



CROSS-CUTTING AGENDAS: PUTTING POLICY INTO PRACTICE IN WALES

DAVID HOPKINS
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION & LEISURE
CAERPHILLY CBC / ADEW





- **PLANNING FRAMEWORK**

- The Children & Young People's Plan is the key document in each unitary authority in Wales from 2008-11
- Each Plan should be needs led and outcome focused
- Each Plan is based on the 7 core aims for children and young people and involves key statutory and voluntary agencies in terms of compilation and delivery
- The Plan should be the basis for regulatory bodies inspecting services.



- EDUCATION & CROSS CUTTING THEMES

- Early intervention is crucial, as is targeted support within universal services

- Key policy areas I would list are:-
 - Flying Start
 - Foundation Phase
 - Skills Curricula for all Ages
 - 14-19 Transformation & Learning Pathways
 - School Effectiveness Framework
 - International Comparisons and Challenges

- These should all be delivered in the context of Tri-Level Reform

- How we collectively implement these policies is the crux of today's Conference.



- POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Positive Aspects

- Policies meet requirements for equity and social justice
- There is a shift to outcome based rather than process driven policy
- Children & Young People are consulted and are at the centre of policies and plans
- Partnership and collaboration are required for success
- Child Poverty recognised as a problem
- Safeguarding has a high profile



- POLICY INTO PRACTICE

Barriers

- Time is needed to develop and implement cultural change - this is not always available
- Short-term thinking is still dominant – e.g. grants regime
- Local authorities are (quite rightly central to change) but financial settlements are not consistent with policy demands
- Poverty needs to be tackled coherently not discretely
- Lack of understanding is still prevalent in Safeguarding



- SUCCESS STORIES

- Foundation Phase already showing signs of allowing children to develop new ranges of skills.
- 14-19 practice in some areas of Wales shows how it is possible to secure transformation.
- Investors in Families pilot shows how schools can easily understand and engage in linking 7 core aims with their own, and involved ‘harder to reach’ families