

Partnership working' key to business and careers support says Cabinet Secretary

In a speech in Wrexham on Friday the Economy Secretary said partnership working between the two organisations could improve the advice and support given to both businesses and individuals seeking careers and training advice.

At present the Welsh Government provides support and guidance for businesses and entrepreneurs through business Wales and funds the provision of independent careers advice and guidance for people of all ages through Careers Wales. The Economy Secretary said there is growing recognition that the challenges that businesses and individuals face are interlinked.

Speaking following a business breakfast event in Wrexham, Ken Skates said:

“Talking to businesses and individuals over the last few months it is clear that Business Wales and Careers Wales do an important job in supporting Welsh firms and those looking for training.

“I’m keen that we look to build on that work and explore where stronger collaboration between the two organisations could strengthen services delivered by Business Wales and Careers Wales.

“We know that businesses need the right staff and the right skills to maintain and grow their operations. We also know that individuals need up to date information on what future skills are needed in their local economy or advice to help them set up their own business. These issues are very closely linked and very often overlap.

“With the business and career support both funded by Welsh Government, it is important we explore the potential for closer alignment between those bodies with a view to better connecting the delivery of business support and employer-engagement with the economy and skills systems.

“I believe closer alignment and integration could deliver a more streamlined and effective approach for businesses and individuals and ultimately improve the level of service we provide. This would also have a tangible and positive impact on our economy and our communities too.”

Minister for Skills and Science Julie James said:

“The Welsh Government will now look at options for greater alignment between Business Wales and Careers Wales and consider what benefits could be gained out of greater collaboration.

“I want this to be very much an open process and in doing so meaningfully engage with both organisations, their staff and all the key stakeholders that work with them. We want to encourage every good idea to come forward and be heard.”

An initial review of the options for taking this initiative forward is expected to be completed by the Autumn.