

## **Scrutiny Investigation – Welsh Language Education**

### **Purpose of the Scrutiny Investigation**

The Scrutiny Investigation is being established by the Services Scrutiny Committee to assess:

- How the Authority's Language Policy is being implemented at grass roots in individual schools
- The extent to which that provision helps in promoting the social use of the Welsh Language by children and young people (in the context of the Gwynedd Schools' Welsh Language Charter)

Specifically, the Investigation will:-

1. elaborate on the implementation of the Authority's Language Policy at primary and secondary schools in specific catchment areas
2. see how the key elements of the policy are applied in the policies of the different schools and in particular within the School Development Plan.
3. see how the requirements of the "*Strategic Plan on Welsh in Education*" are being actioned
4. see how the guidance and requirements of the "*Gwynedd Primary Schools Welsh Language Charter*" are being actioned

### **The Organisation of the Work**

The Investigation will seek a county-wide picture on the issue but will act by catchment area, developing an implementation model to look at a catchment area that will include:-

a) Establishing an understanding of:-

- the linguistic pattern within the catchment area on the basis of Census and individual schools' statistics
- the educational structure of the catchment area and parents' perceptions of the linguistic nature of schools
- the relationships between schools with regard to the Welsh Language
- the use made of Language Centres
- the use made of Welsh in the classroom, corridor, refectory and yard
- activities held to celebrate and promote the Welsh Language culture and heritage

- the strategic linguistic priorities in the area (in the context of the development of the Gwynedd Language Strategy)
- the local context in terms of linguistic community work
- the linguistic attainments of the catchment's children
- good practice

b) Interviewing the following to identify the situation at grass roots:-

- A range of Headteachers (Primary and Secondary)
- The Primary Language Co-ordinator for the Catchment Area and the Language Co-ordinators at the Secondary School(s)
- A range of teachers
- Focus Group work with parents and pupils on Welsh Language Education and the use of the language within the school

c) Preparing recommendations to improve the consistency and quality of Welsh Language education within the catchment area now and for the future.

NB It is suggested that the Investigation should concentrate initially on the Bangor area and the Meirionnydd coast and Tywyn subsequently