

**Julie James AC/AM**  
**Y Gweinidog Sgiliau a Gwyddoniaeth**  
**Minister for Skills and Science**

Y Pwyllgor Cydraddoldeb, Llywodraeth Leol a Chymunedau  
Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee  
ELGC(5)-24-17 Papur 10/ Paper 10  
Ein cyf/Our ref MA-P/JJ/2410/17



**Llywodraeth Cymru**  
**Welsh Government**

John Griffiths AM  
Chair of the Equality, Local Government  
and Communities Committee

12 July 2017

Dear John

Thank you for your letter of 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017 requesting information on the Employability Delivery Plan to inform the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's inquiries into poverty in Wales.

In my recent statement to Plenary, I set out the Welsh Government's approach to Employability in Wales. It is my intention to publish an Employability Delivery Plan before the end of 2017. The Plan will underpin the Taking Wales Forward commitment to 'reshape employability support for job-ready individuals and those furthest from the labour market to acquire the skills and experience to gain and maintain sustainable employment. It will look closely at existing services and infrastructure, assess how well they help people to find and stay in work and consider whether they provide value for money.

To ensure a fully integrated approach to the development of the Employability Delivery Plan, I have established a cross-Welsh Government Employability Board made up of senior officials. In addition, I am drawing up an External Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Plan which will feed into the cross-Welsh Government Board and include representation from key partners.

In my statement I outlined that our new employability offer is expected to begin delivery in April 2019. This will be positioned as a single offer under the name, 'Working Wales' and will be underpinned by a new programme for adults along with two new programmes that will deliver employability support to young people. Between now and April 2019 we will reconfigure our existing programmes to enable a smooth transition, using the Valleys and Communities for Work Plus areas as a test bed to inform the new delivery approach.

We will make amendments now to existing employability programmes, including the EU-funded ReAct, Jobs Growth Wales and Employability Skills Programme, and ensure these are effectively aligned, to enhance support for unemployed people and those who churn in and out of temporary, poorly paid employment. We are also developing a range of projects under the Better Jobs Closer to Home programme to better align a range of commercial

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

pilots with other interventions to support creation of meaningful employment in communities with high levels of joblessness.

Employability clearly has a vital role to play in supporting people to move out of poverty. I welcome the Equality, Local Government and Communities Committee's inquiries and look forward to receiving a copy of the report which I hope will inform the development of the Employability Delivery Plan. If the Committee requires any further information on the developments outlined in this letter or in my statement then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



**Julie James AC/AM**  
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