



COLEG MEIRION-DWYFOR

Dolgellau | Pwllheli | Glynllifon

Developing a National Welsh-medium Education Strategy

The Challenge and the Role of the College Sector

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Outline of presentation

- Purpose and status
 - Background / context
 - Why the sector needs to have a role
 - Essential elements of a sector strategy
 - How do we get there?
 - Next steps
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Purpose and status

- Presentation of paper to the *fforwm* Board – unanimous acceptance of the contents
 - To highlight the very real need for the sector to be more active, and proactive, in this area of work
 - Set the scene for a *fforwm* conference for senior decision makers within institutions on 30th September 2009
 - To inject a new impetus into this work in the college sector
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Background and context (1)

- 1993 Welsh Language Act – College Language Plans
- One Wales: A progressive agenda for the government of Wales

We will create a national Welsh-medium Education Strategy to develop effective provision from nursery through to further and higher education backed up by an implementation plan

- Draft Welsh-medium Education Strategy recently published for consultation
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Background and context (2)

- Performance in the sector in this area decidedly “patchy”
 - Estyn reports have highlighted the need for development
 - Source of tension leading to a lack of willingness to collaborate between colleges and some Welsh-medium schools – especially in developing the 14-19 Learning Pathways agenda
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Background and context (3)

Conclusions

- Accepted to be a difficult area of development for some colleges – many real challenges,

BUT

- Now a political imperative
 - Moves from the “nice to do if we can” list to the “really must develop this” list
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Some principles for future development

Colleges must:

- Respond to a greater extent
 - Recognise their own positions
 - Prioritise areas for development that recognise their position but do improve their position and lead to positive outcomes for learners
 - Look at the issue strategically and develop partnerships with other providers
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Some desired outcomes

Learners must be able to:

- Experience a more bilingual ethos in colleges
- Leave the system equipped with the skills needed for employment in a bilingual Wales

More genuine partnership work with schools



Strategy to include three entry levels

(Dependent on a college's current situation and context)

- Level 1 – development of a bilingual ethos at the college
 - Level 2 – development of bilingual communication skills to augment English medium provision
 - Level 3 – development of Welsh-medium or bilingual provision

 - An incremental approach
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Level 1 – development of a bilingual ethos at the college

- Bilingual signage; customer facing and student facing staff to be able to meet and greet bilingually (at the very least); incoming phone calls answered with a Welsh greeting first; key documentation available bilingually (including website)
 - Relevant courses should promote “a sense of place” – Cwricwlwm Cymreig, restaurant to brand local, Welsh, produce etc
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Level 2 – development of a bilingual communication skills to augment English-language provision

- Delivery of Welsh medium Communication Skills for groups of vocational students (from a range of differing courses)
 - Provision of Yr Iaith ar Waith course to groups of students (customer care units that promote Welsh communications skills)
 - Creation of Welsh medium tutor groups or focus groups etc
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Level 3 – development of Welsh-medium or bilingual provision

Requirement should be identified by 14-19 Learning Network

- Does college have appropriate staff? Is another delivery mode available (e.g. Video-conferencing or other electronic means)? Does a local school have the expertise that you could buy-in? Could you sell college expertise for provision in a school? Is joint teaching possible?
 - Kick start developments by identifying suitable staff
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Support available

- Wide range of Welsh-medium and bilingual resources available (providers, NGfL, WJEC, DCELLS etc)
 - Sabbatical courses for lecturing staff
 - Training for support staff
 - Sgiliaith – contract with fforwm
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The way ahead

- Recognition by each college of the need for a greater impetus and focus on development – at decision-making levels (Board and Principal)
 - fforwm conference on 30th September 2009 – for senior staff and Corporation member
 - Formalising a sector strategy
 - Commence the process of assessing the college's position and how to respond – support from Sgiliaith
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