

EDUCATION, YOUNG PEOPLE AND WELSH LANGUAGE SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

23 JUNE 2023

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – ANNUAL REPORT

Purpose:

To provide an update on the progress made with the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022-32.

The Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

The document is submitted for comment on this year's progress whilst implementing the 10-year WESP (2022-2032).

Reasons:

At the specific request of the Education, Young People and Welsh language Scrutiny Committee.

Cabinet Decision Required

NO

Council Decision Required

NO

Cabinet Member Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Glynog Davies

Directorate:

Education and Children
Directorate

Designations:

Head of Strategy and
Learner Support

Name of Head of Service:

Aeron Rees

Report Authors:

Aeron Rees / Catrin Griffiths

Head of Strategy and
Learner Support /
Welsh Language
Development Manager

Tel Nos. /E Mail Addresses:

07717 858973

JARees@sirgar.gov.uk

07971 229954

CSGriffiths@sirgar.gov.uk

1. Policy, Crime & Disorder and Equalities

The Wales School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) became law on 4 March 2013. The Act places a statutory duty on local authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which needs to be monitored.

Carmarthenshire is lauded nationally as being innovative and proactive with respect to this agenda. Positive support with the strategy will galvanise the perceived proactivity of the county as we move further towards the 2031 census and towards the national goal of delivering a million Welsh speakers by 2050 – an aim referenced in Welsh Government’s Programme of Government released on 15.6.21 and which is proposed to be laid down in statute in the new Welsh Education Bill.

The developments outlined in the paper build upon corporate priorities identified in Carmarthenshire’s Corporate Strategy (2022-27), namely Well Being Objectives 1 and 3. The proposals also support the Welsh Promotion Strategy, officially launched on 1.6.23, specifically Aims 1-4.

2. Legal

Each Local Authority is required by law to have, and implement, a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. This plan must be monitored. This can be achieved by corporate scrutiny and in scheduled meetings with Welsh Government.

3. Finance

As noted in the Census Working Group’s recommendations, sufficient support and resources are required to successfully implement and promote and extend Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire. The WESP is currently funded by a combination of core funding, coupled with the Welsh Immersion Grant and other grant sources such as the Welsh medium Workforce grant.

5. Risk Management Issues

Not delivering an aspirational Welsh in Education Strategic Plan could:

- see the County Council failing to meet elevated WG requirements and expectations of Carmarthenshire with respect to the development of Welsh medium education and its WESP targets.
- entail failure to meet key Corporate strategic priorities.

There are also considerations in respect of maintaining an appropriate provision for latecomers moving into the county. This, and the appeals process, requires regular monitoring and can be ameliorated by immersion education and the use of our language centres. By the end of the decade, there will still be linguistic choice available in the system, albeit that all learners should have been bestowed with a higher base level of bilingual acquisition following their primary schooling.

6. Staffing Implications

Maintaining and developing a strong team of TADG teachers (Tîm Athrawon Datblygu'r Gymraeg / Welsh Development Teacher Team) is vital for this agenda.

There are major staff training requirements which need to be expedited.

7. Physical Assets

MEP/MIM funding or similar can assist with the restructuring of parts of the system (separate discussion), with capital investment available to support the WESP agenda.

CONSULTATIONS

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

Signed: J.A. Rees

Head of Strategy and Learner Support

(Please specify the outcomes of consultations undertaken where they arise against the following headings)

1. **Scrutiny Committee – 28.01.21; Scrutiny general update 17.03.21**
2. **Welsh in Education Forum – 16.12.20; 25.06.21**
3. **Local Member(s) – of schools identified for re-designation, pending approval to proceed**
4. **Community / Town Council – stakeholder in the public consultation pending approval**
5. **Relevant Partners – anticipated public consultation**
6. **Head Teachers: 21.01.21; 25.06.21**

Date	Meeting/Event
05.05.21	DMT
13.05.21	CMT
01.06.21	PEB
25.6.21	Second Head teacher surgeries (2)
	Fforwm y Gymraeg mewn Addysg / Welsh in Education Forum
30.6.21	PEB
8.7.21	ECS Scrutiny
July-September '21	Adjustments over summer vacation
06.09.21 (if required)	PEB
October -November '21 (no later than)	Heads & Governors
	8-week Public Consultation (with scrutiny perusal of report)
22.11.21	EB (including consultation report)
08.12.21	County Council
31.1.22	Submitted to WG
June-August '22	Approval by Welsh Ministers
1.9.22	New 10-year WESP became operational

Staff Side Representatives and other Organisations – Unions appraised as necessary

**CABINET MEMBER PORTFOLIO
HOLDER(S) AWARE/CONSULTED**

YES

Include any observations here

**Section 100D Local Government Act, 1972 – Access to Information
List of Background Papers used in the preparation of this report:**

THERE ARE NONE, apart from internal WG guidance documentation