

Consultation

Response Form Your name: Mary van den Heuvel

Organisation (if applicable): NEU Cymru

email / telephone number:

mary.vandenheuvel@neu.org.uk ;

Your address: Ty Sinnott, 18 Neptune Court,
Cardiff, CF24 5PJ.

About the National Education Union Cymru:

- The National Education Union Cymru stands up for the future of education. It brings together the voices of teachers, lecturers, support staff and leaders working in maintained and independent schools and colleges to form the largest education union in Wales.
- The National Education Union is affiliated to the Trades Union Congress (TUC), European Trade Union Committee for Education (ETUCE) and Education International (EI). It is not affiliated to any political party and seeks to work constructively with all the main political parties.
- Together, we'll shape the future of education.

NEU Cymru response

We are concerned that there is no side-by-side table to show the levels of new funding compared to the levels of previous funding. This undermines the meaningfulness of this consultation.

Overall, we would be concerned about the pace and scale of changes which are coming to PCET sector – for example additional duties for Additional Learning Needs and the planned The Commission for Tertiary Education and Research (CTER).

The CTER is not mentioned within this consultation and we would be interested in the rationale about making changes now, when we presume the CTER will have a large impact on the PCET Sector, including the contingency fund.

Question 1: Do you agree that the methodology for allocating the annual FCF budget should be open and transparent?

This would seem a sensible approach – openness and transparency are key. However, as the consultation does not set out the proposed funding changes alongside the current ones, we believe this consultation is not as open as it could be.

Question 2: Do you agree that the basis of the allocations should be student numbers and a measure of economic disadvantage?

Whilst we understand that the allocations should take into account economic disadvantage we believe there should be sufficient sums in the system to ensure that no one loses out.

Question 3: How should economic disadvantage be measured?

We believe that the numbers of young people in receipt of Educational Maintenance Allowance is a fairer measure of disadvantage than postcode.

Question 4: Are you satisfied with the proposed weighting for each factor?

We would be interested to see the methodology behind the 75:25 split, as it is not clearly set out in the consultation.

Question 5: Are there any other factors that should be taken into account? Please provide justification for any additional factor(s).

Rurality and access to transport should be taken into account.

Question 6: How would you define the additional factor(s)?

Rurality is often used in formulas by the Welsh Government.

Question 7: How would you measure the additional factor(s)?

See above.

Question 8: Do you have any other comments on the proposed methodology?

Generally, it is unclear, as previously stated.

Question 9: We would like to know your views on the effects that the proposals have on the Welsh language, specifically on opportunities for people to use Welsh and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than English.

We are supportive of the target of 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.

Some young people will have limited choices in terms of Welsh medium education at a post-16 level. Availability of a course may correlate to rurality and should be taken into account when considering access to post-16 education.

Question 10: What effects do you think there would be? How could positive effects be increased, or negative effects be mitigated

See comment above.

Question 11: Please also explain how you believe the proposed changes could be formulated or changed so as to have positive effects or increased positive effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language, and no adverse effects on opportunities for people to use the Welsh language and on treating the Welsh language no less favorably than the English language.

See comment above.

Question 12: We have asked a number of specific questions. If you have any related issues which we have not specifically addressed, please use this space to report them:

Responses to consultations are likely to be made public, on the internet or in a report. If you would prefer your response to remain anonymous, please state here:

Responding to the Consultation

We appreciate you taking your time to read and respond to this consultation.

Responses are required by 18 March 2019. Any responses received after this time will not be included in the analysis of the consultation responses. If you are responding on behalf of an organisation we ask for your name and the organisation's name. However, you have the option to remain anonymous if you wish. Please refer to the Data Protection section for further information about how this is used.

Thank you on behalf of the Welsh Government for participating in this public consultation.