learning Service), G Davies (Neath Port Talbot CBC), Gillian Phillips (Ystrad Mynach College), Steve Kelshaw (Coleg Sir Gâr), Glyn Price (GISDA), Johanne Price, Julian Hackling (Gwent Community Learning Centre).

**Stakeholders Present:** Julie Cook, Sian Cartwright (TUC Wales), Rachel Mooney (DCELLS - CQFW), Richard Spear (NIACE Dysgu Cymru).

**Also present:** Miriam Griffiths (Consultant)

**In attendance:** Richard Cuthbertson (Company Secretary), Janet Barlow, Anne Lewis, Cheryl Crook (OCN Wales)

### Apologies were received from:

**Member Organisations:** Helen Pickens (Ogwr DASH), Bob Woods (Dementia Services Development Centre Wales), Alison Mawby (KPC Youth), Ann D Smith (Conwy County Borough Council), Ann Philpott (Interlink), Jeff Childs (Blaenau Gwent CBC), Sian Dolling (Caswell Clinic NHS Trust Wales), Louise Wilkinson (PAVS), Julie Pemberton (Construction Training Ltd), Wendy Gilbert (WCVA), Made Thomas (MENFA), Chris Thomas (HMP Cardiff), Professor Chapman (UWIC), Dee Lamb (Gate Training Ltd), Sandra Hickman (Swansea College), Jackie Gwynne (Torfaen Pupil Referral Unit), Professor Merfyn Jones (Bangor University), Eleanor Jones (Cynon Valley Crime Prevention Association), Nicola Gamlin (Coleg Gwent), Lynnette El-Khatib (Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC), Brech’ed Piette (Bangor University), Rob Payne (University of Glamorgan).

**Stakeholders:** Mike Hopkins (DCELLS), Richard Hart (DCELLS - ATNW), Merfyn Morgan (DCELLS - Q&L), Alison Bryant, Andrew Clark, Gren Jackson (DCELLS - LLP), Elizabeth Williams, John Pontin (DCELLS), Mike Cole (NHILA Wales), Bill Maxwell (EStyn), Liz Pridgeon (LANTRA).

### Welcome

The Chair welcomed all members and stakeholders to the morning session of the AGM.



## **Presentation of cheque from Novo Nordisk**

Mark Dacey (Chair of OCN Wales) thanked Mr Peter George, Customer Relations Manager, Novo Nordisk Ltd for the contribution of £10,000 to support the Credit 4 Patients Programme. Formal thanks were also made to Sue Saunders (OCN Wales Curriculum Development Officer) for her work with Novo Nordisk.

## **Presentations on highlights from 2007/08**

Presentations were given on the highlights from 2007/08 and a progress report on the application to become an awarding organisation and on the challenges and opportunities for OCN Wales.

## **A number of questions were raised during the session and the responses given are noted below.**

*How do the employability qualifications in the plan of provision submitted to the Qualifications Regulators fit with the existing NOCN Level 2 qualification?*

We will continue to work with NOCN in a new partnership arrangement. Therefore NOCN qualifications will be available to centres in Wales via this partnership. The proposed suite of qualifications are Entry and Level 1 and will reflect particular requirements in Wales e.g. include units developed by Careers Wales for Youth Gateway. The QCF provides opportunities to combine 'shared' units to develop more coherent suites of units.

*What is the timescale for completion of the unit library review?*

Review is an on-going process. All units will be reviewed at least every 5 years to ensure that they continue to be fit for purpose and to meet current quality standards. We will communicate the outcomes more effectively and look at ways to fit into the planning cycles to minimise disruption.

*Why is it not possible to delete units from frameworks?*

The current IT system does not allow units to be deleted from the framework. Care has to be taken to ensure that learner histories and audit trails are not affected when unit classifications change. As a result units are marked as expired rather than deleted. This may be addressed when OCN Wales controls the database independently from NOCN.

*Will OCN Wales units be put on the WLAD?*

Qualifications will be put on to the WLAD – though there are significant delays to amendments to the WLAD. Units not included in qualifications will not be on the WLAD but the usual mechanism will apply for these units.

*Is there any news on adding IT units to the core of Progression Qualifications?*

A bulletin will be released shortly about the new NOCN units that contribute to the ITQ

*Are there any plans to facilitate information sharing for groups of learners such as Young Offenders where it is hard to track achievement?*

The unique learner number (ULN) is an intrinsic part of the QCF. This should help the problem significantly.

An opportunity for discussion amongst members and stakeholders to contribute suggestions for targets for the new organisation took place and the following suggestions were provided.

### **Suggestions for targets for the new organisation**

- Qualifications must be transferable and credible across borders
- OCN Wales should prepare to respond to the current financial climate by packaging units into short courses that can respond to regional and national needs
- Use simple flow charts to explain process where possible
- Improve certification times – City and Guilds walled garden allows certification within 4 days
- Explore partnership approaches to lobbying activities
- Consider a national campaign to restore the funding for ACL – also help centres to respond to the needs of learners effectively
- Set clear operational targets that have been benchmarked to best practice in the sector
- Devote time (and staff) to utilising the unit library to best effect e.g. group units, highlight good practice