



Llywodraeth Cynulliad Cymru  
Welsh Assembly Government

Beacon Awards **A<sup>o</sup>C**



**The Department for Education and Skills (DfES) is responsible for the effective deployment of [Welsh Government](#) funds for schools, further education, private and voluntary sector training provision, adult community learning and higher education throughout Wales.**

DfES works with key partners to improve children's services, education and training provision to secure better outcomes for learners, business, and employers. It helps empower children, young people and adults through education and training to enjoy a better quality of life.

The FE sector plays a critically important role by equipping learners with the essential skills needed for work, home and leisure; providing lifelong learning opportunities in a wide range of subjects; allowing flexibility and choice designed to motivate and enthuse young people to reach their goals, balancing learning with real life experiences and breaking down barriers to learning.

At 16, a young person who wishes to engage in learning or enter the labour market faces a different set of issues and barriers. The recession has had an adverse affect on opportunities for these young people (16-24 years old) and can often result in cycles of inactivity and the absence of sustained episodes of working. Young people need to be provided with opportunities to gain suitable skills to progress into sustainable employment.

There are a significant number of young people in Wales who may become disengaged from learning and who are subsequently at risk of becoming not in education, employment or training - now, or in the future. A key priority for the Welsh Government is to reduce the number of young people who are not engaged in education, training or employment.

Educational institutions need systematic arrangements to ensure that they actively seek to engage young people who are currently not engaged in education, employment or training, or are in danger of disengaging from learning. Additionally, they will need to have in place support mechanisms that will work to ensure that those young people currently on programme do not fall out of the educational system, but progress to employment or other learning opportunities, preferably at a higher level.

**Further education - serving the needs of a better society and strong economy**



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## The Welsh Government Award for Engaging Learners who are not in Employment, Education or Training

The Welsh Government Award for engaging learners who are not in employment, education or training is open to all further education institutions in Wales. The Award aims to recognise best practice in helping young people engage with learning and remain engaged with the learning process as a first step towards gaining the requisite skills to enter sustained employment, and to achieve to the best of their abilities.

**Assessors will be looking for evidence of:**

- Effective measures to identify and engage with young people who are not in education, employment or training, which also ensure that learners choose the appropriate course for their learning/employment aims
- Innovative ways of raising young people's aspirations and achievements
- Comprehensive support meeting individual learner's needs particularly providing support to young people who may be experiencing significant barriers to successfully completing their programmes or are in danger of disengaging from the learning process
- Effective processes to track learners' progress and evaluate the impact of the on-programme support
- Demonstrable success in securing progressions for learners to employment or the next stage of learning, appropriate to their individual development needs