

SUBJECT: WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2022 - 2032

MEETING: Select

DATE: 14th October 2021

DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED: ALL

1. PURPOSE:

To share the Draft Welsh in Education Plan (WESP) 2022 – 2032 with members of Select as part of the consultation process.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

It is recommended that Select Members:

- 2.1 Receive the Monmouthshire WESP 2022-2032 Plan
- 2.2 Select Members scrutinise the following Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) 2022 – 2032 and take the opportunity to comment on its contents.

3. BACKGROUND:

- 3.1 The WESP is our long-term language planning tool which sets the strategic direction for the planning, delivery, and growth of Welsh medium education in Monmouthshire over the next ten years. The WESP must contain:
 - a. A local authority's proposals on how it will carry out its education functions to:
 - I. Improve the planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh ("Welsh-medium education") in its area.
 - II. Improve the standards of Welsh-medium education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area.
 - b. The local authority's targets for improving the planning of the provision of Welsh medium education in its area and for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh in its area.
 - c. Report on the progress made to meet the targets contained in the previous Plan or previous revised Plan.

- 3.2 Following a rapid review of WESP plans in 2017, significant changes have been made to the format and legislative regulations for local authority WESPs. The purpose of the new regulations is to improve opportunities for local authorities to plan Welsh-medium education provision to support:
- current and future expectation for growth in Welsh-medium education
 - Welsh Government's long-term national ambition for the Welsh language as set out in Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh speakers' strategy,
 - the Welsh Language Standards (No. 1) Regulations 2015
 - the introduction of a new curriculum for Wales.
- 3.3 Local authorities are required to follow the form, content, timing, and duration of the WESP as specified by Welsh Ministers. From 2022, all WESPs will cover a ten-year term.
- 3.4 The WESP 2022-2032 is arranged around the following seven key outcomes:
- Outcome 1:** More nursery children/ three-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 2:** More reception class children/ five-year-olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 3:** More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another
- Outcome 4:** More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh
- Outcome 5:** More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school
- Outcome 6:** An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018
- Outcome 7:** Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh
- 3.5 Local Authorities are required to keep the WESP under review and submit an Annual Progress Report to Welsh Ministers.
- 3.6 Welsh Ministers have the power to issue guidance which Local Authorities must have regard to in exercising their functions in relation to the WESP.
- 3.7 In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the start date for WESPs has been moved from 1 September 2021 to a year later to 1 September 2022.

4. KEY ISSUES:

- 4.1 Welsh Government's vision is to see one million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050 and to achieve this the following actions will need to happen:
- more children in Welsh-medium education.
 - better planning in relation to how people learn the language.
 - more easy-to-access opportunities for people to use the language.
 - a stronger infrastructure and a revolution to improve digital provision in Welsh; and
 - a sea change in the way we speak about it.
- 4.2 Education is one of the key drivers to realise this vision through ensuring that children have the opportunity to develop their Welsh skills at an early age to create new speakers of the future.
- 4.3 The WESP supports and contributes to the following Acts and national Policies and strategies:
- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015
 - Prosperity for All: the national strategy
 - Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers 2017
 - Education in Wales: Our National Mission, Action Plan 2017-21
 - The Welsh in Education, Action Plan 2017- 21
 - Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021

5. REASONS:

- 4.1 The draft Monmouthshire WESP has been developed in line with guidance issued by Welsh Ministers under section 87 of the Schools Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to submit a WESP for approval by Welsh Government.
- 4.2 The WESP sets out the strategic steps and actions Monmouthshire propose to take to contribute to achieving the Welsh Government's vision of million Welsh speakers across Wales by 2050.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

- 5.1 The cost to establish a new Welsh medium primary in Monmouth will be met with Welsh medium capital funding from Welsh Government.

- 5.2 The on-going cost of staffing and resources in the new school will be an additional revenue pressure for the Local Authority before the rolls fall at English medium schools.
- 5.3 The on-going cost of staffing for immersion provision to support latecomers to Welsh will be an additional revenue pressure to the Local Authority. As demand for the service increases, the revenue pressure will increase. We will apply for additional funding from Welsh Government through the Welsh medium late immersion grant to offset these pressures in the short term.

6. WELLBEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS IMPLICATIONS (INCORPORATING EQUALITIES, SUSTAINABILITY, SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING)

- 6.1 The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 requires public bodies to work towards seven well-being goals, one of which is 'A Wales of Vibrant Culture and Thriving Welsh Language'. The Local Authority has a duty to promote and facilitate the use of Welsh and work towards the well-being goals. Education, through the WESP, has a significant role in supporting the development of Welsh language and culture.

7. SAFEGUARDING AND CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS:

- 7.1 Safeguarding arrangements and access to support from Local Authority services apply equally to children and pupils in Welsh medium settings and schools.
- 7.2 Officers from Education, Inclusion and Children's services work in close partnership with all schools and settings, to ensure that learners are kept safe.

8. CONSULTEES:

- RhAg
- Urdd
- Coleg Gwent
- Menter Iaith
- Mudiad Meithrin
- Education Achievement Service
- DMT

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- The Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015

- Prosperity for All: the national strategy
- Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers 2017
- Education in Wales: Our National Mission, Action Plan 2017-21
- The Welsh in Education, Action Plan 2017- 21
- Taking Wales Forward 2016-2021
- Guidance on Welsh in Education Strategic Plans
- Monmouthshire Welsh Language Strategy 2017 -2022
- Welsh-medium Education Strategy: next steps

9. AUTHOR:

Sharon Randall-Smith

Head of Service Children and Young People Directorate

10. CONTACT DETAILS:

Tel: 01633644208/ 07973884461

E-mail: SharonRandall-Smith@monmouthshire.gov.uk