



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 November 2017

Report by: Is grŵp y Gymraeg (Welsh Language Sub group)

Subject: A plan to develop the workforce to support the Welsh Language in Education

1. Purpose of the Report

To present information on the 'Develop the workforce to support the Welsh Language in Education' plan to the Joint Committee.

2.0 Background

2.1 Quoting from a letter sent by the Director, Education Directorate in Welsh Government – Steve Davies (July 2017):

One of the Welsh Government's aims is for one million Welsh speakers by 2050. The education system has a key role to play in order to achieve this aim. We will need to increase the number of learners in Welsh-medium and bilingual education, and make changes to the curriculum to ensure that all learners in Wales are able to develop their Welsh language skills to use in every aspect of life. Developing the workforce's skills and capacity to support the teaching and learning of Welsh and through the medium of Welsh is, therefore, essential.

Each regional education consortium will receive an allocation to support the professional development of practitioners' Welsh language skills and teaching pedagogy.

Every Consortia will be required to undertake a programme of work, which includes:

- mapping the Welsh language skills of the workforce;
- identifying practitioners to take part in the Sabbatical scheme;
- Undertake a programme of Welsh language professional learning to practitioners which will support and reinforce the Sabbatical Scheme
- mentoring and school-to-school support;
- sharing effective practice, and providing a programme of Welsh language professional learning for practitioners

The Education Consortium GwE has received a grant allocation of £557,051. The prioritization of the following identified:

1. Develop and promote Regional strategy and policy
2. Identify a baseline of the Welsh language skills of the education workforce and their ability to teach Welsh and through the medium of Welsh
3. A review of current provisions that develop the Welsh language skills of adults, trainees, and educators, together with courses that foster positive attitudes towards the Welsh language and the advantages of bilingualism
4. Ensuring appropriate and suitable provision of Welsh language courses and training that meets the need identified by the education workforce
5. The role of Initial Teacher Education (SPA) programs
6. Maintain and consider all research in the field of bilingualism and promotion of the Welsh language
7. Raising awareness, sharing Information and communication

3.0 Considerations

- 3.1 The intention is for the Welsh Language Sub Group to act as a Project Board for this work, and specific sub groups will be formed to lead on the work streams of the different priorities.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is requested to approve the project brief and the work of the Sub Group.

5.0 Financial Implications

- 5.1 GwE has received a grant of £557,051 for this work. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

6.0 Equalities Impact

- 6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

7.0 Personnel Implications

- 7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

8.0 Consultation Undertaken

- 8.1 Representation from the 6 Local Authorities and GwE are on the Sub-group.
Consultation with the GwE Management Board.

9.0 Appendices

- 9.1 Project brief.

OPINION OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

No comments from a proprietary perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

In part 5 of the Report, the author confirms that specific grant monies will fund any additional financial obligations.