

<b>MEETING</b>	<b>LANGUAGE COMMITTEE</b>
<b>DATE</b>	28 January 2021
<b>TITLE</b>	Annual Review Report of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)
<b>PURPOSE</b>	To consider the contents of the progress report and offer observations
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<b>CABINET MEMBER</b>	Councillor Cemlyn Rees Williams

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. The School Standards and Organisation Act (2013) became law in Wales on 4 March 2013. The Act places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to prepare and submit a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to Welsh Government. These initial plans came into effect on 1 April 2014 for a period of three years up to March 2017. These plans outline the way Local Authorities intend to achieve aims and targets set by Welsh Government and which are outlined in the Welsh Medium Education Strategy.
- 1.2 To this end, Welsh Government has published several other key policy documents in the field of Welsh in Education:
- Cymraeg 2050,
  - Education in Wales: Our Nation's Mission (Action Plan 2017-21)
  - The Welsh Language in Education: Action Plan 2017-21
  - Welsh Language Promotion Plan for Gwynedd 2018-23
- 1.3 During 2017-18, a consultation period was held on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) Regulations 2019 together with the draft Guidelines. Confirmation was received recently that the Regulations set on 5 December 2019 had been amended, in order to extend the date the new WESP will come into force in light of the COVID-19 pandemic: <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/wsi/2020/1194/introduction/made> This means that the new WESP will come into force in September 2022 rather than September 2021, and the Authority must submit its WESP to Welsh Ministers by 31 January 2022, rather than 2021.
- 1.4 The Regulations require Local Authorities to set a 10-year target in their WESPs which outlines the expected increase in Year 1 children educated through the medium of Welsh.

- 1.5 For the time being, however, we are continuing to implement our current three-year WESP, and the purpose of this report is to present the Gwynedd annual review report on the implementation of our current WESP in 2019-20.

## **2. THE IMPACT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF GWYNEDD WESP 2019-20**

- 2.1 In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, schools across Wales closed on 20 March 2020, with the curriculum suspended and schools being re-purposed to provide care for children of key workers and vulnerable children.
- 2.2 Due to the fact that schools across Wales had closed, and the curriculum was suspended, it was not possible to undertake learners' assessments during summer 2020 and external examinations such as GCSE and A Levels were not held as usual.
- 2.3 As a result, no quantitative data is available as part of the WESP annual review report for 2019-20 and, therefore, the report submitted is slightly different to the usual, and is based on an amended template received from Welsh Government.

## **3. GWYNEDD WESP ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT 2019-20**

- 2.1 In Appendix 1, an annual review report on the implementation of the Gwynedd WESP for the year 2019-20 is presented.
- 2.2 The annual review report has been presented in a different format this year after receiving an amended template from Welsh Government. The annual review will be submitted to Welsh Government following the Language Committee.
- 2.3 A copy of the Gwynedd WESP for 2017-2020 for information and convenience can be found by clicking on the following link: [Gwynedd WESP](#)
- 2.4 Also for convenience, the definition of the seven WESP outcomes can be found below:

- Outcome 1: More seven year old children educated through the medium of Welsh.
- Outcome 2: More pupils continuing to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from primary to secondary school.
- Outcome 3: More 14-16 year old pupils studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.
- Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and through work-based learning.
- Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh.
- Outcome 6: Welsh-medium Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision.
- Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

Members are asked to:

- Submit any observations on the contents of the annual review report on the WESP that is intended to be submitted to Welsh Government.