

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

8 February 2019 at 13:30

Democratic Services' Unit Committee Room, County Hall, Carmarthen

MINUTES & ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Edward Thomas	ET	Independent (Vice-chair)
Cllr. Alun Lenny	AL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Dorian Williams	DW	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Sue Allen	SA	Independent
Cllr. Joseph Davies	JD	Independent
Marc Griffiths	MG	Stiwidio Box
Officers		
Ian Jones	IJ	Head of Leisure & Culture
Llinos Evans	LIE	Policy & Partnership Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer

Item	Discussion and Action Points:	Responsible:
1.	Welcome and apologies Councillor Peter Hughes-Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were received from Councillor Tina Higgins, Councillor Carys Jones, Councillor Rob James, Wendy Walters, Gwyneth Ayers and Sionedwyn Stacey.	
2.	Minutes from the last meeting 25.09.2018 The minutes were agreed as being a true record.	
3.	Reporting on progress within the Leisure and Culture Division – Ian Jones Ian Jones was welcomed to the meeting to discuss the progress on the use of the Welsh language in the Leisure and Culture Division. It was noted that the Welsh Language Promotion Scheme had been updated since the Strategic Forum meeting last week. The leisure division's management team meets every two weeks. From now on, the Leisure Management Team will meet with the Policy team every quarter to ensure that the promotion Strategy	

is being progressed. The Language Leaders are the eyes and ears on the ground and take a lead on promoting what's happening.

The division has agreed and is committed to moving the service along the continuum to provide mainly through the medium of Welsh in the future.

Swimming lessons: Improvement has taken place. Welsh or bilingual lessons have increased from 29% to 49% in last year. There has not been as much progress in Llanelli as there is a challenge in terms of current staffing at the Centre that needs to be developed.

In terms of school swimming lessons, it was noted that the Council employs a Co-ordinator; however, the lessons are provided by the teachers from the individual schools. The courses are currently more intense and are held daily for a period of three weeks rather than weekly.

The children are able to enter the Council's lessons following the school swim lessons.

We as a Council recruit to ensure that staff are able to provide Welsh or bilingually.

The division offers Welsh lessons at Splash level. At lower levels, lessons are provided in Welsh. After the lower levels, we will be able to provide bilingually. In Ammanford we can provide all levels bilingually, in Llanelli up to level 6. Consistency is improving but there is a little way to go.

There was an inquiry regarding the staff response to the language awareness e-module.

It was noted that Swim Wales was weak on providing Welsh-medium training and that the Council is planning to create a video to support our staff on how to hold a good bilingual session.

AL asked if the video would be available for other Local Authorities. This would be possible and CCC would be more than happy to share the materials in the Local Authority Leisure Heads group.

The video may be useful in other areas of the Department, such as for art sessions etc., as there are the same principles in training.

An update was received regarding the following areas -

- In terms of the annual Sports Awards, the Team Award will now include criteria for 'promoting the Welsh language'.
- In terms of the Theatres, it was noted that there were more Welsh medium and more community based performances. A new staffing structure is in place following the appointment of Sharon Casey.
- The Language Champions promote the Language as part of events e.g. Welsh quiz on Shwmae Sumae day.
- Assessing language skills staff. 170 out of the 800 staff in the division, work full time. Only 18 staff were not at level 1. We will look at the increase annually.
- We are keen to develop more relationships with S4C in offering audiences to programs such as 'Jonathan'.
- Work is underway on securing an Active Club through the medium of Welsh in terms of staffing.

	Ian was thanked for his detailed presentation.	
4.	<p>Bilingual Music - Marc Griffiths</p> <p>A warm welcome was extended to Marc Griffiths to the meeting.</p> <p>MG explained the context of his work, stating that set up a new initiative in 2009, holding radio workshops in schools to raise awareness of Welsh music and to promote the Welsh language. Following the workshops, MG established Cymru FM, a web-based radio station, to further promote Welsh music. The radio programs that the children now create can be streamed on Cymru FM. MG also broadcasts on Radio Cymru on a Saturday evening and has done so for the past 17 years. MG also places audio systems at community events and schools. Many Welsh-medium schools wish to play Welsh music to implement the language charter.</p> <p>MG outlined discussions that took place around 2 years ago to use Apton as an app based service to play Welsh music in our leisure centres. Further to this trial it was agreed to establish a bilingual music stream for use at the Council buildings and public areas. This includes -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carmarthen, Llanelli and Ammanford Leisure Centres • Theatre y Ffwrnes • Llanelli Market <p>Work is underway to install boxes / to broadcast in the market in Carmarthen and the Hub in Llanelli and Ammanford. The music is usually played at a sequence of 3 Welsh and 3 English songs; however, as part of Welsh Music Day, only Welsh medium songs will be played.</p> <p>The quality of the audio is dependent on the quality of the web in the settings. The music is constantly changed, weekly. Meeting individual musical preferences in difficult; however, we can change the musical content as we trial the service.</p> <p>PHG noted that the next step is for the Welsh in Business Officers to promote the streaming of Welsh music in businesses.</p> <p>It was also noted that the Council can create tailored advertisements which can be added to the music stream.</p> <p>Mark was thanked for his presentation and for his work on the project.</p>	
5.	<p>Welsh language in Business research</p> <p>Apologies were received from Sionedwyn Stacey for the meeting, due to illness.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite her to the next meeting in May to present the research.</p>	LLE
6.	<p>Update</p> <p>The recent statement made by Eluned Morgan AM was circulated. The Council prepared a response to the consultation on the Welsh Language Bill in September 2018. This statement confirms that the Commissioner's position will not be abolished and neither will a Commission or an independent body to promote the Welsh language be created. Work in relation to Welsh Language Standards will continue.</p>	

	<p>At the next meeting, the Economy will be the focus of our discussion. A detailed report will be presented at the county Strategic Forum and at the next Panel meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed to invite Neil Edwards, Head of Integrated Services to attend the next meeting to discuss the promotion of Welsh-medium services for older and vulnerable people.</p>	LIE
7.	Any other business	
8.	<p>Date of the next meeting</p> <p>2 May 2019 at 13:30 – Democratic Services Conference Room, County Hall</p>	