

Panel Ymgynghorol yr Iaith Gymraeg

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

5 July 2023 at 2pm
Multi-location meeting

MINTUES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Glynog Davies	GD	Plaid Cymru (Chair)
Cllr. Andrew Davies	AD	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Carys Jones	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Llafur
Cllr. Peter Hughes-Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Sue Allen	SU	Annibynnol
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayres	GA	Corporate Policy and Partnership Manager
Llinos Evans	LLE	Policy and Involvement Manager
Myfanwy Jones	MJ	Welsh Language Policy Officer
Sioned Raymond	SR	Graduate Policy Officer

Number	Text and action points	In charge
1.	Welcome and Apologies We welcomed Owain Gruffydd, Dewi Snelson and Alaw Davies from the County's Mentrau Iaith.	
2.	Minutes of the last Meeting It was agreed that the minutes were an accurate record of the meeting. It was suggested that the Panel's work would benefit from receiving updates from the group set up by the Leader to look at the Census results.	

3. Presentation – Welsh County Language Forum and Promotion Strategy

MJ presented the context of developing the second Promotion Strategy for the county. The background to the work of the Strategic County Forum was outlined and underlined the importance of partnership work and the direct link back to the work of the individual partners.

MJ explained the joint planning of the action plan, and its purpose in driving additional action, particularly in domains where Welsh is marginal.

The following were identified as areas where progress was made in the first Strategy:

- Welsh language promotional materials such as the ‘Welcome Pack’ resource
- Integrating the Welsh language into economic development
- Working in partnership to increase the children and young people's involvement in the Urdd Eisteddfod
- Drawing down funding for Language development work

MJ explained that the second Promotion Strategy continues with the same aim which is to "make Welsh the main Language in the county."

The Objectives have been updated as follows:

- 1) Increase in Welsh speakers.
- 2) Maintaining the pride, usage, and confidence of residents in the county.
- 3) Welsh as the norm in the workplace and workforce.
- 4) Thriving Welsh communities

Attention was also drawn to the new working partnership with the County Public Services Board, and the opportunity to integrate the aims of the Promotion Strategy with the county's Wellbeing Plan.

Appreciation was expressed to Meri Huws, the independent Chair of the Forum, for her work. The partners' commitment and trust were also acknowledged, as it enabled the work of the Forum, at an operational and strategic level, to evolve.

There was discussion about the distribution of the Welsh language promotional resources. It was recognised that there was room for improvement here and that we needed to create new partnerships e.g. the Community and Town Councils to enable effective distribution. It was also recognised that system needed to be established to check distribution etc. annually.

PHG noted that there was an opportunity to build on the work of the Local fundraising Committees established for the Eisteddfod.

It was noted that the Estyn report on Carmarthenshire Welsh for Adults is published and that the Education Scrutiny Committee was looking into this in the autumn.

	<p>TH suggested that the resources be re-circulated to all Elected Members electronically and as hard copies (Policy Team)</p> <p>It was agreed that a copy of the presentations would be circulated following the meeting. (Policy Team)</p>	
<p>4.</p>	<p>Presentations by the Mentrau Iaith</p> <p>Owain Gruffydd presented the context of Menter Dinefwr’s work.</p> <p>The Initiative was established in 1999 working at a community level to realise local needs. The main strategic areas are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Community • Families • Young People • Economy <p>Menter Dinefwr has now established 5 companies with a turnover of over £1.5m and manages Canolfan Hengwrt. There are also 40 staff and 3 offices employed by the Menter.</p> <p>The Menter’s Board has worked hard on a financial strategy to respond to the economic situation and to reduce reliance on public funds.</p> <p>Some of the Menter's main achievements were identified: organising 1,299 sessions, 24,268 childcare spaces have been delivered through the medium of Welsh and 9,083 followers on social media.</p> <p>OG gave an account of the development of the Hengwrt Centre, from the original plans in 2010 to the opening of the centre in November 2021. The Centre is a heritage, visitor information and shop centre, as well as a centre for meeting and innovation and a business and innovation Hub.</p> <p>Dewi Snelson presented the context of Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr’s work.</p>	

The Menter is a company limited by guarantee and a charity and the Menter's offices are in Carmarthen and Newcastle Emlyn.

The core work of the Menter focuses on increasing and supporting community, linguistic and economic development, by hosting a range of activities and events. This provided 20,000 people with the opportunity to take part through the medium of Welsh.

The Menter organises the Gŵyl Canol Dre festival which takes place this year on 8 July – and has previously been attended by 4,000 people. Evidence shows that the festival is economically worth £383,000 to the area.

Dewi explained the establishment of *MSGS Digidol*, which delivers contract for the Job centres. The Menter delivers across several areas, such as Rhondda Cynon-Taf and Ceredigion and these generate an annual income of £500,000 which is invested back into the activities of the Menter.

The Profi scheme was set up in 2016 with the aim of improving young people's skills for the workplace. The Menter runs various sessions and prepares resources to offer support to young people. The scheme is now funded through the Lottery and funding has been received through the Leader scheme to prepare further digital resources. The next step will be to work across the Welsh heartlands through the Arfor scheme through Llwyddo'n Lleol.

A new website has been created, www.profi.cymru and young people can register to create a personal profile through an interactive skills quiz. As part of the support, the Initiative also offers mentoring sessions to pupils and 17,953 young people have been involved in the programme. 1152 people have received a job or work experience directly through the *Profi* scheme.

Alaw Davies presented the work of Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli.

It was explained that the core work was similar to that of the other Mentrau, so the focus was on detailing the work on the Llanelli Action Plan. 51% of the county's population live in the Llanelli area and Catrin Llwyd was commissioned to prepare a detailed report to get the work off the ground.

Following this report, a local Forum was established, and an action plan was prepared, led by the Menter but with the input of all partners.

Alaw outlined several examples of new local projects and partnerships including the work with Ysgol Bryngwyn and Family Fun Days with the Scarlets and Egin. Alaw explained that the Initiative has been part of Pride Llanelli for the first time in 2022 and there will be much more Welsh language provision in the 2023 event, including an increase in the visibility of the Welsh language.

AD explained that the Menter is also part of the 'Connect 22' Project with the Llanelli Partnership and Llanelli Town Council, which celebrates the history and heritage of the Llanelli area.

	<p>The Menter has also started work on the 'Ty Melyn Project' to purchase Trevor and Eileen Beasley's home and it is hoped that Ty Melyn will house the Menter office in Llanelli.</p> <p>In terms of next steps, the Menter is keen to continue to raise the profile of the Welsh language in Llanelli, create a digital platform for this purpose, and develop a dedicated space in Llanelli town for the Welsh language.</p> <p>The importance of the Menter's involvement in activities and investments was highlighted.</p> <p>The Mentrau were thanked for their detailed presentations and for all the activity in our communities.</p>	
5.	<p>Forward work programme</p> <p>The following areas have been suggested for the October meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation by the Department for Education • Welsh Language Annual Report 2022-23 • Welsh for Adults <p>It was agreed that the Annual Welsh Language Report would be circulated to Members of the Panel in advance.</p>	Policy Team
6.	<p>Any other issue</p> <p>It was noted that the Welsh Government was holding a round-table discussion at Parc y Scarlets on 6 July, to discuss the Welsh language in the county.</p> <p>Feedback will be provided at the October meeting of the Panel.</p>	Cllr. Glynog Davies and the Policy team
7.	<p>Date of next meeting</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10th of October 	