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Gweinidog y Gymraeg ac Addysg
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Ein cyf/Our ref OQ58233

Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Sian Gwenllian MS
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5 July 2022

Dear Sian,

I am replying to your supplementary question, following my oral questions answered on the 22 June 2022 regarding the *More than just words* policy.

Firstly, I would like to comment on the current activities in North Wales. Currently 15% of the 60 students on the C21 NW medicine programme are fluent Welsh speakers and all students have Welsh language courses made available including interventions to build confidence amongst 1st language Welsh students. The Cardiff University course has grown numbers of Welsh Speaking students year on year through an active marketing and recruitment campaign. Finally, Cardiff University Undergraduate Medical Course has an established contextual admission policy which recognises the Welsh language as a primary consideration.

Below, I have outlined the targeting Growth in Welsh Medium participation:

- As part of C21 NW, Cardiff University is working with Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to identify best practice to recruit Welsh speaking students - this might take the form of support for students through the application process or working with Welsh Medium Schools to promote the medicine route.
- Bangor University is actively engaged with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol on increasing Welsh medium provision and recruitment as they look to design and implement the new provision.
- Bangor University is also developing a contextual admissions policy so that we can maximise the prospect of retaining the brightest from Wales to remain in Wales and north Wales in particular. Bangor is also engaging with HEFCW on contextual admissions of which the Welsh Language is a core consideration.
- Bangor University, in its negotiations with the GMC, has addressed the opportunity in the Welsh Language and the GMC are supportive of the use of the Welsh Language in the training of students.
- Bangor and Cardiff Universities are engaging in a joint to discuss the Welsh Language regulatory requirements with the GMC in Wales.
- Training Welsh students with the aim of maximising the opportunity for them to work in Wales, those students wishing to remain in North Wales can do so.
- Bangor University has secured funding from the Coleg Cymraeg to provide inter professional training for all students on “mwy Na geiriau” “more than words”. Theatr

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Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.

Bara Caws is collaborating with Bangor to provide recorded materials/ scenarios for this work.

- A North Wales student is currently undertaking a Student Selected Component focussing on widening participation in Welsh reflecting direct student engagement with this issue alongside the Universities.

The Task & Finish Group established by the Minister for Health and Social Services to develop a five year plan for *More than just words* has now completed its work and the new plan will be published during the summer. Below is a summary of the proposed themes for the plan:

Overarching Theme – Culture and Leadership

Throughout its deliberations the group has viewed leadership as being crucial to the successful future implementation of *More than just words*. Effective and strong leadership is proposed as an overarching theme for the future plan to underpin a number of the other actions required to improve Welsh language provision. Consideration will be given to embed *Llais y Gymraeg* where appropriate and a culture of pride in working in a bilingual nation and that the Welsh language belongs to us all.

Theme 1 – Welsh Language Planning and Policies

Relevant and timely data is essential for effective planning of Welsh language services, to identify issues and track progress. There will be an emphasis in the new plan on a need to ensure data on Welsh language skills of people working in the health and care sector and when the “active offer” of Welsh language services has been offered and delivered, it is recorded consistently.

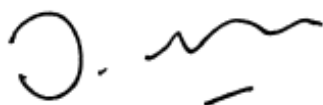
Theme 2 – Supporting and Developing the Welsh Language Skills of the Workforce

Strengthening the Welsh language skills of the workforce is critical to delivering and enhancing Welsh language services in health and social care and in order to make the Active Offer. Organisations that have developed bilingual skills strategies – although ambitious on paper, they do not always include detailed plans about how to put these aspirations into practice. The task & finish group’s discussions have centred around actions to support today’s workforce and plan for tomorrow’s workforce. The plan will align with the aims set out in the Health and Social Care workforce strategy with the aim of increasing Welsh language capacity across the workforce to meet the language needs of individuals.

Theme 3 - Sharing best practice and developing an enabling approach

There are a number of examples of good practice being shared across health and social services, but they are not always widely disseminated and when good practice is shared managers / practitioners do not always understand how these examples can be implemented more widely. The new MJW plan will focus on its role as an enabler, supporting the sector to implement the framework’s strategic aims, provide practical leadership to the sector and highlight examples of good practice.

Your sincerely



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