

**Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg**

**Welsh Language Advisory Panel**

**18 July 2019 at 13:30**

**Yr Atom, King Street, 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. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Rob James	RJ	Labour
Heledd Llwyd	HLL	Welsh in Business Officer
Sara Rees	SR	Welsh in Business officer
<b>Officers</b>		
Jasmine Lewis Hovey	JLH	Flying Start Officer
Llinos Evans	LIE	Policy & Partnership Officer
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer

<b>Item</b>	<b>Discussion and Action Points:</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Welcome and apologies</b></p> <p>Councillor Peter Hughes-Griffiths welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p> <p>Apologies were received from Wendy Walters, Cllr. Sue Allen, Cllr. Dorian Williams, Noeline Thomas and Gwyneth Ayers.</p>	
<b>2.</b>	<p><b>Minutes from the last meeting</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed as being a true record.</p> <p>An update was provided regarding Transport Wales. The Welsh Language Commissioner's Office has undertaken an investigation into the complaints and a report will be published shortly.</p> <p>It was noted that the Round Table in Carmarthen has unveiled a slate plaque at the railway station in Carmarthen recently, which is fully bilingual.</p>	
<b>3.</b>	<p><b>Early Years Update – Jasmin Lewis-Hovey</b></p> <p>It was noted that Jasmin was attending on behalf of the Service Manager, Noeline Thomas, who had to attend a ministerial meeting.</p> <p>Update and overview:</p>	

Jasmin emphasised the importance of promoting bilingualism - in terms of her personal background, if her parents had not chosen Welsh medium education for her 20 years ago she would not have had all the opportunities she has had.

She noted that the Service is committed to promoting parenting in both languages and is keen to spread positive messages throughout the county. The main way to do this is by distributing the 'Being Bilingual' leaflet to as many parents as possible. In addition, boxes of Welsh language resources are provided for use in English language childcare settings.

There are positive relationships with organisations such as Cymraeg i Blant and Mudiad Ysgolion Meithrin. The 'Family Information Service' shares information about Clwb Cwtsh, Welsh for Children etc. to provide parents with information and opportunities for support to raise children bilingually.

Flying Start: 25 settings attended a training day with Welsh for Children, to share good practice and give practical help on language patterns etc. to placement leaders.

It was noted that 100% of the Flying Start advisory and support team are Welsh speaking and therefore can provide supports and practical assistance to settings on their use of Welsh.

It was noted that 10/25 Flying Start settings were Welsh medium, including a new one in Burry Port in November 2019.

The Service is promoting the 'Camau' project, a Welsh language course for early years practitioners.

The Welsh language is an integral part of the Flying Start service. There is a Language Leader at the office in Morfa to ensure that we adhere to the Standards. The Policy unit gave a presentation to 4 teams within Flying Start on the Standards, the Guidelines on the intranet, and on promoting the Welsh language amongst families.

We intend to raise the language skill level of 'Language and Play' posts in order to raise the profile of the language. Cymraeg i Blant is keen to liaise with our team of midwives to convey the messages about parenting bilingually, and 'Being Bilingual' is being added to Bookstart bags for distribution at key stages with first in the 6 week check to emphasise the importance of introducing both languages from the beginning.

It was noted that the training resources in our parenting programs tend to come from America, but that the Service emphasised the importance of bilingualism and giving parents practical techniques in the sessions.

Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths thanked the team for all the work and noted the importance of giving parents the choice as soon as possible.

Comments:

It was noted that the inconsistency of school provision at the age of three causes the loss of small Welsh speakers to the English system where there are gaps, for

	<p>example in Whitland where the Cylch does not provide the 10 hours of education, it is difficult to bridge between the Cylch and Welsh medium education.</p> <p>It was asked whether it was possible to know with certainty that Welsh-medium childcare provision was truly Welsh-medium. It was explained that the CIW reports provided the real information about the medium of childcare provision but that no one regulated the language medium of private childcare providers as such.</p> <p>PHG asked Jasmine to wish the staff well and thank them for their work.</p>	
<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Update on the work of Welsh in Business - Heledd Llwyd and Sarah Jones</b></p> <p>The Welsh in Business project is about to start on its 3rd year of targets. Officers shared a number of case studies of the county and statistics of changes since the project began.</p> <p>The work with businesses is divided into 3 stages: Initial phase, development and continuation.</p> <p>For the businesses involved in the project, the progress figures are:</p> <p>4.4% of people used Welsh on their Facebook accounts. This increased to 16% and then to 60% over the two years.</p> <p>In terms of websites, 2% were bilingual, increased to 8.3%, and partly Welsh increased from 20% to 60%.</p> <p>For a first greeting, it increased from 15% to 60%</p> <p>Secondary Signs increased from 13% to 80%</p> <p>Use of translation services, 64%, 79, 100% have used the service.</p> <p>Members viewed a 'Carms Alarms' Case Study which had used the service for checking Facebook posts and 'Howards, Carmarthen' which had become more bilingual. The logo has been changed to a bilingual one. A landing site was created on their website, a bilingual advert on S4C and the Working Welsh logo included. Facebook messages also state that they are 'happy to communicate bilingually'.</p> <p>The 'Pantri Glas' in Llandeilo also approached the officers for help and from the onset, chose a Welsh medium business name, and developed everything bilingually, including a bilingual weighing system and website. They were an example of the fact that it is not necessary to be fluent to appreciate working bilingually.</p> <p>'Dechrau Disglair' nursery was already bilingual but wanted to increase its provision. Now, their contracts and registration forms are bilingual. Working with the Menter Iaith, a session was held with staff to reinforce their existing Welsh vocabulary.</p>	

	<p>The owner of 'Coppertop Crafts' in Ammanford was fluent but lacking in confidence. The first step was to use the Working Welsh badge. The owner's confidence has now improved and she has featured on the Welsh medium programme 'Prynhawn Da'.</p> <p>'DreTwt', a role-play centre for children, was confident in posting bilingual messages on Twitter but not on signs etc. The officers offered support by proof reading signs and translating leaflets. The intention is to translate the website and the business has already received positive attention on their use of the Welsh language.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>The importance of recognising the business value of the language was noted, for example that many customers were more comfortable discussing buying cars in Welsh. It was agreed that there are many similar anecdotes from car dealers.</p> <p>It was asked whether businesses are asking for help or are being approached by officers. It was explained that Business Wales and Visit Wales refer people to them, but that they also call door to door and that the resources help with this.</p> <p>The figure of 60% was questioned as to whether it could be exceeded. It was explained that the attitudes were generally positive in the county but that some inevitably did not act on their good intentions.</p> <p>It was noted that there was a new network in Newcastle Emlyn which showed how the officers' regular presence can change attitudes for the better.</p> <p>LIE also thanked the officers for working with the County Council by attending the business meetings. Hopefully there will be more opportunity to refer businesses to the project through our regeneration work in the future.</p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p>	<p><b>Regulatory Framework</b></p> <p>LIE explained that we need to start looking at the impact of our work, and Self Regulate our compliance with the Standards.</p> <p>She noted that Rhondda Cynon Taf Council have an officer within the audit team, who selects sections and works with them to look at compliance.</p> <p>It was explained that some of this work was done by the Language Leaders and this could be formalised, or we could ask the Audit Team to increase the attention they give to the Council's compliance with the Standards.</p> <p>It was suggested that work could be started by using the Commissioner's existing investigations on the Planning Department forms and Council Tax &amp; Housing Benefits, carrying out an assessment of the procedures of both departments.</p> <p>The relationship between the Well-being of Future Generations Act and this work was discussed. It was explained that measuring the impact of the Promotion Strategy contributed to the Well-being Act more than compliance with the Standards.</p>	<p>LLE / MJ</p>

<p><b>6.</b></p>	<p><b>Any other business</b></p> <p>It was noted that Aled Roberts, the new Welsh Language Commissioner, would be visiting the Council on August 1. A general summary will need to be prepared for the meeting.</p> <p>It was agreed that the Panel's paperwork would be on Mod.gov by the next meeting.</p>	<p>LLE / MJ</p>
<p><b>7.</b></p>	<p><b>Date of the next Meeting</b></p> <p>12.9.2019</p>	<p>LLE</p>