

## 7. Paper 08.12.12 – Wales Branch Report (KH)

### For Information

#### Purpose

A brief summary of current issues and activities affecting the EAUC's Wales Branch.

#### *EAUC-Wales Branch Developments*

#### Main Report

Since the last EAUC Board meeting we have had the Branch AGM. This report details key items from this meeting – (Coleg Gwent - 15<sup>th</sup> October 2014).

We had three very interesting presentations:

Presentation (LiFE) – Iain Patton, CEO, EAUC - Iain first recognised the strength of the Welsh region and suggested that Wales should 'shout louder'. Iain gave an overview of LiFE, using a web link to demonstrate the tool in use. It was noted that an ability of the tool to generate reports was of benefit. Some members questioned if the tool could integrate corporate health and wellbeing (including H&S) as some Welsh region members work with integrated systems. The links between different standards was raised.

Presentation – Simon Pirotte, Principal and CEO, Bridgend College: Simon talked passionately about the challenges the sector faces and the need to reduce bureaucracy and duplication.

He described the Bridgend College strategic plan, stating that simplification and 'eliminating the unnecessary so that the necessary may speak'. The Principal then spoke about sustainability within organisation and the need for partnership working (citing the LSB) and the need to do more for less. The maturity of the organisation is a critical element of success; the reduction in scheduled meetings and ability for individuals to make decision for action as part of a mature organisation were spoken about passionately. He reiterated the importance of partnership working and the need to think strategically about shared resources. The language of sustainability is key to successful outcomes and simplification is critical to engaging individuals for action. A highly important note was given at the meeting by the Principal – sustainability must be at the heart of decision-making and that an holistic approach was needed.

Presentation - David Fitzpatrick – CynnalCymru: David reiterated that we need to focus on behaviour change for real change. The collective voice of Charter signatories has a powerful voice and is a valuable network for partnership working. The significant number of individuals in education in Wales was discussed and the potential contribution to society via the Sustain Wales fund proposal. Delivered by automatic learner membership to CynnalCymru – potentially via enrolment fees. David talked about the HEA/QAA sustainability report and the possibility of a Sustainable Procurement Bill.

EAUC Cymru to forward a letter to WG on behalf of its' Welsh members in support of Charter and the need for continuing support for its signatories.

## **AGM**

KH recognised that this has been a good year for Welsh branch and that we are seeing a balance in new/returning members, but need more from HE. The group is open to all and non-members will always be welcomed.

KH outlined progression on the Welsh region objectives. Members are requested to approach a member of their governing body (or Chancellor, VC, Principal, VP) to attend a future meeting. A discussion on attendance of an elected student to the Welsh branch meeting. ColegauCymru to be invited to attend a future meeting. There was one post available for election of the committee due to Mark Durdin stepping down. We were very pleased to welcome Ian Rowe from Coleg Gwent in the role of Meeting Co-ordinator for the Welsh Branch. KH and CL to continue as Convenor and Secretary.

**Katrina Henderson**

*EAUC-Wales Branch Convener*

*09/11/14*