



Cydweithio · Dysgu · Llwyddo
Collaborating · Learning · Succeeding

REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

22 SEPTEMBER 2021

Report by: Alwyn Jones - Assistant Director

Subject: Y Gymraeg - Cluster Plans and 'Ein Llais Ni' Oracy Project

1.0 Purpose of the Report

1.1 To share information about the arrangements and plans for two main work streams in the business plan for Welsh this year - arrangements for the Cluster Plans and 'Ein Llais Ni' Oracy Project.

2.0 Background

2.1 **Cluster Plans** - Following discussions with Authority Officers, it was agreed that there is a need to reconsider arrangements for encouraging cluster collaboration and allocation of funding to support the objectives i.e. Developing the language skills of the workforce and supporting Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg Campus activities.

2.2 **'Ein Llais Ni' (Our Voice)** - A successful application was made to Welsh Government early in 2021 for funding to support us to undertake the 'Ein Llais Ni' oracy project. The aim of the project is to:

- Improve learners' attitudes and readiness to communicate through the medium of Welsh and contribute confidently to their bilingual communities both within and outside of school.
- Introduce the programme of traditional, digital and live 'Ein Llais Ni' strategies; which are of relevance to the Welsh context.
- Support and develop learners towards the Four Purposes, learners who are proud of their Welshness and confident, bilingual communicators.

3.0 Considerations

3.1 **Cluster Plans** - as regards these plans, the intention is to review planning, delivery and reporting on progress to ensure the effectiveness of the grant and collate information about achievements and effective delivery methods in future. Working with the Local Authorities, we will:

- Develop the use of the 'dashboard' to share information/the plan/funding and report on progress. Welsh language SIAs, Authority officers and Catchment Area Language Coordinators will have access.
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- Ensure that planning aligns with WESP outcomes and that catchment area language coordinators are increasingly aware of those targets.
- Ensure a financial allocation for every cluster - in discussion with Authority Officers, consider the number of schools and specific requirements to target.
- Ensure ongoing discussions about the impact of any actions and next steps.
- Encourage regular meetings with cluster schools, make use of the Workforce Census when planning for needs, strategic use of the Sabbatical Schemes and principles of the Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg Campus frameworks.
- Share effective practice and achievements of the cluster plans via GwE's Support Centre website and in national networks e.g. 'Siarter Iaith'.

3.2 'Ein Llais Ni' (See Appendix 1) - the aim of this project is to develop and strengthen the model for teaching and improving oracy skills in schools in the context of the Curriculum for Wales (*signature pedagogy*). The main priorities are as follows:

- The need to build confidence and reignite enthusiasm towards using Welsh as a natural medium of communication and blend this with the need to improve welfare and wellbeing by developing all learners' communication skills.
- Respond to the report by Professor Neil Mercer and Dr James Mannion, 'Oracy across the Welsh Curriculum' in 2018.
- The teaching and learning of oracy skills need to be transformed in order to meet the 'Welsh Government's aim of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers' and the Curriculum for Wales.
- The need to integrate the principles of the model with schools' late immersion plans and build on their accelerated learning strategies.
- Evidence suggests that closing schools due to COVID-19 has widened the attainment gap between learners from a cross-section of linguistic backgrounds and particularly those from less privileged backgrounds.
- A number of teachers acknowledge a lack of confidence and specialist subject knowledge in the teaching and assessment of oracy across the curriculum.
- The need to ensure that language and expertise in specific areas and subjects contribute towards the project.

4.0 Recommendations

- 4.1 The Joint-Committee is asked to approve the content of the report and plans to develop the project in line with targets set by Welsh Government.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report. GwE will operate within current financial resources.

- 5.2 'Ein Llais Ni' Project - a successful application was made to Welsh Government early in 2021 for funding to support an action research project to raise standards in Welsh oracy.

6.0 Equalities Impact

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

7.0 Personnel Implications

7.1 'Ein Llais Ni' Project – Appoint a temporary Project Officer to co-ordinate the work alongside a Research Officer from Bangor University's Education Department.

8.0 Consultation undertaken

8.1 Consultation with GwE Management Board and Local Authority Officers.

9.0 Appendices

9.1 Appendix 1 - 'Ein Llais Ni' project.

OPINION OF STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

Statutory Finance Officer:

I confirm that a letter has been received offering a £210,900 grant for the 'Ein Llais Ni' project. As the covering report notes in part 5.1, it is expected that GwE will implement the schemes within their current financial resources, including this grant.