

# Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

## Welsh Language Advisory Panel

17 February at 1:30 p.m.

Democratic Services Unit Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen

### MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

In attendance:

Name:		Group / Post:
Cllr. Mair Stephens	MS	Executive Board Member (Chair)
Cllr. Cefin Campbell	CC	Plaid Cymru (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Edward Thomas	ET	Independent
Cllr. Huw Richards	HR	Independent
Cllr. Ryan Bartlett	RB	Labour
Cllr. Callum Higgins	CH	Labour
Cllr. Gwyn Hopkins	GH	Plaid Cymru
<b>Officers</b>		
Bethan James	BJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Partnership Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer
Aeron Rees	AR	Head of Learning Programs
Paul Thomas	PT	Assistant Chief Executive
Catrin Griffiths	CG	Challenge Advisor

Item	Text and action points:	Responsible:
1.	<b>Welcome and Apologies</b> Cllr. Derek Cundy, Helen Morgan.	
2.	<b>Minutes of previous meeting</b> No matters arising.	
3.	<b>Update on Welsh for adults structure/opportunities in the county - Aeron Rees, Dept. of Education and Children's Services</b> Background: There was a tendering process for Welsh for adults in the community, which was won originally by Aberystwyth University. However, after discussions on employment issues, the Council were indeed given the tender of £150,000 to operate 1/3 of the provision. The Council has 2 full	

time members of staff, and part time tutors to the equivalent of 7.3 members of staff.

Lefel /Level	Nifer Cyrsiau / Number of Courses	Targed Dysgwyr / Learner target
Mynediad 1	5 cwrs	39
Mynediad 2	6 cwrs	60
Sylfaen 1	6 cwrs	46
Sylfaen 2	4 cwrs	25
Sylfaen 1/Canolradd 1	1 cwrs	*
Canolradd 1	1 cwrs	20
Canolradd 2	3 cwrs	20
<b>Cyfanswm Total</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>210</b>
Cymraeg i'r Teulu (45 awr)	4	35
Cymraeg i'r Teulu (15 awr)	1	9
<b>Cyfanswm Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>44</b>

**Cyfanswm /Total: 357 dysgwr/ learner; Target: 254; Goresgyn Targed / Exceeding target: 103**

Operational details: The website has been updated. The Contract was give later than usual. *Trywydd* worked alongside staff to promote the provision. New administrative systems were established, e.g. a new database and registration system, expenditure record etc. The numbers registered on the courses supersede the targets, which is extremely positive. There are also informal learning activities held, and discussions with the Mentrau are being held in order to provide more of this provision.

Many of the departments within the Council assisted and a positive relationship has been established with the Welsh for Adults Centre. We have taken advantage of training provided by the Centre and have been involved in their various forums. There is a positive relationship with Aberystwyth University now too.

In terms of the future, the Centre's Board will be advised to extend the contract for Carmarthenshire Council for another year, which would provide us with staffing security until august 2018.

Challenges: It was necessary to divide and multiply classes and we were able to achieve this by moving money from 'Welsh for the Family'. The challenges also included ensuring that learners remain and also quality assurance.

The Welsh for Adults Centre has is working on a new website, and a new curriculum.

We do intend to tender for the 'Welsh in the workplace' provision, to diversify somewhat, in order to ensure that we innovate and remain ahead of developments.

The previous period has been a challenging one, but we hope that the Service can continue to provide into the future.

HR: It would be useful to know how many have left the courses since registering in September, and also where the provision is in Llanelli.

AR: Although there is inevitably some coming and going, the situation is not significantly different to the table (provided). Llanelli was a strategically

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	<p>important areas for us, and I can find out where the provision is. It might be in the library.</p> <p>PHG noted that he and Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr have failed to arrange an event for learners in connection with the parade in Carmarthen with the officers. AR confirmed that he would discuss the matter with his officers and attempt to rectify the situation.</p> <p>RB enquired whether the lessons in Ystradowen had restarted. AR agreed to check this specific provision.</p> <p>CC enquired about the length of the original Contract. It was explained that it was for 3 years and that we would restart the process in a year and a half.</p> <p>AR noted that Aberystwyth University had failed to reach their targets in terms of intensive and higher courses.</p> <p>MS noted that she was extremely pleased that Ysgol Gymraeg Brynsierfel had received the Bronze Award for the Language Charter. She explained that a Welsh for the family course had been organised as part of the process. CG explained the process of checking attainment that lead up to the Award, and the arrangements that were made by the enthusiastic children. She noted that it was a special occasion, that it was a positive reflection of the situation and the children’s situation, and that their confidence showed in their use of the Welsh language.</p> <p>GH offered his congratulations for the high numbers on the Welsh for Adults courses.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Update from the HR division - Language Skills Strategy, Language skills Audit and learning Welsh opportunities.</b></p> <p>See attached document.</p> <p>MS suggested that the flexibility offered by the Centre in terms of the timetable of the intensive courses might be used to ensure a period of practise back in the workplace during the course.</p> <p>HR enquired about the number of staff that has been assessed. PT explained that 85% had been reached.</p> <p>CC drew attention to the fact that about half the staff are on level3 or higher, which suggests they are comfortable speaking Welsh. He asked whether there was an analysis of the data available to see. PT agreed to circulate.</p> <p>CC enquired, in terms of the aforementioned new post, what guideline would be used to assess the linguistic needs of posts. PT explained that a language assessment form was already available, that managers are required to keep the language assessments they make of posts and that the Commissioner may ask to see them.</p> <p>GH noted that there was a huge task to change the linguistic skills level of public workforce; that we are fighting against 5 hundred years in which the</p>	<p>PT</p>

	<p>Welsh language was prohibited from public office. He reminded everyone that only 25 years have passed since the abolition of that law.</p> <p>PHG welcomed the idea of having one person responsible for bringing everything together in terms of staff internally.</p> <p>CC drew attention to the fact that our skills framework does not correspond exactly with the ALTE levels. He had recently attended a seminar on the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages (CEFR). LLE explained that the levels had been adapted to the needs of the Council. It was agreed that they should not be changed for now, but that it would be interesting to see what levels are used by the Centre in the new on-line tool for assessing language skills in April.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Promotion Strategy Action Plan</b></p> <p>Background: MJ explained that the Promotion Strategy meets the requirements of the Standards; it summarizes the work that is already happening to promote Welsh in the county, it identifies 5 aims, and offers some new actions points that arose through the process of jointly planning the Strategy. Since then, an Action Plan has been drafted, which sets out the new Actions points as well as all the recommendations from ‘Welsh in Carmarthenshire’. The intention was that it would provide a new home for the Action Plan recommendations, to ensure continuity to the work done following the last Census, and avoid duplication of the detailed planning undertaken at that time.</p> <p>It now needs to be decided how the Action Plan is to be updated and how the recommendations should be reported upon.</p> <p>CC noted that targets and measures will be necessary to measure whether the strategy is working.</p> <p>MJ noted that looking for measures was one of the new action points and that the work is already underway. There are measures available for the 5 aims. There is data available from surveys but there is not enough county data available. We are currently attempting to gather more county-wide measures.</p> <p>CC noted that it was necessary to measure on a macro level – the number of speakers. But it was also necessary to measure the vitality of the language. He noted that, as most of the growth was going to have to come from the education system that the targets for WESP should also be in the Promotion Strategy. MJ suggested that the two strategies should sit side by side. It was suggested that although the Commissioner shoes not ask for education data, we could include a report on the WESP as an attachment to the Promotion Strategy Report.</p> <p>It was agreed that the panel should continue to receive reports on Recommendations through the Action Plan.</p>	<p>Policy</p> <p>Policy</p>

	<p>GH made a point that Bilingual Schools is an incorrect term to be used for schools who do not teach through the medium of Welsh. He noted that only Welsh schools create bilingual pupils.</p> <p>CC agreed that there was a conception that only Welsh is taught in Welsh medium schools.</p> <p>MS raised a concern about the areas of priority that have been identified in the Strategic Forum. She noted that she was unsure about the progress made in these areas. There will be a report on these areas in the next forum meeting.</p>	
<b>6.</b>	<p><b>Any other matter.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was suggested that other councils should be encouraged to take similar action to Carmarthenshire regarding the ‘Welsh in Carmarthenshire’ document. It was suggested that we should write to the Minister about this.</li> <li>• PHG noted that the Panel’s duty is to operate the Authority’s policy. He explained that he was very uncomfortable with the fact that a member of this panel had objected to the authority’s work that we are attempting to develop with the Welsh language, by voting against moving Llangennech School along the language continuum.</li> </ul>	Policy
<b>7.</b>	<p><b>Date of the next meeting</b></p> <p>After the election.</p>	