

**CANOLFAN CYMRAEG I OEDOLION GOGLEDD CYMRU
NORTH WALES WELSH FOR ADULTS CENTRE**

NORTH WALES PROVIDERS' PANEL

A meeting of the Providers' Panel took place on Wednesday, 12 March at 1.30pm at Ystafell Rhos, Coleg Llandrillo Cymru.

Present: Elwyn Hughes (Chairman, Bangor University); Howard Edwards (Popeth Cymraeg); Alan Gordon (Welsh College of Horticulture); Llinos Price (Coleg Harlech WEA); Rhian McCarthy (Coleg Llandrillo Cymru); Dona Padan (Coleg Llysfasi); Myfi Brier (Coleg Llysfasi); Gwenan Owain (Coleg Llysfasi); Haydn Hughes (WfA Centre) Ioan Talfryn (Popeth Cymraeg); Ann Rhian Hughes (Coleg Menai); Jina Gwyrfai (WfA Centre); Pam Evans-Hughes (WfA Centre); Ifor Gruffydd (WfA Centre); Haydn Hughes (WfA Centre); Iwan Davies (Secretary, WfA Centre)

Apologies: Non Lewis Edwards (Deeside College); Caroline Williams (Coleg Meirion Dwyfor); David Hedley Williams (Nant Gwrtheyrn); Ifan Prys (Nant Gwrtheyrn); Frances Jones (Popeth Cymraeg); Dafydd Rhys (Coleg Harlech WEA); Jeni Harris (Yale College); David O. Jones (NEWI)

	Action
<p>1. WELCOME & APOLOGIES</p> <p>The Chairman welcomed everyone to the meeting.</p>	
<p>2. CONFIRMATION OF MIUNUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 9 JANUARY 2008</p> <p>Minutes of the meeting which took place on 9 January 2008 were confirmed as correct.</p>	
<p>3. MATTERS ARISING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• IG noted that Toni Schiavone will be organising training for tutors on the Assessment of Basic Skills.• IG noted that the Centre had received legal advice from both the University and WAG on the issue of reductions for pensioners. Age discrimination cannot take place, but one possible way forward might be to offer a reduction to those who are not in full-time employment.• IG noted that a Co-ordinator for Informal Learning will shortly be appointed. Ad advertisement for the position will go to press before the end of March.	

4. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A report was submitted by IG, explaining:

The Planning of Provision

- A draft programme of provisions for 2008/09 will be required from providers by 19 March 2008. The Centre is happy to discuss any changes with the providers.

Submission of Data

- The Providers will require data on a regular basis. A special spreadsheet will be prepared for the submission of the data.

New Provision

- If providers wish to make new provision, it is important to discuss with the Centre and advertise it.

The Website

- The Centre's website is to be redesigned by specialists. IG would like to receive any observations from providers by April 2008.

Research

- The Centre will be starting on the fieldwork in Sept/ Oct 2008, with view to running the research project for 6 years in order to ascertain the opinion of learners on the courses and their learning experience.

5. DATA MANAGER'S REPORT

There was nothing to add to the Director's report.

6. DEVELOPMENT OFFICER'S REPORT

Welsh at the Workplace – JG submitted an evaluation of various options for the organisation and co-ordination of Welsh at the Workplace courses. The document will be sent to all providers, so as to receive their observations before Easter.

Welsh for the Family – Model A, this is a course of no longer than 8 weeks, offering 2 OCN credits; we shall then transfer the parents to the mainstream courses. Model B, a longer course, where the Welsh lessons are incorporated within training in other fields and which offer 3 OCN credits. PBH noted that model A had been successful at the Welsh-medium schools of the Wrexham area. The course is now being developed in Denbighshire this term, in the hope that it will be offered in Flintshire next term. Model B started in January and finishes in July 2008; the course is being offered at Communities First schools.

Informal Learning – Following the success of the Learners' Eisteddfod in Deeside College, it is hoped that a Learners' Eisteddfod can be developed in the Western area around February 2009.

Development Officers will be holding regular meetings with the providers, in order to discuss the provision after Easter.

New accreditation pathways of the WJEC – these are similar to the accreditation structure of OCN, but are more closely linked with the examination syllabus. JG noted a number of advantages and disadvantages between the WJEC and OCN. IG stated that he did not envisage problems with the providers following different pathways. The WJEC intends to move the examination to June in 2009. It was, however, decided that IG should liaise with DELL, to ask them to ensure long-term provision for OCN, as well as the development of the WJEC provision.

IG

7. PUBLICITY & MARKETING

The ATOM PR company intends developing a series of reports in the press, and providers are invited to send any observations to the Centre.

Providers will need to state their opinion on the course advertisement campaign; a number of observations have been received from members of the panel. This will be more fully discussed at the next Strategic Group meeting.

8. TRAINING

HH stated that a successful conference had taken place at Llangollen, with 70 tutors in attendance. The sessions for inexperienced tutors elicited especially positive feedback. A training weekend was held in March for inexperienced tutors, on a joint basis with the Mid-Wales Centre, and the feedback for the sessions was, again, very favourable.

A national campaign will be organised, with view to attracting new tutors to the field, and ATOM PR will co-ordinate the regional campaign.

9. MATTERS FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE NATIONAL RESOURCES PANEL

IT said that Popeth Cymraeg had created a CD some years ago, and was enquiring whether a follow-up CD could be created.

A collection of AV materials was suggested, in order to raise the awareness of learners of different aspects of Welsh culture as another possible project.

Members were reminded to send to IG rough details of any request.

10. EVENTS

There were no events to report.

11. AOB

IT noted that 20 years had elapsed since the establishment of Popeth Cymraeg, and that the Welsh language had weakened considerably as an everyday language during that period. Nevertheless, we have no objective evidence of the true position of Welsh in our communities, and IT suggested that the Centre should invite Hywel Jones from the Welsh Language Board to visit us at a special meeting and give us a clear picture of the current position and of the challenge facing us.

IG

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Wednesday Afternoon, 14 May 2008 at 1.00pm,
Futures@Holywell Centre, High Street, Holywell, Flintshire CH8
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