

Report of ACCS Further Education Sub-Committee 2017/2018

The Further Education Sub-Committee continued to operate under the Joint Further Education Representative Group, JFERG, which is an initiative aimed at supporting the Further Education providers in Community and Comprehensive and Secondary Voluntary Schools.

ACCS was represented on the group by Ms. Frances Kelly, Moate Community School, Mr. Fintan Kemple, Gorey Community School and Chairperson NACED, Mr. Seamus Scully, Scoil Mhuire Clane, and Ms. Áine O' Sullivan, Assistant General Secretary, ACCS. Mr. Fintan Kemple and Mr. Seamus Scully also represent the interests of Adult Education Directors.

During the last year this representative group has continued to engage positively with SOLAS, QQI and the Department of Education and Skills Further Education section.

The work of the group included:

- Continued work with QQI on the re-engagement of providers and the ongoing validation of new programmes for Further Education providers in Community and Comprehensive Schools and Secondary Voluntary Schools.
- Work with O'BRIEN/Governance Design, to explore the options available to the JFERG and its sectors regarding QA, Governance and the development of a Model of Consortium.
- Liaising with ETBI on the provision of training and access to the PLSS system and on the sharing of curricula/programmes.
- Annual Further Education Seminar which was held on the 25th January 2018 in the Sheraton Athlone Hotel. This in-service was particularly significant this year as the new QQI policy and issues arising from this regarding compliance for all providers was outlined. The issues of validation of new courses and procedures for re-engagement of providers with QQI under the new policy were also considered. Briefings on current developments, including the activities of JFERG, our Joint FE Representative Group, and our engagement with SOLAS, ETBI and QQI were facilitated along with individual presentations from FESS, QQI and Leargas. Current FE Developments and School level issues were presented by our special advisor, Ms. Catherine O'Sullivan.

In the year ahead there will continue to be challenges for providers. JFERG will continue its work with QQI in supporting our providers in the context of the new policy in this area. It will also continue to engage with all other relevant parties in support of our providers and the excellent work which they do in Further Education.

JFERG is greatly appreciative of the support of Ms. Finola Butler, FESS, Ms. Andrina Wafer, QQI, Ms. Fiona Maloney, ETBI and Ms. Maria Gould, ETBI, for all their ongoing invaluable support. ACCS wishes to express its sincere thanks to Mr. Michael Redmond, JMB, for the coordination of JFERG activities and to Ms. Catherine O'Sullivan, JMB, for her generosity in sharing both her time and expertise in supporting Further Education providers in our schools.

*Ms. Áine O' Sullivan,
Assistant General Secretary, ACCS.*