



Y Comisiwn Addysg Drydyddol ac Ymchwil
Commission for Tertiary Education and Research

Medr Update January 2026

1. Medr Annual Report

Medr, Wales's Commission for Tertiary Education and Research, has published its first annual report and accounts, documenting the highlights and success of its first eight months of operation.

Over the reporting period, Medr, which became operational in August 2024:

- **Invested more than £686 million** in the tertiary education and research sector, ensuring financial support and stability for providers and learners.
- **Delivered a smooth organisational transition**, ensuring it continued its regulatory oversight for the tertiary education sector throughout a period of significant change.
- **Built strong relationships** with providers and stakeholders, and promoted collaboration across the sector.
- **Set out its long-term vision for the tertiary sector** through its first Strategic Plan, following extensive consultation with learners and stakeholders.
- **Laid the foundations for a strong organisation** that has high standards of accountability and responsibility for public funds; prioritises learners and collaborative working; and supports and develops its staff.

[Medr - Annual Report 2024-25 - English](#)

[Adroddiad Blynyddol a Chyfrifon 2024-25 - Cymraeg](#)

2. Post 16 Strategic Bids Fund

The lead partners for the Strategic Development Bids have been notified of the outcome of their bid. Medr will publish the list of successful bids shortly and is currently preparing individual feedback for all unsuccessful applicants, which will be provided over the coming weeks.

3. Annual Scrutiny of Medr - Children, Young People, and Education Committee, 15 January 2026

Medr attended the CYPE Committee on 15 January 2026 for its annual scrutiny session, represented by James Owen, Chief Executive Officer, and Giles Cutler,

Chief Financial Officer. The links below provide access to the recording and transcript of the session.

[Senedd.tv - Children, Young People, and Education Committee - 15/01/2026](#)

[Transcript for 15/01/2026](#)

4. Regulation Consultation

The Regulation Consultation has now closed, and work is underway to collate evidence and review all responses. A report, along with the proposed new regulatory system, will be presented to the Medr Board for consideration and any final amendments. The consultation findings will be published in due course, with the new regulatory system launch scheduled for early April 2026.

5. Apprenticeship Consultation

Following the Apprenticeship Consultation, the response document summarising the findings is scheduled for publication after Apprenticeship Week (9–15 February 2026).

6. Medr Operational Plan

The current operational plan for 2026 covers activity through to the end of the financial year on 31 March 2026. Over the coming weeks, Medr teams will begin developing the forward-looking 2026/27 Operational Plan. This will be designed with a degree of agility to accommodate any shifts in strategic priorities arising from the forthcoming Welsh election.

7. Tertiary Education Participation and Sustainability – Call for Evidence

Welsh Government has launched a Call for Evidence as part of its forthcoming consultation on Tertiary Education Participation and Sustainability. The 'Future of tertiary education in Wales' paper sets out the current evidence base on the key structural challenges facing tertiary education in Wales and launches a stakeholder call for submissions to strengthen that evidence.

Medr encourages all partners and stakeholders to engage with this process.

<https://www.gov.wales/future-tertiary-education-wales-five-challenges>

Submissions can be made in Welsh or English, with a deadline of 27 March 2026.

8. Employer Incentive Scheme – Disabled Apprentices and Additional Learning Support for apprenticeships in Wales

Medr has recently published information and its funding allocations for apprenticeships commissioned contract holders (CCHs) for the recently merged scheme containing the Employer Incentive Scheme. This funding is provided to support employers to provide opportunities for disabled apprentices and for training providers to support the additional learning needs of apprentices.

The total funding available for 1 November 2025 – 31 March 2026 is £600,000. This is allocated as follows:

Provider	Total funding (£)
Associated Community Training Ltd	109,860
Cambrian Training	33,660
Cardiff and Vale College	56,040
Coleg Cambria	52,980
Educ8 Training Group Ltd	51,600
Gower College Swansea	40,560
Grŵp Llandrillo Menai	53,100
ITEC Training Solutions	31,800
Neath Port Talbot College	76,440
Pembrokeshire College	93,960
Total	600,000

[Medr/2026/01: Employer Incentive Scheme – Disabled Apprentices and Additional Learning Support for apprenticeships in Wales: funding allocations for financial year 2025/26 - Medr](#)