

Education and Welsh Language Group Planning meeting

Tuesday 11 October, 10:10-11:40am

Microsoft Teams

Minutes

Attendees

- Catrin James, CWVYS
- Nathan Sadler, Interfaith Council for Wales
- Elin Maher, Welsh for Parents
- Eleanor Jones, WCVA
- Carys Jones, John Muir Trust
- Dan Roberts, Cwmpas
- Susie Ventris-Fields, WCIA
- Rebecca Falvey, RSPB Cymru
- Bethan Williams, Prince's Trust Cymru
- Amanda Smith, Centre for Alternative Technology
- Amy Bainton, Barnardo's Cymru
- Laura Abraham, Business in the Community
- David Hagendyk, Learning & Work Institute
- Lowri Jones, Mentrau Iaith Cymru
- Natalie Zhivkova, WCVA
- Ben Lloyd, WCVA
- Fiona Harris, WCVA

Welcome and Introductions

Minutes from previous Ministerial meeting

Discussion around the observation that the Minister was not clear what the offer was from the sector in terms of the curriculum. Need to show him

Members again raised concerns that there was a distinction between education and Welsh language issues and it was important to look for a mechanism to address both issues. Welsh languages issues cut across all portfolios

Discussion re items for next Ministerial Meeting

Ben talked about how the issue of cost of living is being raised in other portfolio areas and felt it needed to be raised with the Education and Welsh Language Minister.

Curriculum

Members raised concerns that the sector is not playing a part in the curriculum and that teachers are unaware of the skills and resources available. There has been a push to reconvene the Strategic Stakeholder Group but keen for the Curriculum teams to reach out. No communication strategy for the new curriculum

Discussion around compiling a list of third sector resources but Elin noted that there are things already on the Hwb.

Sense of frustration around lack of awareness from schools, finance (reticence to fund what is seen as statutory provision)

Related to Social Prescribing Framework – how can we imbed what is available and make schools part of the referral process. Seen as missed opportunity for schoolchildren especially those with ALN

Suggestion that Owain Lloyd be asked to next meeting

Suggestion that small group work to develop directory

Suggestions that we ask officials to come to planning meetings and that other Ministers especially Minister for Social Justice are involved

Better to work with teachers directly as Regional Consortium are difficult to engage with. Maybe invite Directors for Education from LAs.

Chief Education officers are listed on WLGA website

Cost of Living

Ben noted that TSPC were preparing a paper that other portfolios could adapt.

Members discussed a range of issues - children struggling to participate in school trips, food for those not on free school meals, heating of schools, outdoor learning, digital poverty, problems in rural areas – cost of transport, heating for community spaces.

Feeling that the enrichment experience was challenging to pay for. Funding for the Summer of Fun aimed at Welsh speaking children was

coming to an end. Issues with transport also affecting accessibility to Welsh Language education.

Concerns that asylum seekers and refugees are also trying to support family back home – sensitivity about how things are portrayed.

Welsh Language

How can the sector feed into the Welsh Language Education Bill?

How can we retain staff to deliver Welsh Language provision and encourage more to use Welsh in the workforce – difficulty in recruiting Welsh speakers

Concerns that Welsh Language cuts across portfolios but is not normalized. Need for a separate forum for Welsh Language issues

Actions

- **It was agreed that the two agenda items for the meeting with the Minister would be:**

-Cost of Living

-Welsh Language

- **Ben to prepare draft paper on the Cost of Living and members to send in their experiences**
- **Ben to talk to Catrin, Elin & Lowri re separate forum for Welsh Language**
- **Members to email if they want to be part of a group to plan an event to showcase the work of the voluntary sector on supporting the curriculum.**