



CABINET – 18TH JUNE 2013

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN

REPORT BY: ACTING DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform members of the content of the draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2012-15 (Appendix 1 to the report) and associated responsibilities of the Council.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The WESP links to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of Welsh language in education, educational attainment, and it supports the appropriate use of the Welsh Education Grant (WEG) funding.
- 2.2 It has been developed specifically for Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC), and has links with those of the 4 other authorities in our Consortium.
- 2.3 CCBC was encouraged to submit a local authority specific WESP to ensure the good practice within the borough is highlighted and built upon when moving forward on a regional basis.
- 2.4 Working with a group of key stakeholders (full list of members in Appendix 3) the WESP has been updated and further developed in consultation with Welsh Government officers.
- 2.5 The WESP action plan contains an analysis of current provision. It highlights best practice and includes targets for improvement.
- 2.6 A plan for developing Welsh medium learning pathways for 14-19 year olds 2013-17 (Appendix 2 of this report) has been developed by Partneriaeth 6 - which is an effective collaborative arrangement between Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllwy welsh-medium school clusters. This forms an integral part of the WESP.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 The plan links to the local authority's duty to monitor and improve standards of Welsh language in education and supports the appropriate use of the WEG funding.
- 3.2 It also links to the Council's current Welsh Language Scheme annual reporting requirements.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 The five authorities which form the South East Wales Consortium have adopted the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh language education to:-

"have an education and training system that responds appropriately and in a planned way to the growing demand for Welsh-medium education. One that reaches out to and reflects our diverse communities and enables an increase in the number of people of all ages and backgrounds who are fluent in Welsh and able to use the language with their families, in their communities and in the workplace."

- 4.2 CCBC is committed to ensuring that all children who attend an English-medium school have the opportunity to learn Welsh, in accordance with the national curriculum and are able to achieve an accredited Welsh language qualification by the age of 16.
- 4.3 The WESP is set out to include detailed actions under the 7 identified outcomes set out within Welsh Government guidance. Challenging targets for improvement are aligned to these outcomes.

- Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school
- Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning
- Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh
- Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs
- Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuous professional development

- 4.4 Areas covered within the WESP include:-

- antenatal information to families
- the Flying Start programme
- Early Years Education
- support for Early Years childcare settings and out of school clubs
- Primary Schools
- Secondary Schools
- colleges and further education
- support for children with additional needs within Welsh medium Education
- literacy improvement schemes
- workforce development
- updated data sets to establish current performance
- learning and best practice developed from successful pilots

- 4.5 Members of the group (appendix 3) meet termly to review the progress of the Action Plan which will then be reported to SMT and this Scrutiny Committee on a regular basis.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The Council's Equalities and Welsh Language requirements for monitoring and recording of workforce development, staff linguistic abilities and the offering of training opportunities are co-ordinated by effective partnership working between the Council's Equalities and Welsh Language team and Directorate of Education and Lifelong Learning.
- 5.2 The positive equality implications linked to provision will be addressed through sufficiency of places, access to resources, and sharing best practice to deliver the vision as outlined in 4.1. All projects developed from the WESP will also be assessed for Equalities and Welsh Language considerations.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Implementation of the Plan will be supported by utilising the WEG and existing budgets.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no personnel implications within this report.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 All comments have been reflected in the report.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 Members are asked to approve the CCBC WESP.

10. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

10.1 Approving the scheme will allow the Council to fulfil its duties under the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy.

11. STATUTORY POWER

11.1 Government of Wales Act 2006 (Section 78), National Welsh Medium Education Strategy 2010.

Author: Sarah Mutch, Early Years Manager
Consultees: Directorate Senior Management Team
Cllr. Rhianon Passmore, Cabinet Member for Education and Lifelong Learning
Geraint Willington, Education Finance
David A. Thomas, Senior Policy Officer, Equalities and Welsh Language
Lisa Haile, Personnel Manager

Appendices:

Appendix 1 Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2012-15
Appendix 2 Partneriaeth 6 Operational Strategic Plan for Developing Welsh Medium Learning Pathways 14-19, 2013-2017
Appendix 3 Membership of WESP Task and Finish Group