



Aelod Cabinet dros Addysg
Cabinet Member for Education
Cyngorydd/Councillor Gareth Thomas

Gofynnwch am/Ask for: Gareth Thomas

Dear Eluned Morgan AM,

Re: Gwynedd Secondary Sector Language Strategy

Gwynedd Council is an organisation that has always taken its duty to promote the Welsh language seriously, and through its internal administration it enables all Council staff to work through the medium of Welsh naturally, while developing Welsh language oral, reading and understanding, and written skills on a daily basis.

In addition, through its language policy, the Council is also committed to promoting the Welsh language beyond the Council; with partners and in communities. As a result of this commitment, and the strength of the Welsh language in many of the county's communities, the Council also acts as the lead body for **hunaniaith**, which is what the language initiative is known as in Gwynedd.

In addition, the Council, in partnership with **hunaniaith**, was responsible for developing the Language Charter for the county's primary schools, in order to have a positive influence on children's social use of the Welsh language. As you may know, since the launch of the Language Charter in Gwynedd in June 2011, Welsh Government has taken a keen interest in the innovative work that was underway here, and the positive impact the charter was having on children's use of the Welsh language. Consequently, the Language Charter has now been rolled-out regionally and nationally, and it is now funded by Welsh Government through the four education consortia.

Gwynedd is now looking at the secondary sector, in order to ensure appropriate succession to the successes of the Charter in the primary sector. On 26 October 2017, Gwynedd Council Cabinet adopted a Secondary Sector Language Strategy for the county, and I enclose a copy of the document for your attention. The Council has also created a Coordinator post as a resource to support and challenge our secondary schools to deliver. In a period of unprecedented financial hardship for Local Authorities, the challenge is to secure financial support to continue with the Coordinator post as a key resource to drive this work forward.

Based on Gwynedd's success with the Language Charter in primary schools, I would urge Welsh Government to consider giving financial support to allow Gwynedd to pioneer once more in the field of supporting young people's use of the Welsh language in our secondary schools. Financial support of £120,000 would allow us to employ a Coordinator for the Secondary Sector Language Strategy for a period of three years. This period is considered reasonable for trialling, pioneering and proving the

worth of the investment on young people's use of the Welsh language within the curriculum and socially. Following this, Welsh Government would be in a strong position to consider how appropriate it would be to disseminate this scheme across the secondary sector regionally and nationally.

Of course, Gwynedd's efforts to support children and young people to use the Welsh language also support and contribute towards the Government's vision as outlined in *Cymraeg 2050*. In addition, the variances found in the position of the Welsh language in Gwynedd, reflecting the range of variances found in communities as varied as Llanrug and Aberdyfi, means that Gwynedd is in a good place to trial and pioneer in the linguistic planning field. Should you wish to hear more about what has been achieved in Gwynedd to promote the use of the Welsh language among children and young people, I would be very happy to welcome you here and take you around some of our primary and secondary schools for you to see the plans at work.

In the meantime, I trust that you will give our request for financial support due attention, in order to realise our agreed vision of young people using the Welsh language every day.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Gareth Thomas
Cabinet Member for Education