

#ESCymru18

Employability and Skills Convention 2018

19 November 2018

9.30am: Registration

Tea and Coffee

Exhibition

10.15 Opening Plenary Session

Welcome and purpose of the day

David Hagendyk, Director, Learning and Work Institute Cymru

10.20am: Welcome from Lead Sponsor, Remploi Cymru

10.30am: Twenty years of devolution: progress, failures and the future

Victoria Winkler (Director, Bevan Foundation)

Prof Phil Brown (Distinguished Research Professor, Cardiff University)

Stephen Evans (Chief Executive, Learning and Work Institute)

11.20am: Panel: Thinking about the next twenty years

11.45am: Tea and coffee, exhibition

12.00pm: Workshops

Where are labour markets in Wales going? The state of the labour market now and looking to the future - Paul Bivand, Assistant Director Statistics and Analysis, Learning and Work Institute

Learning and Work Institute's Lead Statistician, Paul Bivand, examines recent labour market trends and risks for Wales. He will look particularly at disadvantaged groups and look at a nearly final view of the Work Programme in Wales as a benchmark for its successors and will examine how Universal Credit is impacting across Wales. He will discuss the emerging impacts of Brexit.

The evolution of prospective learner decision making - Marcella Collins, Prompt Marketing

What really influences learner decision making? How can you build meaningful conversations with the right people? How is education research changing and where is it heading? Join Marcella Collins from Prompt Marketing for an interactive hour that looks at the challenges and opportunities for providers in this vast and competitive market and gain actionable insight and tips that you can apply to engage and convert potential learners.

Wales at its Best: Tackling the Disability Employment Gap - Julian John, Delsion

This facilitative workshop looks at how we can best support the Welsh Government's ambition to make a significant impact on the number of disabled people in employment. Understanding the opportunities, sharing best practises and looking at approaches to work in the future this session aims to highlight collaborative solutions to take forward.

Improving job progression in Wales - Jonathan Webb, Wales Centre for Public Policy

Despite the contribution low paid sectors make to the Welsh economy, too many workers in these sectors struggle to make ends meet and progress in-work. This workshop builds on a recent evidence review undertaken by the Wales Centre for Public Policy. It will outline the evidence on what works to enable progression and initiate a discussion about the actions needed to be taken by government, employers, learning providers and other intermediaries to support job progression in Wales.

Update on Welsh Government Employability Action Plan

Led by Welsh Government, the workshop will provide an opportunity for delegates to receive an update on progress on the Employability Action Plan and to feed into future work and priorities.

- 1.00pm: Lunch**
Exhibition area
- 1.40pm: Workshops**

Capturing the best of ESF - How do we influence future skills and employability programmes –

Wales has benefitted from several European Social Fund (ESF) programmes with programme structures and delivery models evolving throughout this time. While the vote to leave the European Union means that Wales will no longer benefit from ESF funding, it

provides us with an opportunity to review what employability and skills gaps remain, what interventions we need to continue and how we develop these, building on our collective experience. The workshop will aim to capture the best of ESF supported employability and skills delivery, looking at collaboration, delivery structures and results.

What future for young people

Young people face a challenging labour market, often resulting in precarious, low paid employment opportunities. What skills do young people need for the future, how can we improve the quality of employment and improve social mobility. With the Youth Commission established in England to consider these challenges, we will ask whether the time is right for a Youth Commission for Wales.

Improving education and employability for Welsh offenders - Kylie Thomas, Employer Services Consultant, Working Links & **Leanne Sollis**, Delivery Manager, Wales and South West of England, Working Links

Research shows the impact employment and education has in rehabilitation and in reducing the risk of reoffending. In a complex system of support for ex-offenders and with many individuals coming from disadvantaged backgrounds, how do we ensure all sectors and organisations are working collaboratively on this ex-offender journey? How do we guarantee that we are working closely with employers and using local labour market intelligence so that ex-offenders can undertake the relevant training to be equipped with the required skillset needed in both pre and post-release?

The future of the employability profession - Scott Parkin, Institute of Employability Professionals & **David Imber**, Principal, VRC Ltd

An inter-active workshop to look at the future of the employability profession, led by the Institute of Employability Professionals and the Vocational Rehabilitation Consultants. It will examine how to support employability professionals and the proven skills needed to help

employers and individuals, as well as asking what worthwhile staff development programmes look like and how the sector can support and inspire new entrants into the profession.

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Plenary Session Two

2.45pm: Keynote speech

Eluned Morgan AM, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language

Q&A

3.30pm: Panel

If I ran Wales: priorities for the next First Minister

4.00pm: Reflections and closing remarks

Supporters:

