

Meeting:	Services Scrutiny Committee
Date:	26 January 2017
Title:	Present a Study Report by Alun Charles, External Advisor
Cabinet Member	Cllr. Gareth Thomas
Officer	Arwyn Thomas

CEFNDIR

The *Scrutiny Investigation into the County Council's Welsh-medium Education* Report into the implementation, consistency and success of Gwynedd County Council's Language Policy in the county's schools concludes, based on a study of three specific areas, that *'there is wide variation in the policy's interpretation and is dependent on schools catchment-areas language demography as well as teachers and headteachers enthusiasm for Welsh'*. It adds *'that there is no consistency or overall understanding of the requirements'*. This is also supported in Cwmni Trywydd report on the situation regarding Welsh as a social language amongst young people in Gwynedd secondary schools.

The Scrutiny Investigation Report considers the matter in detail before concluding with several recommendations to improve consistency of the Policy's implementation. The following recommendations are made:

To strengthen and reconcile the Council's (Education) Language Policy, the Council should define what bilingual learning is and collaborate with schools and teacher training institutions to establish a strong bilingual pedagogy which is appropriate for all the Authority's schools and pupils and to nurture translanguaging skills amongst staff.

In order to strengthen and reconcile the Council's (Education) Language Policy, there is a need to clearly define the linguistic nature of all Gwynedd secondary schools so that it is clear to all stakeholders what is the linguistic nature of schools and by holding the schools and the Governors accountable for its implementation.

This study mainly relates to the second recommendation but that the task of defining the linguistic nature of the county's secondary schools also incorporates an element of the first recommendation, namely what exactly is meant by bilingual education and learning where implemented.

Officers from Gwynedd County Council Education Department have been jointly working with an External Adviser to carry out the Study. The attached report – Appendix 1 - contains conclusions and recommendations to be considered.