

Dear Carmarthenshire Public Services Board,

Following the publication of the 2021 Census results on the Welsh language results, which showed a further reduction in the numbers and percentages of Welsh speakers in the county, the Welsh Language County Strategic Forum held a workshop to discuss the situation. Carmarthenshire County Council will publish a new 5-year Promotion Strategy resulting from the Forum's work in early 2023, but in the meantime the Forum is well aware that we must act in the interests of the Welsh language in all policy areas if we are to restore the position of Welsh as a living language in Carmarthenshire. The Well-being of Future Generations Act identifies 'a Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language' as one of the 7 National Wellbeing Goals and we as a Forum are very keen to see this reflected in the Carmarthenshire Well-being Plan.

We therefore ask you to consider including a specific objective about the well-being of the Welsh language in the Well-being Plan, ensuring that the plan integrates with the Welsh Language Promotion Strategy (of which a number of the PSB members, are a member), which aims to 'Aim to restore Welsh as the main language in the county'. Doing this would bring the Plan in line with the Welsh Government's vision to have One million Welsh speakers by 2050 and would also be in line with the Well-being Act.

We understand of course that there will be consideration of the importance of the language under many of the other objectives, but we believe that a decision not to make the promotion of the Language a key objective, sends a clear signal that it is not one of the most fundamentally important issues.

We look forward as a Forum to receive your response as a Board.

Yours sincerely,

Meri Huws

Independent Chair of the Carmarthenshire Welsh Language Strategic Forum

Copy to: Jeremy Miles MS, Minister for Education and the Welsh Language and Sophie Howe, Future Generations Commissioner.

(Forum members: Welsh Language Team, Hywel Dda University Health Board; Welsh for Adults Centre; Young Farmers Clubs; Bilingualism Co-ordinator, Coleg Sir Gâr; Communication and Involvement Team, Police and Crime Commissioner; Cymdeithas yr Iaith; Policy & Involvement Team, Carmarthenshire County Council, Dyfodol i'r Iaith, Yr Egin, Yr Atom, Menter Dinefwr, Menter Cwm Gwendraeth Elli, Menter Gorllewin Sir Gâr, Merched y Wawr, Mudiad Meithrin / Cymraeg i Blant, University of Wales Trinity Saint David, S4C, Urdd Gobaith Cymru).