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Minister for Education and Welsh Language



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

Eich cyf/Your ref
Ein cyf/Our ref JMEWL/2103/22

Lynn Phillips
Director of Education
Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

20 July 2022

Dear Lynn

REVISED WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN (WESP) 2022-2032

Thank you for submitting your revised Plan with modifications in response to my letter of the 16 May 2022. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the effort made to address the feedback provided and the constructive discussions that took place with my officials during the revision period.

I have now considered your revised Plan and am prepared to **approve** it without further modifications.

You should now be looking to **publish your Plan** in accordance with the requirements of [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) Regulations 2019](#) ("2019 Regulations"). In this context, you must publish your plan **on or before the date** the plan takes effect. This is 1 September 2022. You'll need to do this by –

- (a) Placing it on your website; and
- (b) Making copies of the plan available for inspection by members of the public at
 - (i) offices that are open to the public
 - (ii) Any other place considered appropriate:

Under section 85(7) of the [School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#) ("the 2013 Act"), local authorities must take all reasonable steps to implement their approved WESPs. I know many of you have already begun the process of preparing your 5-year action plan, which will be monitored annually in the form of a review report. I would be grateful if you could provide a finalised action plan by the end of the Autumn term.

Whilst the purpose of the WESP is to improve the planning and standard of Welsh-medium education in your area, it is imperative that wider actions of the local authority are assessed to ensure they are consistent with the aims and objectives of the WESP. This should include an assessment of your existing strategic outline programme for investment as part of the Sustainable Communities for Learning Programme. I will be issuing updated guidance to ensure all future business cases are assessed against the approved WESP.

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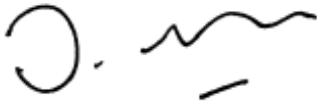
Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

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.

I am also encouraged by news that many of you are establishing sub-groups with key WESP partners to progress commitments made in your Plan. The success of your Plan is dependent on many factors and working in partnership on a local, regional and national level is one of them.

The Welsh Government has a role to play in that partnership and we look forward to continuing to work with you over the lifespan of the Plan. In that spirit of partnership, I am keen to meet with you and your Leader during the Autumn term to discuss your WESP. My office will be in touch to agree a convenient date.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large 'J' followed by a series of wavy lines and a short horizontal stroke at the end.

Jeremy Miles AS/MS
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