

EXECUTIVE BOARD
23RD OCTOBER 2017

WELSH IN EDUCATION FORUM

Recommendations / key decisions required:

The Executive Board agree the arrangements for the Welsh in Education Forum and confirm appointment of the following County Councillors:-

Executive Board Member for Education plus 6 members (2 from each political group):-

Plaid Cymru:- Councillors Darren Price and Cefin Campbell.

Labour :- Councillors Dot Jones and Shahana Najmi.

Independent Group – Councillors Andrew James and Sue Allen.

Reasons:

There is a statutory requirement for Carmarthenshire to have a Welsh in Education Forum. As there is a new Council/Executive Board there is a need to consider and review the membership of this Forum.

Relevant scrutiny committee to be consulted NO

Exec Board Decision Required YES

Council Decision Required NO

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER PORTFOLIO HOLDER:- Cllr Glynog Davies

Directorate- Education and
Children's Services

Name of Head of Service:
Aeron Rees

Report Author: A Rees

Designations:

Tel Nos.

E Mail Addresses:

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
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WELSH IN EDUCATION FORUM

The **School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013** introduced a statutory obligation for local authorities to prepare and submit Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) to the Welsh Government.

A Welsh in education strategic plan is a plan which contains-

- a) a local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to-
 - i. improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh ("Welsh medium education") in its area;
 - ii. improve the standards of Welsh medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;
- b) the local authority's targets for improving the planning of the provision of Welsh medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area;
- c) a report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous plan or previous revised plan.

The main focus of the WESP is the targets set out in the national Welsh Medium Education Strategy, against which the local authority is required to report annually to the Welsh Government: Local authorities will be required to review progress against these targets.

The five outcomes are as follows:

- **more seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year 2 cohort;**
- **more learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school;**
- **more learners studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh;**
- **more learners aged 16-19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh; and**
- **more learners with improved skills in Welsh.**

The WESP sets out a requirement for each local authority to establish a Welsh Education Forum (referred to as 'the Forum' from this point onwards). In legislation the Forum is described as follows-

Welsh medium education forum ("fforwm addysg cyfrwng Cymraeg") means a body established by a local authority for the purpose of improving the provision of Welsh medium education the members of which consist of local authority officers and such other persons as the local authority considers appropriate;

- The Department for Education and Children will facilitate meetings of the Forum.
 - The Forum will meet on a termly basis
 - The Forum's primary role will be to monitor progress in relation to the WESP objectives.
 - The Forum's Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually.
 - Membership of the Forum will also be reviewed annually, however it is expected that membership will include the following:
- County councillors, including the Portfolio Holder for Education (7)
 - The council's Director of Education and Children's Services/Heads of Service
 - Council officers whose role is linked to the outcomes stated in the WESP
 - Representatives of schools (5)
 - Representatives of Welsh language organisations- Mudiad Meithrin
 - School Governor/Parent
 - Others as agreed by the Forum

The Forum shall provide a formal channel of communication between Carmarthenshire County Council, its maintained schools, and other partner organisations with an interest in Welsh education. In particular, the Forum shall:

- Act as a consultative group for the development of the WESP.
- Monitor the implementation of the WESP.
- Monitor the provision of Welsh-medium education and act as a consultative group for future developments.
- Provide an annual report to the Welsh Government describing progress in terms of implementing the WESP's targets against the approved timetable.

In order to avoid any delay in the appointment of members to sit on the Forum, nominations have been sought and received from the Leaders of the political groups.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?	NO
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IMPLICATIONS

I confirm that other than those implications which have been agreed with the appropriate Directors / Heads of Service and are referred to in detail below, there are no other implications associated with this report :

Signed: A. Rees

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities	Legal	Finance	ICT	Risk Management Issues	Staffing Implications	Physical Assets
NONE	YES	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE	NONE

2. Legal

The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and subsequent guidance introduced a statutory obligation for local authorities to set up a Welsh in Education Forum.

CONSULTATIONS

I confirm that the appropriate consultations have taken in place and the outcomes are as detailed below

Signed: A. Rees

Head of Curriculum and Wellbeing

1. Scrutiny Committee N/A
2. Local Member(s) N/A
3. Community / Town Council N/A
4. Relevant Partners *Consulted through membership of the forum*
5. Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations *Consulted through membership of the forum*

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report: THERE ARE NONE