

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

WELSH LANGUAGE STEERING GROUP

10TH OCTOBER 2016

WELSH LANGUAGE STATUTORY STANDARDS: CONSULTATION REPORT

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND LIFELONG LEARNING

Authors: Wendy Edwards, Head of Community Learning (01443 744111)
Steffan Gealy, Service Manager (01443 744079)

1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group of the results of the consultation undertaken with residents on the Welsh Language Standards.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the content of the report;
- 2.2 Consider and comment on the information provided;
- 2.3 Decide whether any further information is required.

3. Background

3.1 The Council is required under Standard 145 of the Welsh Language Regulations (2015) to develop a Five Year Strategy for the promotion and facilitation of the use of the Welsh Language in the county borough. As part of the process for developing the strategy it was decided to consult with residents in order to understand what would encourage them to use the Welsh language; which services they think are most important for promoting the language and which activities they feel would support the use of the language.

- 3.2 The Consultation was undertaken between 25th April and 30th June 2016. A survey was developed by the Council's Consultation and Research Team in partnership with the Welsh Language Services Unit. The survey was available online; an electronic version was sent to stakeholders and community groups while hard copies were also available at the public consultation events. A young person's version of the survey was developed by officers from the Early Years Services in partnership with members of Ysgol Rhydywaun School Council.
- 3.3 Three public engagement events were held – at Llantrisant Leisure Centre, Sobell Sports Centre and Rhondda Sports Centre. Officers from the Council's Consultation and Research Team, Welsh Language Services Unit and Menter Iaith were present at each event. Youth Engagement and Participation Officers based at the Welsh-medium schools consulted with young people.
- 3.4 One hundred responses were received online, over seventy people attended the public engagement events while one hundred and thirteen surveys were completed by young people.
- 3.5 The full Welsh Language Strategy Consultation Report can be seen at Appendix 1.

4. Key results

- 4.1 The top 4 Council Services identified by respondents as being the most important for the promotion of the Welsh language are:
- The Library Service
 - The Youth Engagement and Participation Service
 - Residential Homes
 - Education (schools)
- 4.2 The top 3 activities that respondents wish to see prioritised for delivery in the Welsh language are:
- Holiday clubs and play-schemes
 - Adult community learning courses
 - Swimming lessons

4.3 The top 3 communication methods that respondents wished to see available in Welsh were:

- Websites and online services
- Telephone calls
- Correspondence (letters/emails)

4.4 The majority of respondents (86.2%) indicated that the use of badges and/or lanyards by Council staff which identify them as Welsh speakers/learners would encourage them to communicate in Welsh more frequently.

5. Conclusion

5.1 The Consultation has provided information about services and activities respondents believe have an important role in promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh in the county borough.

5.2 This information can be used to improve the services available for Welsh-speaking residents while, at the same time, ensuring that the Council meets its responsibility for promoting and facilitating the use of the Welsh language as required under Standard 145 of the Welsh Language Regulations (2015).