

Impact Report

August 2019 – July 2020

18. 05. 2021



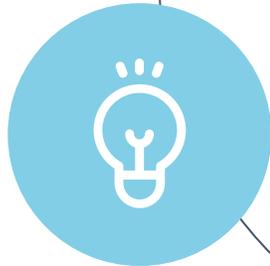
Our vision is for world-class further education for Wales. Our mission is to demonstrate the value of further education to all learners, to society and to the economy

Our work focuses on delivering the following five strategic priorities:

To promote and support high quality provision for learners



To influence and shape government policy



To be a sustainable and dynamic sector-leading organisation



To ensure a high profile for education, training and skills in Wales



To proactively engage with employers and stakeholders to identify and address skills gaps in the Welsh economy



Income and Funding

College subscriptions

ColegauCymru continues to be principally funded through college subscriptions at a level sufficient to meet the budgetary requirements agreed by the Board (£632,161)

Income

Total income was £1,903,981, a decrease of £579,320

Covid19

The level of grants received during the year was significantly impacted by the Covid19 Pandemic. Outturn was adversely affected



Response to Covid19 Pandemic

We worked with colleges and Welsh Government to secure additional funding to help address the impact of the Pandemic in FE and WBL, including:

Over
£15m

for learners beginning their A-level or vocational course at an FE college or sixth form, to increase support and help transition to post-16 learning (equivalent to a 5% increase to funding-per-student)

£5m

to support vocational learners to return to college to complete licence-to-practice qualifications, without needing to re-sit the full year

£3.2m

to provide digital equipment such as laptops for FE learners

Additional
£466,000

to support students undertaking Independent Living Skills programmes, to enable them to complete their transition from college into employment and independence





Website

A brand new bilingual website launched as a shop window for the work of the organisation



The Voice of Further Education

ColegauCymru convenes and supports the Principals' Forum, Financial Directors' Forum, HR Directors' Network and the Curriculum and Quality Group, representing the interests of FE providers

We secured overseas staff and learner mobility opportunities through Erasmus+, EQAVET, and British Council partnerships

Over
€2m

2020 was our **most successful year** with the Learner mobility project attracting **just over €2m** this income has been set aside for future mobilities due to the pandemic



Consultation Responses



Submitted 20 consultation responses on post-16 education policy in Wales to Welsh Government or Senedd Committees



Contributed to oral evidence sessions to Senedd Committees including sessions on degree apprenticeships to the Economy, Infrastructure and Skills Committee, and responding to the challenges of Covid19 to the Children, Young People and Education Committee



Campaigned for the future of student mobility post-Brexit



Policy and Communications



Represented the views of Members through policy position statements and press releases



Held strategic dialogue meetings with Welsh Government Senedd Members and Ministers, including Cross Party Group meetings on FE and Future Skills, and Welsh Language in FE



Published *Can you get there from here?* Post-16 education, social progression and socioeconomic resilience research report, written by Dr Mark Lang



Continued to work closely with key stakeholders including WG, Sport Wales, Qualifications Wales, Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, and with colleges to ensure that the FE sector was well placed in terms of future developments



Attended the Welsh Conservative party-political conference in March 2020, taking part in a main stage debate (all other conferences cancelled due to Covid19)



Negotiated with trade unions on behalf of the sector to secure a **2.75% increase** in pay for 2019/20

Developed a Back to College health and safety protocol with trade unions and Welsh Government to ensure the safe return of staff and learners to face-to-face teaching





Development Projects





International and European partnerships and learning opportunities

We continued to support FE colleges in Wales to integrate international activities into the daily lives of learners and staff. Programmes such as Erasmus+ enrich and enhance learning and teaching experiences.

International and European partnerships and learning opportunities

Erasmus+ KA1 - Learner and Staff Mobility Projects



Focus on providing vocational learners and apprentices with opportunities to undertake short term work placements in Europe

€2m

2020 was our most successful year with the project attracting just over €2m

826
learners

Funding to enable 826 learners from all of FE colleges to benefit from a two-week work placement in a wide range of European countries



In 2020, successfully obtained funding for staff to visit Austria, Norway and Ireland to explore the professional learning of vocational staff and the development of a professional learning framework



International and European partnerships and learning opportunities

WG funded pilot learner mobilities to Brittany

Project managed pilot week-long mobilities to Brittany for learners in Marine Engineering, Health & Social Care, Hospitality & Catering and Agriculture to pilot alternatives to Erasmus+

Erasmus+ KA2

This project runs until February 2022. The project has 9 EU partners who are developing a partner search web platform called Erasmobility

WG National Contact Point

Continued our work as WG National Contact and Reference Point for a range of European tools that promote transparency, portability and recognition of qualifications across the EU

Worked closely with Qualifications Wales and other key stakeholders to re-reference the Credit and Qualifications Framework for Wales (CQFW) to the European Qualifications Framework (EQF) following a successful funding application to the European Commission to undertake this work

ECVET Experts' Project

Attended training days, led workshops and produced training materials

EQAVET

As the National Reference Point, secured funding of €103k to investigate VET Graduate tracking in six other European countries or regions





Active Wellbeing

In partnership with Sport Wales, ColegauCymru is the lead organisation for sport, physical activity and volunteering in FE colleges in Wales, raising the profile of sport, physical activity and volunteering through college projects and promoting elite college sport.

Active Wellbeing Strategy launched to provide a new strategic direction and make the connection between activity and wellbeing of college communities.

International and European partnerships and learning opportunities

- Erasmus+ Sport CPMES Curricular Pathways for Migrants Empowerment through Sport project
- FE MultiSport Pembrey 2019 and Snowdonia Challenge 2019

Active Wellbeing

2019/20 Achievements





Cymraeg Gwaith Scheme

- Funded by WG, ColegauCymru managed in partnership with Y Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol, the Scheme strengthens Welsh language skills in the work place
- During 2019/20 11 colleges were part of the project which exceeded the target of 210 individuals undertaking 120 hours of Welsh during the year



Additional Learning Needs

- Running a Welsh Government funded project to support and challenge colleges as they prepare for the implementation of the ALNET Act
- ALN Transformation Lead employed on behalf of Welsh Government
- Coordinating a series of projects on provision and practice in Independent Living Skills (ILS) curriculum area





Flexible Adult Learning

Managing 3 Welsh Government funded pilot projects on FE colleges' preparedness for Brexit



Thank you

