

<b>MEETING:</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE:</b>	<b>27 February 2018</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy</b>
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	<b>Debbie Anne Williams Jones (Education Officer)</b>
<b>PURPOSE OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Introducing Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy following its adoption by the Cabinet on 26 October 2018</b>

## **1. BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 The purpose of this project is to ensure firm progression and to build on the success of the pioneering Language Charter project which is operational in Gwynedd's primary schools, and which has now been rolled out nationally. At the request of Welsh Government, following the positive reports about the success of the Charter in Gwynedd, permission was granted to use Gwynedd's expertise and good practice to extend the project to other areas in Wales.
- 1.2 To ensure firm progression of the Primary Language Charter, and to continue to improve our young people's Welsh language skills, the Secondary Sector Language Strategy was developed to provide clear guidance on how to plan intervention to improve awareness and increase the use of the language among young people in the secondary sector.

## **2. CONSULTATIONS THAT TOOK PLACE BEFORE ADOPTING THE SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY**

- 2.1 The Secondary Sector Language Strategy was submitted to the Secondary Sector Strategic Planning Group on a number of occasions in 2017 during the process of creating the document. Also, a draft version was submitted to the Group for observations on 21 September 2017, in which all headteachers supported the Secondary Sector Language Strategy.
- 2.2 A presentation was given to the Language Committee on 28 February 2017 on the main objectives of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy.
- 2.3 The Secondary Sector Language Strategy was brought before the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 26 September, 2017, and the observations received from the scrutineers have already been incorporated into the final version of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy.

### **3. GWYNEDD SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY**

3.1 The Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy was adopted by the Cabinet on 26 October 2017.

3.2 The Strategy focuses on the Welsh language and on Education, and includes curricular elements as well as social use of the language. There are four main fields to which the Strategy attempts to respond:

- Welsh as a first language
- Second Language Welsh
- The Welsh Language as a medium
- Social Use of Welsh

3.3 The context and direction are based on a number of key policy documents, and it is acknowledged that a number of plans are already operational in these fields in a number of schools in Gwynedd and beyond, namely:

- Strategic Plan – Welsh in Education
- Welsh-Medium Education Scrutiny Investigation Report
- Alun Charles' Study Report
- Secondary Schools Language Practices Support Project (PCAI)
- Gwynedd Language Strategy 2014-2017
- Trywydd Report - Increasing the social use of the Welsh language among children and young people of Gwynedd's secondary schools.
  - Cymraeg 2050
  - A framework for increasing the use of Welsh by children and young people.
  - Donaldson Review 'Successful Future':
    - Recommendation numbers 21-30 - The Welsh Language
    - Recommendation 62 - Ownership

A copy of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy is included in Appendix 1.

### **4. GWYNEDD SECONDARY SECTOR LANGUAGE STRATEGY COORDINATOR**

4.1 Since April 2017, a Coordinator was appointed on secondment from the Secondary Sector Language Centre in Porthmadog - a person who has expertise and credibility among the heads of secondary schools, and has the ability to convince and challenge accordingly - to lead the Secondary School Language Strategy.

4.2 The following has been achieved since the Coordinator's appointment:

- forming the Secondary Sector Language Strategy jointly with a working group of Gwynedd secondary school headteachers;
- a unique action plan has been formed by every secondary school in response to the objectives of the Language Strategy;
- meetings and discussions between the Coordinator and staff at a number of secondary schools have been held;

- a brand new partnership has been established with hunaniaith to respond specifically to aims within the strategy, namely:
  - young people
  - the school and the community
- a secondary sector language web questionnaire has been created, and Year 7 pupils are currently using it as a baseline;
- pilot plans are in operation in Tywyn High School and Ysgol Friars.

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

5.1 Delivering the vision and objectives of the Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy has been included in the Council Plan for 2018-2023. Forming and implementing the requirements of the Secondary Sector Language Strategy is a direct response to the call from the county's primary and secondary schools, along with Elected Members to see succession to the primary schools Language Charter, ensuring further progress in the social and curricular use of the Welsh language among young people.

5.2 Over the next three years, the Coordinator will be responsible for:

- Further supporting the 14 secondary schools to implement the main priorities of the Strategy
- Continuing to implement the language web with the young people
- Create and implement comprehensive training programmes for secondary teachers in the methodologies of bilingual teaching and learning
- Further promote the value and advantages and usefulness of bilingualism in order to strengthen the pupils' incentive to develop into people who are fluent in both languages.
- Create and implement effective arrangements to monitor the implementation of the strategy.

## **6. RECOMMENDATIONS**

6.1 Members are asked to:

- discuss the Secondary Sector Language Strategy
- accept the content of the report and the next steps.