



Eich cyf/Your ref P-05-739
Ein cyf/Our ref ARD/05580/16

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11 January 2017

Thank you for your letter to the Cabinet Secretary for Education regarding the petition submitted by Cymdeithas yr Iaith regarding 'Twf'. As Welsh-medium education is part of my portfolio, your letter has been passed on to me to respond.

This petition was presented to me in July 2016. A letter was sent at that time addressing the issues of concern to Cymdeithas and the signatories of the petition.

'Cymraeg i Blant' began in April 2016, and is the successor to 'Twf'. A contract valued at £500,000 per year was awarded to Mudiad Meithrin to deliver local 'Cymraeg i Blant' services. Unlike 'Twf', this does not include working with other partners on a national level – responsibility for this now lies with Welsh Government officials. The two programmes are therefore not directly comparable. As well as officials time spent working with the NHS and other national partners, we will also invest £130,000 this year to promote Welsh-medium education.

'Twf' did not operate on a national level – their officers focused on specific areas of Wales. 'Cymraeg i Blant' officers have been appointed in areas where evidence suggests there is an opportunity to achieve the greatest impact in numbers of children reaching Welsh-medium education. 'Twf' officers operated in 12 local authorities, whilst 'Cymraeg i Blant' officers are currently working in 14 local authorities. A number of data sources, including child population forecasts and parental surveys, were used in order to guide the process of selecting these areas, and they will be reviewed throughout the life of the project in order to ensure as many families as possible benefit from the support available.

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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.

The relationship has also been strengthened between the mentrau iaith, cylchoedd Ti a Fi and cylchoedd meithrin and, where relevant, 'Cymraeg i Blant' officers to ensure support is available to parents and prospective parents in all parts of Wales to use Welsh with their child.

Promoting and raising awareness of the advantages of Welsh-medium education is a central part of the 'Cymraeg i Blant' programme, and a budget has been allocated for this work. As well as this marketing work, information is also incorporated into existing programmes, including the Family Information Services, the Personal Child Health Record (also known as the 'red book') and maternity services to ensure clear and consistent messages are shared with parents about the advantages of bilingualism throughout the journey of raising a child.

Nearly 8,000 children and parents have already attended a 'Cymraeg i Blant' session since April 2016, and we are already considering how the programme will develop during 2017. I hope this information helps to show that encouraging and supporting parents and prospective parents to use Welsh with their child remains a priority for the Welsh Government, and is a core part of our aim to reach a million speakers by 2050.



Alun Davies AC/AM

Gweinidog y Gymraeg a Dysgu Gydol Oes
Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language