



# Shaping the Future of Post-16 Education in Wales

**“My ambition is to develop a joined up post-compulsory education and training system in Wales that is easy to navigate for our learners, maximises its public value, creates a highly skilled society, tackles inequalities, and has a civic mission at its heart.”**

**Kirsty Williams**  
Minister for Education



## Foreword

My ambition, through establishing the Commission for Tertiary Education & Research (CTER), is to develop a more effective, more efficient, and more coherent Post-Compulsory Education and Training system (PCET) in Wales. The establishment of the Commission will be a critical step towards realising the goals set out in the Welsh Government's national strategy, Prosperity for All, and in particular, our aim for an ambitious and learning Wales.

In recent years, our PCET sector has become more diverse, but also more complex, creating new challenges for learners, providers, and policymakers. The challenges created for our economy and education sector as a result of Covid-19 mean that we must work together to take a more strategic, coherent, and efficient approach to overseeing tertiary education and research, under the auspices of a single Commission, with a clear remit to shape a system that works for the people of Wales and the Welsh economy. We cannot afford to postpone these reforms indefinitely. The current crisis creates a new urgency to ensure clear, coherent and relevant learning and skills opportunities for people of all ages.

I am determined to ensure that Wales does not get left behind in meeting the needs of citizens and society in the 21st century.

The planned Tertiary Education and Research (Wales) Bill would have built the foundations upon which we could begin to meet those challenges. It would have established a new arms-length strategic

body – CTER – to oversee funding and performance of tertiary education and training in Wales.

The challenges we are facing because of Covid-19 mean that I have reluctantly agreed to postpone the introduction of the Bill. To ensure we can develop cross-party support, and wider civic support for these reforms, I have published the Bill in draft for consultation and I welcome comments.

The Draft Bill proposes the establishment of the Commission as an independent sponsored body and I believe this can be achieved by 2023. The Commission will draw on global models of best practice in organising post-compulsory education. It will be responsible for planning, funding, regulation, and the overall strategic focus of further and higher education, school sixth forms, apprenticeships and training, adult community learning, and research and innovation in Wales.

The Draft Bill and the proposals to establish the Commission are just the beginning of our journey towards a more effective PCET sector which works for all. In the coming months, alongside the Draft Bill consultation, we will continue to develop our vision for what the sector will achieve for Wales, in partnership with practitioners, learners and sector leaders.

Together, we will make Wales a great place to learn, research and innovate.

# Principles for change linked to the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

A PROSPEROUS  
WALES

A WALES OF  
VIBRANT CULTURE  
AND WELSH  
LANGUAGE

A MORE EQUAL  
WALES

A RESILIENT WALES  
AND A GLOBALLY  
RESPONSIBLE  
WALES

A WALES OF  
COHESIVE  
COMMUNITIES AND  
A HEALTHIER WALES



A PCET system that strengthens Wales' economic wellbeing, encourages enterprise and collaboration with businesses and provides the skills employers and workers need.

An accessible and effective PCET system that supports learning, assessment and progression through the medium of Welsh.

A system that provides lifelong learning and development for all and supports people to make informed choices about their future.

PCET providers which maximise public value and are economically and environmentally sustainable.

PCET providers which are diverse and cohesive communities of learning and integral to the communities they serve.



# Proposed responsibilities of the Commission

## STRATEGY

The Commission will, in partnership with providers, learners, and practitioners, prepare and deliver a strategy for the PCET sector, which addresses social, economic, cultural and environmental priorities outlined by Welsh Ministers.

## FUNDING

The Commission will plan and allocate funding for HE and FE, school sixth forms, adult community learning, apprenticeships and research and innovation, in accordance with its strategic priorities.

## OVERSIGHT

The Commission will regulate and measure the performance of providers, protect and promote the interests of learners, students, and apprentices, and ensure that the PCET sector is delivering positive outcomes for Wales.

## QUALITY

In partnership with Estyn and other bodies, the Commission will assure and promote improvement and enhancement of the quality of education and training in the PCET sector.

## APPRENTICESHIPS

The Commission will develop and approve apprenticeship frameworks, in partnership with employers, professional bodies, and training providers.

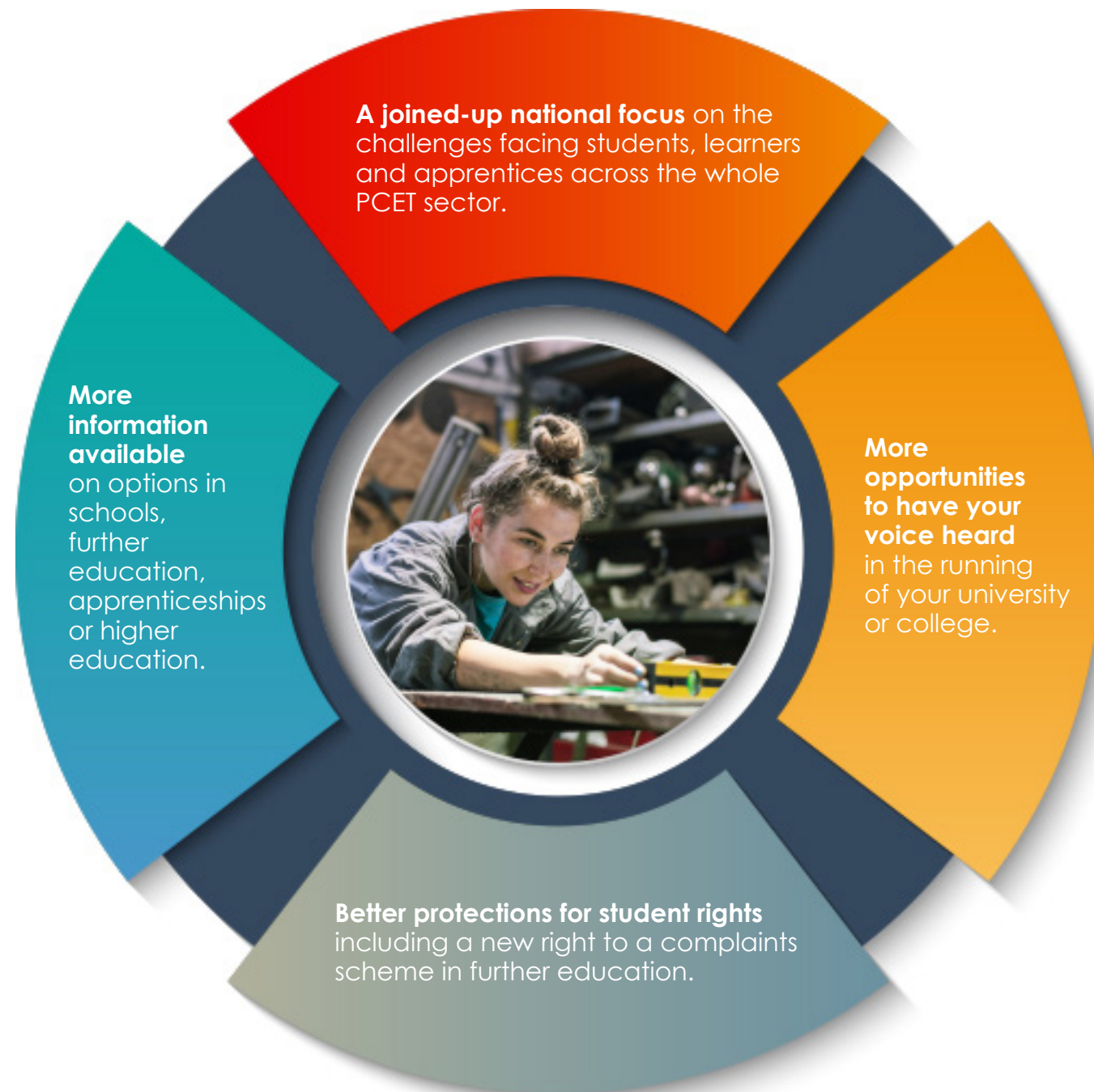
## DATA AND INFORMATION

The Commission will be a hub for insight and data, it will provide and publish information to better inform students, partners, providers and employers on the options available to them.

### Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

# Our Ambitions

Students, Learners and Apprentices



# Our Ambitions

Further Education, Colleges and Schools with Sixth Forms





# Our Ambitions

Universities/other Higher Education Providers



# Our Ambitions

Employers and Training Providers

