

Yr Adran Addysg a Sgiliau
Department for Education and Skills

Your ref:
Our ref:

Aled Evans
Director of Education, Leisure & Lifelong Learning
Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council
Civic Centre
Port Talbot
SA13 1PJ



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

14 May 2014

Dear Aled Evans

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-17

1. On 1 April 2014 the Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council submitted its post-consultation Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) to the Welsh Ministers for approval as required by section 85(1) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013.
2. Under section 85(2) the Welsh Ministers may:
 - approve the plan as submitted,
 - approve the plan with modifications, or
 - reject the plan and prepare another plan which is to be treated as the authority's approved plan.
3. The Welsh Ministers are minded to require your authority to make the following modifications to the plan as submitted. The Welsh Ministers are further minded to require you make the modifications **no later than 28 May 2014**:
 - include target indicating that the next annual review will include a summary of the analysis of the outcomes of the parental survey recently undertaken and any consequential steps to be taken to increase the number of seven-year-old pupils taught through Welsh (Outcome 1).
 - include a more specific target and timetable (a) to secure the agreement of the Governing Bodies of all 'Traditional' Welsh medium primaries to a variation to the name of the school i.e. Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg, (b) the creation of the Language Charter (Outcome 5) and (c) Additional Learning Needs (Outcome 6)

Uned y Gymraeg mewn Addysg
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- an expansion of the text to include an analysis of the data provided by Mudiad Meithrin (Outcome 2)
4. Under section 85(5) of the Act the Welsh Ministers must consult a local authority before they determine that a plan must be modified. Therefore, please let us have your comments on the proposed modifications no later than 14 days from the date of this letter, together with a copy of the modified plan. Specifically, if there are any modifications which you feel you cannot adopt please respond setting out your reasons why they should not be incorporated into your plan. The Welsh Ministers will then give careful consideration to your response and decide whether to confirm, amend or remove the proposed modifications.

Publication of the Plan

5. Subject to approval by the Welsh Ministers, your modified plan must be published no later than 1 June 2014 in accordance with the requirements of the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans and Assessing Demand for Welsh-medium Education (Wales) Regulations 2013. In this context, publications means:
- placing it on the local authority's website, and
 - making copies of the plan available for inspection by members of the public at –
 - the local authority's offices, and
 - any other place it considers appropriate.
6. In the case of plans which have been approved with modifications you should also send a copy of the modified version to this Unit welshededucation@wales.gsi.gov.uk

Implementation and review of the plan

7. Under section 85(7) of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 local authorities must take all reasonable steps to implement their approved Welsh in Education Strategic Plans. The 2013 Regulations also require a local authority to review progress against the targets set out in its plan and to submit a revised plan for approval by the Welsh Ministers. This must be done by 20 December each year. Further guidance on this will be issued by the Welsh in Education Unit later this year. However, if a local authority wishes to amend its plan outside the arrangements set out in the 2013 Regulations it must, under section 85(3) of the 2013 Act, submit a revised plan to the Welsh Ministers.

Yours sincerely

Gari Lewis
Head
Welsh in Education Unit