

Press release

Date: 8 December 2009

Title: Silver first for healthy HEFCW

HEFCW has become the first organisation in Wales to be awarded the Welsh Assembly Government's small workplace health award at silver level.

The award recognises measures taken in smaller organisations to help improve the health and well-being of staff.

HEFCW was commended for the range of materials and resources available to employees, and the policies and procedures in place which promoted physical and mental health and well-being.

It also received credit for the opportunities for staff to have their say by contributing to initiatives or groups in the workplace.

Professor Philip Gummert, Chief Executive of HEFCW, said: "An effective organisation values the welfare of its staff. We have encouraged staff to think more about whether they need any additional support – from information about musculoskeletal disorders or physical activity, to where to turn with questions about managing stress or diet.

"Attaching importance to health and wellbeing, through not only our resources and policies, but also HEFCW's culture and values, helps motivate and sustain a high-achieving workforce."

Ends

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Contacts for further information

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The small workplace health award is the new national mark of quality for health and well-being in the workplace for smaller businesses and organisations in Wales.

It has three levels of award (bronze, silver and gold) to recognise each development stage achieved.

<http://www.healthyworkingwales.com/>

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The Higher Education Funding Council for Wales (HEFCW) is an Assembly Government Sponsored Body responsible for administering funds made available by the Welsh Assembly Government in support of:

- education in higher education institutions (HEIs);
- research undertaken by HEIs; and
- higher education courses at further education colleges.

HEFCW is also responsible for accrediting providers of initial teaching training for school teachers and commissioning research to improve the standards of teachers and teacher training.

In addition to its funding responsibilities, HEFCW provides advice to the Welsh Assembly Government on the funding needs, aspirations and concerns of the higher education sector in Wales.