

EDUCATION & CHILDREN SCRUTINY COMMITTEE 23rd NOVEMBER 2015

WELSH IN EDUCATION

To consider and comment on the following issues:

- To update Scrutiny on developments in regard to the Welsh Language in Education
- To commend the approach and to advise the lead officers on other actions required.

Reasons:

- To ensure that the County Council complies with the requirements of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which encompasses the recommendations of the County Council's Welsh Language Panel.

To be referred to the Executive Board for decision: YES

Executive Board Member Portfolio Holder:

Cllr. Gareth Jones (Education & Children)

Cllr. Mair Stephens (Welsh Language)

Directorate: Education & Children	Designations:	Tel Nos. / E-Mail Addresses:
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Report Author: Gareth Morgans		

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
EDUCATION & CHILDREN
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE
23rd NOVEMBER 2015**

WELSH IN EDUCATION

BRIEF SUMMARY OF PURPOSE OF REPORT.

- To provide an update on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.
- To provide an update on performance data in relation to the Welsh language in schools.
- To share progress in respect to 'Codi Caerau Sir Gâr' and marketing materials
- To provide an update on other developments.

DETAILED REPORT ATTACHED?

YES

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: 

Chief Education Officer

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

Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The development of the Welsh Language in Education is an integral part of the '[Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire Report](#)' prepared by the Welsh language Census Group in March 2014. The recommendations, as endorsed by full Council have been incorporated into Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which is our policy to meet the expectations of the Welsh Government's [Welsh Medium Education Strategy](#) (WMES) which sets out the Welsh Government's vision for an education and training system that responds in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education. The aim is to facilitate an increase in the number of people of all ages able to use the Welsh language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

The WESPs are a key vehicle for creating an improved planning system for Welsh-medium education. Carmarthenshire's WESP details how the local authorities aims to achieve the Welsh Government's outcomes and targets outlined in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy

Finance

Many of the actions included in Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan have associated costs e.g. lead officer time, resources, language charter, training. Additional budget was secured to allow the Education Department to appoint a lead officer (part time) and develop the actions included in the plan. Using the Welsh in Education Grant and this additional funding has enabled us to realize many of the actions.

To ensure further progress the additional funding is required.

Risk Management Issues

Without sufficient resource it will be difficult to deliver the agreed actions and improve standards of attainment and increase participation in Welsh medium education.

This could lead to challenge from Members and external challenge from Welsh Government officials and ESTYN in respect to progress being achieved.

Staffing Implications

Due to additional central funding we have an officer (part-time) to lead the implementation of the WESP. Without this officer's time it would be challenging to implement the agreed actions.

In addition the Welsh Support Teachers (Athrawon Gwella'r Gymraeg a Dwyieithrwydd) are employed utilising the Welsh in Education Grant issued to ERW by the Welsh Government. Any reduction in this grant would have an adverse effect on this team and our capacity to deliver the WESP.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed:



Chief Education Officer

1. Scrutiny Committee

Education and Children's Services Scrutiny Committee will be consulted on November 23rd

Recommendations / Comments:

2. Local Member(s)

All Members have been invited to a Briefing Session on November 12th, 2015.

3. Relevant Partners

The Welsh in Education Forum which includes representatives from schools and the voluntary sector have been consulted on the WESP

Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information

List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:

THESE ARE DETAILED BELOW

Title of Document	File Ref No.	Locations that the papers are available for public inspection
Welsh Language in Carmarthenshire Report'		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/68004/WelshLanguageCarms.pdf
Strategaeth Addysg Cyfrwng Cymraeg Llywodraeth Cymru		http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/100420welshmediumstrategy.pdf

Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy		http://gov.wales/docs/dcells/publications/100420welshmediumstrategyen.pdf
Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan		http://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/988336/WESP.pdf
Cynllun Strategol y Gymraeg mewn Addysg Sir Gâr		http://www.sirgar.llyw.cymru/media/988333/CSGA.pdf