

IG to liaise with the providers on this matter.

Strategic Plan

- IG explained that the strategic Plan had been resubmitted and approved. The plan, however, is a 'live' working document, which will need to be completed as part of the submission process of a 3-year Strategic Plan in May 2007.

Training

- A Welsh for Adults module will be offered at the School of Welsh, UWB during 2007/08. It is hoped that discussions will soon be held with the School of Education, UWB, in order to offer a module as part of the BA (Educ) as well. It was proposed that the WFA area of study should be included as part of the PGCE curriculum. This will be discussed at the next meeting.
- The new WFA qualification will begin in October 2007 with 10-12 places. This year, it is proposed to offer one place to each of the N. Wales providers.

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4. CONTRACTS

(i) Third Party Contracts

- The Centre has received general guidance from WAG on the content of the contracts. ***IG will be drafting a contract and consulting every provider individually during May/June.***
- The offer of Coleg Menai to co-operate on the draft contract was welcomed.
- The Centre will not be charging a management fee on the providers, because the Centre has been funded centrally by DELLS until July 2008. It was noted that other centres in Wales charged management fees.
- IG explained that DELLS intended in 2007/08 to distribute funding on the basis of allocations made in 2005/06, and the provision will be discussed in detail with all providers.
- It will be necessary to circulate information to all members on how the financial allocation was calculated. ***IG to circulate the information.***
- IG noted that he would be expecting providers to plan their provision for 2007/08 on the basis of provision in 2006/07, with the exception of where discussions have taken place with the Centre on amending specific elements of the provision. Detailed review of the provision will take place during the next 8-10 months, with view to developing the provision for 2008/09.

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(iii) Providers from N. Wales

IG will be arranging a meeting with Ann Jenkins, WAG, and the

Heads of Deeside College, the Welsh Horticultural College, Coleg Llandrillo Cymru and Popeth Cymraeg, in order to discuss the unique provision in the north of the former county of Clwyd.

5. QUALITY MANAGEMENT

Providers agreed in principle to the report on observation, but subject to the following conditions:-

- That the matter be referred to the Quality Sub-Panel, which will include Quality Control specialists as well as WFA.
- That the Centre Staff avail themselves of the offer from Coleg Llandrillo Cymru to co-operate on draft documents before their submission to the Sub-Panel.
- To invite a member of Estyn to be a regular member of the Sub-Panel.

6. TRAINING

IG thanked Haydn Hughes, Training and Quality Officer, for preparing the report. It was noted that the tutors would henceforth be receiving a decrease in tuition fees. Because of the difference of opinion amongst members concerning the level of tuition fees, it was resolved that the fees would be revised for the 2007/08 academic year at the next meeting of the Group, in the context of the tuition budget which will be available for that year.

7. INFORMAL LEARNING

The Language Board has reviewed the situation with Informal Learning, which is now in the charge of the 6 centres. The Centre has submitted an application to the Language Board for research into the attitudes of Welsh speakers towards learners and how to improve the support which is available from Welsh speakers. It is hoped that the research can be conducted in July – February 2008 with the appointment of a Research Officer who will lead activities in 2008/09. The Centre will receive the response of the Language Board to its request within the next 3 weeks.

8. LEADING FIELD

IG explained that each Centre is responsible for a particular theme. the W. Wales Centre will be concentrating on an Intense Curriculum. It is hoped that a specialist/ officer will be appointed to lead in the domain of the intense curriculum, but the Centre will be required to compete for this tender. ***The providers suggested that it would be a good idea to have an outline of the leading work of the other centres, and it was agreed that the Centre would report on this in the future.***

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9. MARKETING

A summary was provided of the latest position –

- The official launch at the National Eisteddfod.
- Development of the 'learnCymraeg' website and brand.
- An interactive prospectus on the website.
- Information leaflet on the Centre.
- Area advertisements of what is on offer. The idea of possibly including a supplement to the Daily Post was also discussed.
- To promote courses in N. Wales.

We shall welcome any comments or suggestions from the providers.

- It will be necessary to submit to WAG a marketing scheme for the next 3 years, and this matter will be considered at the next meeting.
- It will be necessary to organise a special meeting of the Strategic Group during next year in order to promote marketing.

10. PROVIDERS' PANEL (MEETING OF 9 MARCH 2007)

A report was received from EH, Chairman of the Providers' Panel, of the meeting which had taken place on 9 March 2007. These were the main matters:-

- It will be necessary to explain the procedures of the Centre regarding the joint planning of the programmes of different providers: how exactly will the Centre ensure appropriate progression pathways and avoid duplication? What will be the role of the Development Officer in the process? Which forum will be available to discuss any matter which arise?
- In order to ensure the most effective publicity and avoid duplication, the Centre should co-ordinate the work of placing course advertisements in the press. This will enable the production of advertisements which are much more substantial and eye-catching than any individual providers can afford.
- To ensure that the choice of courses within the catchment area is entirely clear to the prospective learners by clearly listing the provision of each one of the providers in web publications.
- The individual providers will continue to produce pamphlets and posters whilst DELLS organise a general national campaign to promote the learning of Welsh, so advertisements from the Centre, together with the website, would fit tidily in the middle very effectively.

11. A.O.B.

J O'R announced that David Hedley Williams had been appointed Senior Tutor, Nant Gwrtheyrn and that Ifan Prys had been

appointed Assistant Tutor.

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Friday morning, 25 May 2007, Meeting Room, SOLL, Ffordd
Richard Davies, St Asaph Business Park at 10.30am.