

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

22 February 2018 at 10 o'clock
Democratic Services' Committee Room, County Hall

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

In attendance:

Name:		Group / Post:
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Edward Thomas	ET	Independent (Vice Chair)
Cllr. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Dorian Williams	DW	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. John Prosser	JP	Labour
Cllr. Alun Lenny	AL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Sue Allen	SA	Independent
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Llafur
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayers	GA	Policy and Partnership Manager
Kelly Morris	KM	Learning and Development Advisor
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Partnership Officer
Bethan James	BJ	Welsh Language Development Officer

Item No.	Text and action points:	Responsible:
1.	Welcome and apologies Everyone was welcomed to the meeting by Councillor Peter. Apologies were received from Councillor Joseph Davies, Wendy Walters a Myfanwy Jones.	
2.	Minutes of the previous meeting 11.12.17 The minutes of the last meeting were agreed to be correct. There were no specific issues arising.	
3.	A presentation by the Learning and Development Team regarding the Welsh Language – Kelly Morris, Learning and Development Advisor	

	<p>KM explained the context in terms of her job, stating that she was part of the Learning and Development Team since July 2017. Since starting her post, she has been meeting staff within departments, receiving feedback on how we, as a Council, can support staff to use their Welsh language skills in the workplace. 'Fear and lack of confidence' has been identified several times by staff and therefore there is an opportunity to tailor the provision to start addressing this issue.</p> <p>The Welsh Language Learning and Development Strategy was recently developed, with the aim of incorporating the language into the culture of the organisation.</p> <p>There are 79 members of staff on community courses with 11 on a waiting list, 37 members of staff on improvement courses and staff are also following the 'Croeso Cymraeg' provision which is available through the National Centre for Learning Welsh. The course is a 10 hour online course and 161 members of staff have registered, with 40 having already completed it. We have received very positive feedback from members of staff who have completed the course.</p> <p>KM explained that seven members of staff had attended the residential course 'Cymraeg Gwaith' at Nant Gwrtheyrn over half term week. Those members of staff were on level 3/4 before attending. Again, the feedback from staff has been very positive.</p> <p>There are a number of other developments in place, such as the Foundation and Intermediate block courses and staff from the Communities Department mainly will attend these.</p> <p>During recent months, KM has been working on a Welsh Language Agreement, which outlines responsibilities at occasions where members of staff don't reach the language level that has been identified as part of a job description. A flow chart has been prepared that clearly shows the path and responsibilities in terms of learning Welsh as part of the recruitment process.</p> <p>There are also developments in the mentoring programme, and feedback from staff indicates that less formal opportunities are needed, alongside the more formal support. In addition, resources have been developed for the intranet, training routes and further research on online resources and e-learning.</p> <p>It was agreed to circulate the presentation to Members.</p> <p>It was suggested that the case studies should be created regarding the staff that attended the course in Nant Gwrtheyrn. It was agreed to do this.</p> <p>There was a query regarding a course improve written skills and it was agreed to look further at this.</p> <p>Kelly was thanked for her detailed presentation.</p>	<p>BJ</p> <p>KM</p> <p>KM</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p>St. David's day arrangements</p> <p>BJ explained the context of the departmental Language Leaders, as contact points within individual sections in terms of the Welsh language and the Welsh language Standards. The Department of Communities and the Environment Department have already set up Language Leaders.</p>	

	<p>Following a meeting with the Policy and Partnership team, the Language Leaders have organised a programme of activities for St David's day. There will be a variety of activities including 'Eisteddfod-ish' and reading sessions at the Libraries.</p> <p>As part of the Council's celebrations, the 'Pa bynnag ffordd / Whichever way' campaign will also promote Welsh medium services, with video clips and pictures prepared by staff as part of the Celebration Event.</p> <p>It was noted that a seminar had been arranged for Elected Members on March 1st – it was asked if seminars and training could be avoided so that Elected Members can take part in local and county events.</p>	
<p>5.</p>	<p>Welsh Government's consultation – summary of responses 'Striking the right balance: proposals for a Welsh Language Bill'</p> <p>BJ explained the context of the Welsh Language Bill consultation stating that the County Council had prepared a response. The Government has published a report that summarizes all the responses and has been published on the website. Since closing the consultation, there has been a Ministerial change, and now Baroness Eluned Morgan AM is the Minister with responsibility for the Welsh language.</p> <p>Eluned Morgan AM has announced that complaints about the Welsh language will not be transferred to the Welsh Ombudsman Office, although that proposal has been made by the current Ombudsman.</p> <p>Mae tymor y Comisiynydd Iaith cyfredol yn dod i ben y flwyddyn nesaf, ac mae sylw wedi bod yn ddiweddar yn y wasg o ran trefnu olynydd i Meri Huws. The current Welsh Language Commissioner's term ends next year, and there has been a recent press coverage regarding arranging a successor to Meri Huws.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Policy and Partnership team will send any updates that will come regarding this to Members of the Panel.</p>	<p>Policy and Partnership Team</p>
<p>6.</p>	<p>Any other business</p> <p>Dydd Miwsig Cymru/ Welsh Music Day was held on February 9th and as part of the Day, the three Leisure Centers in Llanelli, Carmarthen and Ammanford played Welsh music. Apton was used at Carmarthen and Radio Cymru in the other two centers.</p> <p>There is also a potential to include the markets and theaters in this and Wales FM resource is also available to broadcast through the internet.</p> <p>It was agreed to make inquiries about playing Welsh music in the markets during St David's Day.</p> <p>Congratulations were given to Menter Bro Dinefwr and Llandeilo Town Council on attracting funding from 'Big Lottery Fund' to develop a Language and Heritage Centre at Llandeilo Town Hall.</p>	<p>LLE</p>

<p>7.</p>	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <p>8 May 2018 at 1:30 o'clock</p> <p>It was agreed to meet at Y Lle, Llanelli.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Heledd Llwyd and Sara Rees, Welsh in business officers Mentrau Iaith Cymru.</p>	<p>BJ</p> <p>BJ</p>
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