

GWYNEDD CATEGORY 3 SECONDARY SCHOOLS SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION DRAFT BRIEF

A	<u>What is the matter being considered?</u> A general principle that has been noted in terms of education medium in the Gwynedd Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022-32 is: <i>"All the county's schools should operate in a way that contributes to the aims and objectives of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan, to increase and improve Planning for Welsh-medium education provision."</i> One of the outcomes set out in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan is: <i>"More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh."</i> Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee members have identified the need to give attention to the Welsh-medium provision in the County's Secondary Schools. The investigation will consider the implementation of the Authority's Language Education Policy in three category 3 secondary schools (1 school from Arfon, Dwyfor and Meirionnydd). The Education Department suggests the following schools based on the fact that post-16 considerations could be included in 2 out of the 3 schools, namely: ➤ Ysgol Dyffryn Nantlle ➤ Ysgol Eifionydd ➤ Ysgol Godre'r Berwyn
B	<u>The Investigation's Aim</u> The main question to address is: 'What is the Welsh medium provision in our secondary schools and what plans are in place to increase the provision in Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 5 in Gwynedd?' It is intended to do this by asking the following questions: • How are the key elements of the Authority's Education Language Policy applied in the different schools' policies and especially within the School Development Plan? • To what extent do category 3 schools in Gwynedd ensure a solid Welsh ethos that enables the learners to use the Welsh language in every social context in the school? • What are the opportunities to make progress in terms of the schools' Welsh medium provision across the curriculum in KS3, KS4 and KS5? • To what extent is it ensured that learners continue to improve their Welsh skills from one key stage to another?

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	- What are the obstacles to being able to make progress in terms of the schools' Welsh medium provision across the curriculum in KS3, KS4 and KS5 and what support is needed to overcome those obstacles? - What opportunities/obstacles does the Curriculum for Wales offer as secondary schools prepare to implement the new curriculum from September 2023 onwards?
C	<u>Background</u> Details of the current situation in Gwynedd - Current provision and plans in progress - Policies
CH	<u>Collect Evidence</u> - Leaders of Gwynedd Council - Education Cabinet Member - Head of Education - Officers - Assistant Head of Department: Secondary - In three category 3 secondary schools - Head Teacher - Curriculum Coordinator - Cluster Coordinator (in the context of Welsh Language Cluster Schemes) - Learner's Language Forum - Focus Groups with Learners - Parent Representatives on the Governing Body - The Immersion Education System - Focus Groups with learners who are newcomers
D	<u>Analysis</u> - Consider the evidence received from those interviewed - Consider research information and background information
DD	<u>Create Report</u> - Note main observations supported by evidence - Make recommendations for short term improvements - Make recommendations for longer term improvements - Discuss and agree draft report with leaders of the work within the Council - Present draft final report to the Scrutiny Committee for comments and agreement - Publish final report
E	<u>Action Plan</u> - Cabinet Member/Education Department to produce an action plan in response to the recommendations. - Invite the Education Cabinet Member and officers to discuss the Action Plan with the Scrutineers.
F	<u>Track Progress</u> An update to enable the scrutineers to assess progress.

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FF	<u>TIMETABLE</u>		
	What	Lead	Date
1	Agree Brief	Lead Officer Cabinet Member Head of Department	January 2023
2	Adopt the Brief	Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee	2 February 2023
3	Investigation Members' First Meeting - Context – Education Cabinet Member, Head of Education and Assistant Head of Department: Secondary - Formulate Questions	Investigation Members and Lead Officer	February 2023
4	Interviews - Hold Interviews - Minute Three category 3 secondary schools: - o Head Teacher - o Curriculum Coordinator - o Cluster Coordinator (in the context of Welsh Language Cluster Schemes) - o Learner's Language Forum - o Focus Groups with Learners - o Parent Representatives on the Governing Body - o The Immersion Education System - Focus Groups with learners who are newcomers	Investigation Members and Lead Officer	March 2023 March / April 2023 April / May 2023
5	Meeting to formulate draft recommendations	Investigation Members and Lead Officer	May 2023
6	Analysis and draft reports	Investigation Members and Lead Officer	May / June 2023
7	Final Report	Cabinet Member Investigation Members Head of Department Lead Officer	July 2023