



REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

20 February 2019

Report by: Alwyn Jones, GwE Assistant Director

Subject: Welsh in Education - reviewing the provision across the region

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present an update to the Joint Committee regarding review of provision across the region.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 *The Welsh in education action plan* sets out a specific direction and courses of action to realise the vision of Welsh Government, emphasising the need to improve the support for children and young people who are learning Welsh.
- 2.2 In the last Joint Committee meeting, the proposal to review the current provision so that the region fully responds to Welsh Government policy and ensures appropriate cohesion and capacity to provide a quality regional service in this area was approved .
- 2.3 The GwE Management Board met on 18/01/19 and the first draft of the terms of reference (Appendix 1) was shared. It was agreed that Claire Homard, Chief Officer for Youth and Education, Flintshire Council and Arwyn Williams, Head of Learning for Anglesey County Council both undertake the work of gathering information on provision in each authority, and acquire a clear understanding of the vision, strategic plans and targets of local authorities. Face to face meetings will be arranged with Authorities during the second half of the spring term.
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3. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 Attached is the draft Terms of Reference (Appendix 1), which sets out the following:

- Rationale for undertaking the review
- The budgets within the scope of the review
- Governance
- Methodology

3.2 In addition, the Welsh language Strategic Board has commissioned IAITH to draw up a Regional Strategy for Welsh in Education. As part of the process, they have held Welsh in Education Regional Strategic Workshops in each local authority, presenting an initial outline of the strategy as the basis for discussion and further joint planning of objectives, priorities, approaches and outcomes of the strategy. The review will align with this strategy.

4. RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the Terms of Reference as outlined in Appendix 1.

5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Any implications in terms of the budget depend on the result of the proposed review.

6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT

6.1 No new implications regarding equality arise from this report.

7.0 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Any implications in terms of personnel depend on the result of the proposed review.

8.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN

8.1 Consultation with the Welsh language Strategic Board, GwE Management Board and the Joint Committee.

9.0 APPENDICES

9.1 Appendix 1 - Terms of Reference.

VIEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

Monitoring Officer:

A range of issues are contained within the proposed heads of terms. It is correctly noted that further legal advice is needed in relation to responsibilities. As with any other Joint Committee

GwE's functions are delegated from the individual Authorities and any decisions need to be ascribed to the correct body. There needs to be an early understanding of who owns the decision or where the statutory duty lies. It is critical therefore that the provision of advice is prioritised when planning the work and the communication requirements.

Statutory Finance Officer:

At the meeting of 28 November 2018, GwE Joint Committee decided to undertake a review of the existing provision. An update is presented here, and again part 5.1 of the report confirms that any financial implications will be dependent on the outcome of the proposed review. Therefore, I confirm again that the author will need to highlight the financial implications when the results of the review are presented to the Joint Committee. At that point I will be able to comment on the financial appropriateness of the intentions/options.

Appendix 1

Terms of Reference (Draft January 2019)

A review of the current provision to support the Welsh Language, in relation to identifying a model that will ensure that the region responds fully to the direction of the WG policy; and ensures proper co-ordination and capacity to offer a regional service of quality.

Rationale for conducting the review

- Ensure a modern and viable service that offers support to all schools on the language continuum.
- Avoid duplication and ensure greater regional consistency in supporting the Welsh language in response to local needs.
- Ensure appropriate co-ordination and capacity to offer a regional quality service in the field.
- Ensure that expertise and good practices are shared across the region.
- Respond to the Transformation Agenda

Regional Strategy

The Welsh Language Strategic Board has commissioned IAITH to work with us to produce a Regional Strategy for Welsh in Education.

As part of the process, they will hold a Regional Strategic Workshop for Welsh in Education in each local authority; where they will present an initial outline of the strategy as the basis for discussion and conduct further joint planning on the objectives, priorities, approaches and outcomes of the strategy.

This will take place between 23 January - and 7 February 2019.

Terms of Reference

The use of the following budgets are within the scope of this review:

- WG Framework for increasing the use of the Welsh Language.
- Developing the workforce to support Welsh in Education.
- Education Improvement Grant.

The aim is to support and strengthen the local strategies, taking into account the following elements in terms of supporting the Welsh language:

- Standards
- Workforce training (partial)
- Increasing numbers
- Feasibility - contributing opinions
- Moderation
- Support Resources
- Leadership
- Starter Iaith Co-ordinators (New Framework)

- Curriculum

Governance

- Legal confirmation of governance is required as some of the issues that arise will be for the LA and their Cabinet rather than the Joint Committee.
- The Management Board and the joint Committee will be updated with regard to the review.

Methodology

- Need to ensure that the rationale for conducting the review is shared with every team within the authorities so that they receive the same message, at the same time to avoid uncertainty.
- Need to understand what current provision is in each authority; and to what extent is it effective.
- Claire Homard or Arwyn Williams to visit each authority with an officer from GwE - in order to receive a full understanding of the provision, it will be necessary to include officers involved with the Welsh language in the discussions. We aim to achieve this during the second half of the spring term.
- Need to look at the EIG allocation to the Local Authorities. Need to map each LA provision, also need to look at their strategic plans and targets - this will be part of the work by laith as they develop the Regional Strategy.
- Need to understand the roles of all those involved in providing support for the Welsh language service, including the advisory teachers; need access to their job descriptions.
- Prepare a report that will identify findings, conclusions and recommendations to be shared in accordance with the governance system.

Draft Schedule

Publish the intention to conduct a review	
Ask for information	
Visit and negotiate with stakeholders	
Write the report	
Present the report to the Management Board / Joint Committee	
Launch of formal Consultation	