

Don't Cut Me Out

BRIEFING

Invest in lifelong learning and unlock Wales' potential

Our colleges and universities help drive Welsh economic success and offer a vital second chance to adults who want to develop their skills. Part-time education, in particular, offers a more flexible route into education for many adults. The part-time sector is of particular benefit to women and disadvantaged communities.

The widening access agenda championed in Wales aims to offer education and opportunity for all. However, large funding cuts to post-16 education have disproportionately hit those from disadvantaged communities, women, and minority groups. This is a very real threat to the vision set out for fair access to education.

Additionally, research from the Open University and NUS Wales has shown that the vast majority of adults returning to study on a part-time, flexible basis must often do so without the support or co-operation of their employer.

As the representatives of students and Further Education and Higher Education members of staff, the University and College Union (UCU), National Union of Students Wales (NUS Wales) and UNISON Cymru/Wales are jointly campaigning to ensure investment in lifelong learning throughout the duration of the next term.

Practically, this means proper funding for part-time post-16 education in Wales and...

...A fair deal for all students

An education system that supports adults to return to education without being financially disadvantaged for doing so, with part-time and flexible study key to allowing many back into learning.

...Ensuring part-time, flexible learning is as important as full-time study

Welsh Government investment in part-time and lifelong learning must include incentives for providers to promote part-time provision and appropriate funding.

...Clear advice for potential students

Information regarding the costs of flexible learning and available student support is often disjointed and confusing. Clear advice would make returning to learning more attractive and easier for potential students.

...Encouraging adults back into learning

All adults should be offered access to a mid-career review from a professional careers advisor to help decide how they could best develop. This would capture the public's imagination and make returning to study a real possibility for all.

Please ask your Welsh Assembly colleagues to support these measures too.

For further information please contact:

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