

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

1 p.m. Friday, 13 May 2016

Yr Atom, Carmarthen

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Name:		Group / Post:
Cllr. Mair Stephens	MS	Executive Board Member (Chair)
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	CC	Plaid Cymru (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Hugh Richards	HR	Independent
Cllr. Deryk Cundy	DC	Labour
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	GH	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Calum Higgins	CH	Labour
Cllr. Edward Thomas	ET	Independent
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayers	GA	Policy and Partnership Manager
Llinos Evans	LIE	Policy and Partnership Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer

Item no.	Subject and action points:	Responsible :
1.	Welcome and apologies Councillor Mair Stephens welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Ryan Bartlett, Councillor Joseff Davies and Wendy Walters.	
2.	Minutes of the last meeting The minutes were accepted as a correct record of the meeting.	
3.	Promotional Strategy MJ explained that she had been updating the Strategy in accordance with the discussion at the last meeting of the Panel and that the County Strategic Forum had discussed the draft document. The broad shape of the document is in place, but more work is required to	

	<p>develop the chapter on Measuring Impact.</p> <p>Members agreed the timescale for agreeing the Strategy, and it was noted that a Tynged yr Iaith meeting had been arranged by Cymdeithas yr Iaith on 17 September. The document will by then be almost complete, but there will be an opportunity to look at developing an action plan with partners across the county.</p> <p>MS noted her concern in terms of Welsh for Adults and that several elements were to merge before the beginning of the new academic term in October 2016. It was noted that the Welsh for Adults Centre has confirmed that there will be no discussion in terms of developing a Welsh in the Workplace curriculum for two to three years.</p> <p>PHG noted that he and HR had attended the Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli open evening, and offered positive feedback. He said that the content of the evening underlined how difficult it is to summarise all the activity that is happening in the County in a single Promotional Strategy.</p> <p>GA explained that there had been positive feedback from the County Strategic Forum in terms of the draft document, and members discussed the role of other public bodies in the County in developing this document. Members were reminded that the other public bodies have not yet received their Standards.</p> <p>Members discussed the situation with regard to Dyfed Powys Police and the importance of the Police in terms of promoting the language. It was noted that a new Police and Crime Commissioner has been appointed. The Policy Team was asked to contact the Commissioner to ask him to look at the Welsh language within Dyfed Powys Police, with a view to emulating what has been achieved by North Wales Police.</p> <p>CC noted his concern that ‘activity based outcomes’ as opposed to ‘language based outcomes’ are being used across the county, and asked whether all the activity meets the need in halting the decline seen over recent years? Reference was also made to the Twf project, and concern was expressed that the project had ended, following the excellent work achieved by Twf.</p> <p>GA explained that the Welsh Government is beginning to look at ‘behavioural change’ projects. It will be possible for us to discuss this further with the Welsh Government, and specifically in terms of how we measure impact.</p> <p>It was agreed to contact counties in North Wales to ask for updates in terms of the Promotional and Measuring Impact Strategy.</p> <p>MS noted her concern that there is currently no co-ordinational role in place, and members discussed the support that could be provided by the WLGA.</p> <p>DC asked whether we are confident in terms of the baseline data in order to ensure that we are able to identify progress.</p> <p>GH said that he had attended a Dyfodol i’r Iaith meeting in Swansea where the achievements of countries such as the Basque Country in increasing the</p>	<p>Policy Team</p> <p>Policy Team</p>
--	---	---------------------------------------

	number of speakers from 529,000 to 714,000 over a twenty year period had been highlighted. Members emphasised the importance of learning from others when planning for the future of the Welsh language.	
4.	<p>Internal use policy</p> <p>LIE reminded everyone that the Council is required to provide a policy on the internal use of Welsh in order to conform to Standard 94. The intention is to review the document annually.</p> <p>LIE outlined the content of the draft document. The following was discussed:</p> <p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CC asked about the process of professional linguistic development – what happens if someone does not achieve the required standards within a given period of time. <p>GA explained that it is difficult for us to lay down expectations in a contract of employment without having an appropriate programme of training in place. CC noted how important it is to develop the Welsh in the Workplace curriculum, and asked if pressure could be brought to move the process forward? MS explained that she had met with Efa Gruffudd Jones, but that there is no intention to develop a Welsh in the Workplace curriculum for another two years. GA explained that the Council is seeking to put something in place in the meantime.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members discussed the issue of democratic committee minutes. GH noted that it would be useful to have a plan to ensure that the minutes of meetings are bilingual, before moving on to reports, department by department, beginning with education. It was noted that all minutes that appear on the website already have to be bilingual. However, DC emphasised that the reports should be available in Welsh as it is difficult for members to contribute to a discussion in Welsh if the paper work is in English. <p>GA explained that a mechanical translation system is currently being investigated as a possibility, so as to facilitate the use of Welsh in the workplace. It was suggested that a baseline of presentations, meeting papers etc that are currently provided in Welsh be collated, and that progress be measured over a 3 year period.</p> <p>Members agreed that there was a need to look at this again in the future, and that it should be discussed at the next meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CH suggested that the wording should be strengthened in reference to the Marketing and Media Team, so that we ‘expect’ rather than ‘encourage’... • CC suggested that we should include the contact details of the Policy Team so that staff know that support is available and who they should approach in terms of using Welsh in the workplace. 	<p>Policy Team</p> <p>Policy Team</p>
5.	<p>Census Working Party Recommendations</p> <p>Members received draft copies of the Annual Standards Report. LIE explained that we will also be presenting a report on the annual communications plan in</p>	

	<p>addition to staff guidelines on the Standards to the Commissioner.</p> <p>MJ explained that several Census Working Party recommendations fit into the Annual Standards Report. The remainder appear either in the Education Strategy, in the Internal Policy or in the Promotional Strategy, and the recommendations that do not fit into the above appear as an appendix at the end of the Annual Report.</p> <p>CC asked about progress on Welsh medium swimming lessons. LIE explained that the current position is outlined in the appendix to the annual report, namely that levels 1-3 are available in Welsh and English separately at Llanelli, Ammanford and Carmarthen Leisure Centres and that there are bilingual sessions for levels 4-7, with levels 7-12 being provided through local clubs. He noted that more work was required to promote the opportunities available, and that reception staff need to be confident of what is available in order to promote the provision. MS explained that she has regular meetings with the Leisure Department to discuss progress.</p> <p>It was noted that certain sports governing bodies, such as Swim Wales, produce resources in English exclusively. The Commissioner has produced a new resource entitled <i>Amdani</i> that may improve the position. It was noted that we need to ensure that we are not blamed for English only materials produced by other bodies, and that it is important to ensure that the County Council logo does not appear on such material.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GH noted that there is a lack of Welsh medium courses for governors. GA noted that the Policy Team is looking into this. <p>It was agreed that everyone should provide comments on the Report as a whole before the end of May. The Annual Report must be submitted to the Commissioner by 30 June 2016.</p>	Policy Team
6.	<p>Any other business</p> <p>There were no other matters for discussion.</p>	
7.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>12 July at 2 p.m. in the Democratic Services Conference Room, County Hall.</p>	