

## **Press release from the Teaching and Learning Research Programme**

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### **JANE DAVIDSON ANNOUNCES £500,000 SUPPORT FOR TEACHING AND LEARNING RESEARCH PROGRAMME**

The value of research cannot be underestimated in the development of policy for education and training, Assembly Education and Lifelong Learning Minister said today (Tuesday, 24 February).

Announcing £250,000 to support the development of a Welsh extension of the UK's Teaching and Learning Research Programme (TLRP) Ms Davidson said that as the largest co-ordinated programme of educational research in the UK, the programme had a vital role in informing practices and improving outcomes for learners of all ages.

The support, match-funded by £250,000 from the Economic and Social Research Council, to bring the total to £500,000, will fund a number of research projects to extend or follow-up, within a Welsh context, current research supported by the TLRP.

Speaking at the launch of the Welsh extension to the programme Ms Davidson said: 'This extension aims to increase the relevance and impact of TLRP research in Wales, enhance the research capacity of institutions across Wales and enable Welsh institutions to enlarge their existing networks.'

She said the creation of the National Assembly for Wales presented unprecedented opportunities for Wales to develop its own evidence-based policies such as *The Learning Country*, the Foundation Phase for 3-7 year olds, the review of arrangements for Key Stages 2 and 3, the Welsh Baccalaureate and *Learning Pathways 14-19*. The emerging Skills for Business Network and the individual Sector Skills Councils were also working with employers to help establish current and future skills needs.

The recent Annual Report of Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales also contributed to evidence-based policy making in Wales. It found that across most areas of education and training, many learners were making better progress and achieving more. The report played a key role in adding to the body of evidence on standards in education and training that supports and informs the programme of work set out in *The Learning Country*.

'Good quality policy making depends on high quality information derived from a number of sources, including engaging with experts. We must learn from best practice elsewhere, and share the good practice we can offer,' she said.

## **Note**

The Teaching and Learning Research Programme is a £26 million programme funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England and by government education departments in England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Its director, Professor Andrew Pollard, is based at the Faculty of Education, University of Cambridge.

Its purpose is to support and develop educational research which leads to improvements in outcomes for learners of all ages, in all sectors and contexts of education, training and lifelong learning throughout the UK. The first projects began work in 2000 and the programme is scheduled to end in December 2008. Details on individual projects can be found on the programme website at [www.tlrp.org](http://www.tlrp.org)

The TLRP is managed by the Economic and Social Research Council, the UK's leading supporter of social science research. Details at [www.esrc.ac.uk](http://www.esrc.ac.uk), press office 01793 413032.

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