

## FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** **EXECUTIVE**

**DATE:** **27 MARCH 2012**

**REPORT BY:** **DIRECTOR OF LIFELONG LEARNING**

**SUBJECT:** **WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN FOR  
FLINTSHIRE 2012 - 2015**

### **1.00 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.01 To seek Executive approval of the draft Welsh in Education strategic plan for Flintshire Local Authority.

### **2.00 BACKGROUND**

2.01 The Welsh-medium Education Strategy was published by the Welsh Government in April, 2010 and sets out the national strategic direction for Welsh-medium education.

2.02 Central to the national planning system is the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) which will be prepared by each local authority and submitted to the Department for Education and Skills (DfES). The Framework for the WESP was published in July 2011, with a timetable for completion in draft by December 2011.

2.03 WESPs are required to demonstrate the progress made by local authorities against the national targets set out in the Welsh-medium Education Strategy.

2.04 The targets include the following: -

- more seven-year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh as a percentage of the Year 2 cohort;
- more learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary schools to secondary schools;
- more learners studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh;
- more learners aged 16 – 19 studying Welsh and subjects through the medium of Welsh; and
- more learners with improved skills in Welsh.

2.05 Each Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will contain four main sections: -

- Section 1 – Vision and Aim for Welsh-medium education in Flintshire

- Section 2 – The Action Plan (strategy to meet seven outcomes)
- Section 3 – Commentary and further notes
- Section 4 – Appendices inclusive of data

2.06 The timetable for establishing the framework for preparing, submitting and monitoring of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans is as follows: -

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>	<b>Timetable</b>
LAs to submit their first Welsh in Education Strategic Plans	LAs	December 2011
Plans in operation	LAs	1 April 2012
DfES officers to hold monitoring meetings with each LA	DfES/LAs	Annually
LAs to submit their updated Plans	LAs	April 2013

### **3.00 CONSIDERATIONS**

3.01 Following a report presented in September to the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee, a forum has been formulated to strategically plan, monitor and evaluate Flintshire Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan.

3.02 The forum membership consists of the following representatives: -

- Menter Iaith
- Mudiad Ysgol Meithrin
- Parent Representative - Rhag/SYFFFLAG
- Senior Learning Adviser - Foundation Phase
- Children and Young People's Partnership
- Athrawon Bro
- Secondary School – Headteacher
- Primary School – Headteacher
- Principal Learning Adviser – Secondary
- Inclusion Service - Principal Learning Advisor
- Head of Development and Resources
- Principal Learning Adviser – Primary
- Senior Learning Adviser – Primary
- Governor Representative
- Pupil Support Services – Manager
- Head of Schools Services
- Trade Unions/Undebau
- College Representative
- Council Members

3.03 The remit of the forum, as per its terms of reference is: -

- to agree, implement and review a co-ordinated approach that best delivers the requirement of the Welsh Government's Welsh-medium Education Strategy within Flintshire
- to be responsible for the delivery of the action plan incorporating seven key outcomes
- to monitor, evaluate and consider the impact of the delivery of the action plan in raising standards in Welsh first and second language
- forum representatives are expected to consult with and feedback to their respective associate stakeholders

3.04 During the past six months the forum met on the following dates: -

- 23 September 2011
- 20 October 2011
- 14 November 2011
- 2 December 2011
- 8 December 2011
- 3 February 2012

3.05 In addition to forum meetings, numerous working group meetings have been held linked to the specific outcomes within the plan.

3.06 The draft Strategic Plan (please refer to Appendix 1 and 2) was submitted to the Department for Education and Skills in December, 2011.

3.07 Members are reminded of a Members' Workshop session which was held on 31st January, 2012.

3.08 At the time of writing this Executive Committee Paper the Authority had not received feedback from the Department of Education and Skills (DfES).

#### **4.00 RECOMMENDATIONS**

4.01 Executive is requested to note the progress made in the drafting and production of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for Flintshire.

4.02 Executive is requested to consider the approval of the draft strategic plan pending feedback from the Department of Education and Skills (DfES).

#### **5.00 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.01 From April 2012, a three-year augmented Welsh in Education Grant (WEG) incorporating the former grant administered by the Welsh

Language Board to support the Athrawon Bro Service will be established to support the objectives of the planned WESPs. This will be administered by DfES and will be separate from the School Effectiveness Grant.

**6.00 ANTI POVERTY IMPACT**

6.01 None arising directly from this report.

**7.00 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

7.01 None arising directly from this report.

**8.00 EQUALITIES IMPACT**

8.01 None arising directly from this report.

**9.00 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

9.01 None arising directly from this report.

**10.00 CONSULTATION REQUIRED**

10.01 Consultation has been undertaken with key stakeholders via the representatives on the Welsh in Education Forum.

10.02 Consultation was undertaken on 31st January 2012 with Council Members via a Workshop session and as an agenda item on the Lifelong Learning Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 22nd March 2012.

**11.00 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

11.01 None undertaken.

**12.00 APPENDICES**

12.01 Appendix 1 and 2 – Draft Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for Flintshire 2012 – 2015.

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT) 1985  
BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

None

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