

Cyngor Sir CEREDIGION County Council

REPORT TO: Scrutiny and Learning Communities Overview Committee

DATE: 27.05.21

LOCATION: Council Chamber, Penmorfa.

TITLE: Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 (WESP)

PURPOSE OF REPORT: Provide information on the plan and consider any issues raised by the Language Committee and any changes made.

REASON SCRUTINY HAVE REQUESTED THE INFORMATION: The Welsh Government will expect to receive a copy of the plan no later than 31 January 2022 for approval.

BACKGROUND:

The plan is a 10 year strategy. It is a statutory document setting out the requirement to set ambitious strategic targets with the ultimate goal of reaching one million speakers by 2050. One key target in Ceredigion, and identified by the Welsh Government, is the expectation that 87% of Year 1 pupils will receive Welsh-medium education by 2032. Currently (2019) that percentage is 72.9%. The document is required to reflect the aim of substantially increasing the number of school learners who have the opportunity to develop Welsh language skills at school and the opportunity to use the language in their daily lives.

The strategy notes 7 statutory outcomes in order to develop and strengthen the position of the Welsh language in education.

Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) (in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

CURRENT SITUATION:

Currently the authority continues to report annually to the Welsh Government on the 2017-20 plan.

Has an Integrated Impact Assessment been completed? If not, please state why YES

Summary: The Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies across Wales, named in the Act, to work towards achieving seven well-being goals, including 'A Wales with a vibrant culture where the Welsh language thrives'. There is also a statutory basis for the system for planning Welsh-medium education provision. The Welsh Government has a duty to promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language and to work towards achieving the well-being goals.

Long term: Ceredigion County's 2022-32 WESP will be a document that sets out the steps to achieve the aim of increasing the number of Welsh speakers by 2032 within the county. Short and long-term targets and specific short and long-term actions will be identified over the ten year period.

WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS:

Integration: In principle, the proposal reinforces Ceredigion County Council's aspiration to strengthen the position of the Welsh language through its Language Strategy. The proposal also supports the Council's Strategic Objectives and the Welsh Government's Million Speakers by 2050 Strategy.

Collaboration: Collaboration between partners and stakeholders will be at the heart of the plan. The main collaboration will be between officers of the authority and the schools and their governing bodies as well as parents through local consultations.

Involvement: Stakeholders and partners will be involved throughout the planning and consultation period.

Prevention: The procedures that will prevent any problems that may arise or escalate throughout the plan period will be set out in it.

RECOMMENDATION (S):

That scrutiny recommends that Cabinet approves the plan.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION (S):

To approve the plan in order to move to the next stage of the democratic process and consideration of the requirement to hold an eight week public consultation in September 2021.

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Date of Report: 27.05.21
Acronyms: WESP – Welsh in Education Strategic Plan
CM – Cylch Meithrin
EYW – Early Years Wales
WM – Welsh Medium
WG – Welsh Government
KS2 – Key Stage 2 (KS3/KS4/KS5)
FPh – Foundation Phase
NPQH – National Professional Qualification for Headship
PLASC – Pupil Level Annual School Census
GCSE – General Certificate of Secondary Education
SEN – Special Educational Needs
ALN – Additional Learning Needs
SENCO – Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator
SRC – Specialist Resource Centre
TA – Teaching Assistant
DECLO – Designated Education Clinical Lead Officer