

# **Culture, Welsh Language and Sport Committee**

## **CWLS (2) 15-06 (p3)**

**Meeting date: Wednesday 15 November 2006**

**Meeting time: 9:00am - 12:00pm**

**Meeting venue: Committee Room 2, Senedd**

## **Report of the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport**

### **1. Sport**

#### **Sports Council for Wales' Annual Report and Accounts 2005/06**

I am pleased to provide Committee Members with a copy of the Sports Council for Wales' Annual Report and Accounts for 2005/06. Members will wish to note that the report makes significant reference to Climbing Higher and demonstrates that the Welsh Assembly Government and the Sports Council for Wales are moving forward together on a very positive note in driving forward our aims and objectives. In particular, the report highlights that young people are becoming more active and adult participation levels continue to increase, through a range of specific programmes. This clearly demonstrates that we have built upon the successes of last year and will continue to do so to achieve our long term targets.

#### **'5 x 60' Secondary School Sport Programme**

I was very pleased to launch the Welsh Assembly Government's '5 x 60' Secondary School Sport programme on 16th October at Abertillery Leisure Centre. I have introduced the programme to help increase the percentage of secondary school pupils that do 5x60 minutes of sport and physical activity per week, currently at 24%, by targeting children and young people who drop out of or do not take part in sport or physical activity.

The programme will complement existing sport and PE provision in schools by offering a broad range of extra-curricular activities to all secondary school aged children regardless of their ability. Activities will include a balance of traditional competitive sport, informal recreational activity, coached activities and activities in the outdoors but will be those chosen by the pupils themselves.

'5x60' started in 28 schools across Wales last week, at the start of the second half of the Autumn term, and a further 12 schools will come on board in the second phase in January 2007. A list of confirmed schools for phases 1 and 2 is provided at Annex A. It is expected that all local authorities in Wales will have at least one school taking part in the programme during this current school year 2006/07.

## **Coaching and the UK Coaching Certificate**

My Climbing Higher strategy recognises the invaluable contribution that the army of dedicated volunteers in Wales make to the sport and physical activity agenda.

As you know, I have made clear my commitment to coaching and leadership in Wales through the significant investment I have made through the Coaching Plan for Wales. This plan provides the framework within which issues such as the recruitment and retention of coaches and leaders should be considered.

One of the priority actions that SkillsActive Wales has identified through the Sector Skills Agreement process is to explore how current provision can be used to support volunteers operating in the Active Leisure and Learning sector to achieve the UK Coaching Certificate. SkillsActive is involved in discussions with the Assembly Government's Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills, to seek out the appropriate ways and means to strengthen the support available for volunteer training.

In the meantime, I have discussed the issue of sector skills funding for volunteers with the Minister for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills. My officials are also involved in ongoing discussions with officials in the Department for Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills about the key issues and I will inform the Committee of the outcome of these discussions in due course.

## **2. Arts**

On 25 October at the Engine House in Dowlais, Merthyr Tydfil, I made two significant announcements:

First, I announced the provision of £250,000 in capital funding to the Arts Council of Wales towards the costs of a feasibility study for a new Cultural Enterprise Centre in Merthyr Tydfil. The University of Glamorgan is the lead partner in the project, which includes the Heads of the Valleys Partnership and Merthyr Tydfil Borough Council. The University is currently drawing up the brief for the feasibility study, and this initial phase of the project, which includes audience development work, is scheduled to start in late Spring 2007. It will cost an estimated £300,000. The actual configuration of the new building and the services it provides will be dependent on the outcome of the feasibility study, but the intention is that the functions included in Galeri in Caernarfon could be replicated in the Merthyr Tydfil Cultural Enterprise Centre.

Second, I also announced the provision of an additional £250,000 in revenue funding for English Language Theatre, bringing the total additional revenue spending to £750,000 over the next three years. I had previously announced the allocation of £500,000 for English Language Theatre at ACW's Annual Conference in Aberystwyth last May. The specific proposals for the use of this money, including the upgrading of the existing theatre infrastructure, was outlined to the Culture Committee by Professor Smith and his ACW colleagues at the Committee's last meeting on 26 October.

## **Dylan Thomas International Literary Prize**

Rachel Trezise won the inaugural Dylan Thomas International Literary Prize on 27 October 2006 with her collection of short stories entitled Fresh Apples.

The Dylan Thomas Prize has been a great success, receiving notice from the international literary world. The Welsh Assembly Government supported the establishment of the prize.

Rachel was born in the Rhondda Valley in 1978 and her semi-autobiographical debut novel, 'In And Out Of The Goldfish Bowl', won a place on the Orange Futures list and Harpers & Queen voted her the new face of literature in 2003.

Rachel is published by Parthian, the current publishers of the Welsh Assembly Government supported 'Library of Wales' series, and that her next book, due to be published by Parthian in March 2007, has been part-funded by an author advance grant by the Welsh Books Council.

## **Hijinx Theatre**

I agreed to provide information about funding provided to Hijinx Theatre. Funding for 2005-06 and 2006-07 is contained in Annex B

## **3. Museums Archives & Libraries**

### **Gateways to Learning Project**

On 4 October I launched the Gateways to Learning Project at the White Rose Information and Resource Centre, New Tredegar. Involving five local authorities and eight institutions, it forms part of the successful public sector partnership to provide people with new skills and thereby improve their life prospects. Participants are encouraged to engage in development opportunities and gain vital information literacy skills provided at their local libraries. Many are helped into further and higher education, training or employment through project activities. An innovative aspect of the project, funded through a Welsh Assembly Government grant, provides accredited training in advice and guidance for library staff enabling them to extend the support given to participants in the project.

## **4. Historic Environment**

I was pleased to announce earlier in the month funding totalling almost £600,000 to 16 projects across Wales which will enable essential repairs and restoration work to be carried out to some of our best historic buildings. On the advice of the Assembly Government's advisors on historic buildings, the Historic Buildings Advisory Council, grants awarded ranged from £4,300 to £100,000. This investment in the historic environment will help ensure that our rich and varied historic environment is maintained and secured for future generations. The buildings all have a fascinating history and play an important role in the local communities. Beechwood House in Newport, Oriel Mostyn in Conwy and Capel Y Drindod in Beaumaris, which is a key part of the local cultural heritage and the prime

focus of the Welsh language in the town, are amongst those which have been successful in securing grant.

On 23 October I visited Conwy to see the excellent work undertaken over many years to restore the medieval town walls around Conwy, which form part of the North Wales World Heritage Site. Over 1,400 yards in length the walls are a remarkable achievement of medieval military architecture and evoke an authentic medieval atmosphere for visitors today. The work of restoring the town walls has been undertaken by a team of experts from Cadw, the historic environment division of the Assembly Government, who possess a deep historic understanding and are highly skilled in restoration work with some 30 years experience. As a result of this painstaking conservation work we now have a truer impression of how the town walls would have looked when they were built in the late 13th Century.

History Matters – Pass it on/Hanfod Hanes – I’r Gymru Fydd. The season long celebration of history was launched in July to raise the profile of our heritage. The main partners in Wales – Cadw, Amgueddfa Cymru – National Museum Wales, the Heritage Lottery Fund and the National Trust - have worked together to deliver a focused, fun range of activities. The celebration has demonstrated what can be achieved when voluntary and public sector organisations co-operate to raise awareness of our history and heritage. The celebration came to a close over the October half term with family focussed events taking place at some of the most celebrated sites in State care including tournaments and archery displays at Caerphilly and Harlech Castles. Throughout the course of the celebration feedback has been gathered to determine people’s views of history and our heritage and the overall success of the celebration. Work will be undertaken over the coming months to analyse this data.

Cadw celebrated the finale of History Matters with the opening of the Westgate Barns at Caerwent Roman Town on 4 November. This was an opportunity for some of the excavation team to talk about what they have achieved in conserving and presenting the most significant Roman Civilian Settlement in Wales. There was also an opportunity for visitors to the site to experience roman cookery and participate in crafts, weaving and calligraphy. The local community at Caerwent have been very supportive whilst the excavations have taken place. The open weekend was an ideal opportunity for Cadw and the local community to join in some fun activities, with were also educational and informative.

## **5. Welsh Language**

### **European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages**

I agreed at the Committee meeting held on 11 October that I would provide an update on the situation with regard to the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages.

The UK Government signed the Charter on 2 March 2000 and ratified 52 clauses for the Welsh language on 27 March 2001. The Charter came into force in the UK on 1 July 2001.

- The Charter notes that the UK Government should formulate periodical reports on the implementation of those clauses, which are submitted to the scrutiny of the Council of Europe’s Committee of Experts (COMEX). The Welsh Assembly Government has

contributed to

- two periodical reports submitted thus far by the Foreign Commonwealth Office, latest August 2005.

As part of their scrutiny process a delegation from COMEX made an "on-the-spot visit" to the UK in December 2005 to gather evidence from both the Assembly Government and various non-governmental organisations with an interest in the Welsh language.

We are currently at the stage of the process of providing comments on the report drawn up by COMEX, and have been informed by the Council of Europe that the report will be published in early 2007. This will follow a meeting of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers which will be asked to adopt the recommendations made in COMEX's report.

### **Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages, British-Irish Council - Ministerial Meeting, Galway 27 October 2006**

I was delighted to chair the first Ministerial meeting of the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages Group of the British-Irish Council held in Galway, Ireland. The Group included representatives from the Irish Government, the Scottish Executive, Guernsey, Jersey and the Isle of Man.

The Welsh Assembly Government, represented by the Welsh Language Board, takes the lead within the British-Irish Council on this subject area and this successful meeting considered and agreed 3 discussion papers:

- Language Transmission within the Family.
- Adult Education Provision for the Teaching and Learning of the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Language.
- Information and Communications Technology and Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages.

These reflected the work that the sectoral group has been undertaking. We have much to learn from each other and Wales provides a lead in a number policy areas through initiatives like the TWF project and the Welsh Language Board's work on making ICT technology available in Welsh.

We then considered and approved proposals for the future work programme of the Group. The Group will continue to advance work in the areas of language transmission within the family, adult education and ICT. The Group will also turn focus on two new areas namely Planning and Linguistic Considerations and Research, Data and Language Use Surveys.

The full Comunique is attached at Annex C.

### **Bilingual Juries Consultation**

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) is the cross-departmental team that supports all

criminal justice agencies in working together to provide an improved service to the public. The OCJR conducted a consultation on bilingual juries which ended on 31 March this year. I understand that the Office has now completed a draft summary of the responses. The next step is to finalise this and prepare a submission for the CJS Ministers advising on the policy response to the consultation. I understand that this is a priority for OCJR. Further to this the First Minister has written to Baroness Scotland QC, the Minister of State for the Criminal Justice System, to inquire about progress on this issue.

## **Bilingual Licensing Application Forms**

Following a consultation which took place earlier this year on the introduction of Welsh language Licensing application/renewal forms, I understand that the Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has been in the process of drawing up Welsh versions of these forms and these will be laid in a Statutory Instrument by the end of this month.

## **6. Publishing**

### **The Library of Wales**

On 7 November I launched four new titles in the Library of Wales series at an event in Waterstone's Cardiff store. A second event took place the following evening at the London Welsh Centre. These are the second set of titles to be launched in the series. Sales of the first five titles, which were published last January, have exceeded expectations with currently over 12,000 copies sold all together. It is my hope that we can keep the momentum going with the second set, and with further sets in the future.

The titles in the second set are:

- Ash on a young man's sleeve (Dannie Abse)
- In the Green Tree (Alun Lewis)
- A man's estate (Emyr Humphreys)
- Home to an empty house (Alun Richards)

An education pack, based on the first five books in the series, was also launched at the Cardiff event. The pack includes lesson plans designed by teacher and novelist Hayley Long and will form part of the free gift set, along with the second set of titles, which is now being sent to every secondary school and college in Wales.

## **7. Lottery Policy & Major Events**

### **Lottery Policy Directions**

Following the enactment of the National Lottery Act 2006 earlier this year, the establishment of the Big Lottery Fund, and the dissolution of the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund has

been legally formalised. As a consequence of this it is necessary for me to re-issue the policy directions passed to the Community Fund and the New Opportunities Fund last November. Members will recall that the directions were required to ensure the Funds could develop new funding programmes and distribute Lottery funds.

The content of the directions is broadly similar to those issued in November 2005. I have now formally consulted the Big Lottery Fund as required under Section 26(5) of the National Lottery Act 1993 and the directions will be issued in early December, in line with the UK-wide timetable. Once issued I will pass a copy of the directions to Committee Members via the Chair. It will come as no surprise to members that the combating of social disadvantage will be a key feature of the policy directions.

## **UK School Games**

As you will be aware from my statement to plenary on 18th October, the Welsh Assembly Government is delighted to be supporting the joint Wales bid from Cardiff, Swansea and Newport to host the UK School Games. I agreed to underwrite the cost of the Welsh bid to host the UK School Games in 2009 to the value of £500,000.

The bid was submitted to the Youth Sports Trust, the Games organisers, on 16th October. Cardiff City Council, the lead city, have indicated that there will be a visit by the Millennium Commission and the Youth Sports Trust, to view the facilities and to discuss the formal bid details on 13th November; with the decision being published on 16th November.

I know that you will all want to join me in supporting the joint Wales bid as it faces fierce competition from other nations and regions in the UK and anticipate a positive announcement on the 16th.

## **8. Ministerials Visits and Meetings**

### **Visit to North West Wales Outdoor Partnership**

I attended the launch of the North West Wales Outdoor Partnership's website on 20th October at Plas y Brenin, where I also received an up-date on progress.

I am pleased to report significant progress at the end of year one, including the provision of outdoor activities for almost 300 adults and over 1,500 children across a range of activities from rock climbing and abseiling to canoeing and watersports.

This is a first class example of key partners working in partnership to help create opportunities for people to engage in sport and physical activity.

Committee Members can view the website at:

## Visit to Ryder Cup Legacy Fund, Gwynedd

I was very pleased to officially open another project linked to the Ryder Cup Legacy Fund in Caernarfon on 23rd October. The project will provide community golfing facilities at four primary schools (Ysgol yr Hendre, Ysgol Maesincla, Ysgol y Gelli and Ysgol Santes Helen) and a 'golf court' of three greens and nine tees in Coed Helen Recreation Park. These new facilities provide additional opportunities for children and young people to take up and participate regularly in golf as we look towards the Ryder Cup 2010.

## Annex A

### '5 x 60' Secondary School Sport Programme – Confirmed schools for Phase 1 and 2

Local Authority	School Name	Communities First (CF)/Welsh Medium (WM)	Start date
Blaenau Gwent	Abertillery Comprehensive School	CF	Sep-06
Bridgend	Ynysawdre Comprehensive School	CF	Sep-06
Bridgend	Bryntirion Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Bridgend	Maesteg Comprehensive School	CF	Sep-06
Bridgend	Cynffig Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Caerphilly	Lewis Girls' Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Caerphilly	St Martin Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Caerphilly	Rhymney Comprehensive School	CF	Sep-06



Cardiff	Radyr Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Cardiff	Llanedeyrn High School	-	Sep-06
Cardiff	Glyn Derw High School	CF	Sep-06
Denbighshire	Ysgol Brynhyfryd	WM	Sep-06
Denbighshire	Rhyl High School	CF	Sep-06
Gwynedd	Ysgol Uwchradd Twyn	WM	Sep-06
Gwynedd	YsgolY Berwyn	WM	Sep-06
Gwynedd North	Syr Hugh Owen	WM	Sep-06
Merthyr	Bishop Hedley High School	CF	Sep-06
Monmouthshire	King Henry VIII Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
NPT	Sandfields Comprehensive School	CF	Sep-06
Pembrokeshire	Ysgol Bro Gwaun	-	Sep-06
RCT	Porth County Community School	-	Sep-06
RCT	Tonypandy Community College	CF	Sep-06
Swansea	Gowerton School	-	Sep-06
Swansea	Pontarddulais Comprehensive School	-	Sep-06
Swansea	Dylan Thomas Community School	-	Sep-06
Conwy	Eirias High School	-	Oct-06

Flintshire	John Summers High School	CF	Oct-06
Wrexham	Ysgol Clywedog	-	Oct-06
Anglesey	Ysgol Gyfun Llangefni	WM	Jan-07
Anglesey	Ysgol Syr Thomas Jones	-	Jan-07
Carmarthenshire	Ysgol Gyfun Maes Yr Yrfa	WM	Jan-07
Carmarthenshire	Amman Valley Comprehensive School	CF	Jan-07
Ceredigion	Penglais Comprhensive School	-	Jan-07
Ceredigion	Ysgol Gyfun Penweddig	WM	Jan-07
Newport	Lliswerry High School	-	Jan-07
NPT	Cwrt Sart Comprehensive School	-	Jan-07

## Annex B

### Hijinx Theatre. Funding for 2005-06 and 2006-07

Year	Project Description	Grant Amount
2005 ~ 2006	Annual Revenue 2005-2006	£132,668.00
2005 ~ 2006	Purchase of new sound equipment (Lottery Caspital grant).	£6,217.00
2005 ~ 2006	Odyssey Theatre is an inclusive performance group whose members cover a wide range of age, ability, ethnicity and gender, all united by a desire to perform. The group meet for weekly workshops, developing drama skills, and put on two productions each year in June and December, supported by a professional production team.	£49,945.00

2005 ~ 2006	This application is for a package of Training activities to take place in 2006 to benefit several members of staff. This consists of a course on 'theatre and therapy', a fundraising course and a training programme on public relations and staff's role as ambassadors.	£4,995.00
2005 ~ 2006	WMC Residents Costs	£41,600.00
2006 ~ 2007	Annual Revenue 2006-2007	£136,285.00
2006 ~ 2007	WMC Residents Costs	£46,100.00
-	-	-
2006 ~ 2007	Odyssey Theatre - year 9	£49,995 (application pending approval)

## Annex C

### Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages, British-Irish Council

#### Ministerial Meeting, Galway 27 October 2006

#### Communiqué

The British-Irish Council established under the Agreement reached in Belfast on Good Friday 1998 held a Ministerial meeting today in the Connemara Coast Hotel, Galway, Ireland. This is the first Ministerial meeting held by the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages Group. The meeting was chaired by the Minister for Culture, Welsh Language and Sport, Welsh Assembly Government, Alun Pugh AM.

The Irish Government was represented by the Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs, Éamon Ó Cuív TD, who welcomed the delegates to the meeting. The Scottish Executive was represented by Minister for Education, Young People and Gaelic, Peter Peacock MSP. Guernsey was represented by Minister Peter Sirett, Culture and Leisure Department, Jersey by Senator Michael Vibert, Minister for Education, Sport and Culture, and the Isle of Man by Manx Language Officer Rosemary Derbyshire.

A full list of delegates is attached.

The Welsh Assembly Government, represented by the Welsh Language Board, takes the lead within the BIC on Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used languages issues. As well as English, a range of different languages indigenous to the BIC area were spoken during the meeting.

The meeting considered and agreed 3 discussion papers:

- Language Transmission within the Family
- Adult Education Provision for the Teaching and Learning of the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Language
- Information and Communications Technology and Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-Used Languages

Language transmission in the family was recognised as a vital building block in the process of maintaining a language. The Ministers commended the organisation of a workshop for practitioners working in the field of language transmission within the family in the BIC area. The workshop, which preceded the Ministerial meeting, offered an important opportunity for Administrations to further develop their own strategies in this important aspect of language planning, by learning from the experiences of other Administrations.

Ministers endorsed further work in this area in order to explore a number of areas: models of what works to support language transmission in the family; how models could be transferred to other language situations; and identify gaps in knowledge how BIC Administrations could work together to fill those gaps.

Ministers noted the importance of recent developments in Information and Communication Technology to facilitate the use of languages and raise their status. The Council agreed to establish a sub-Group of experts to further advance work in this area. It was agreed that a seminar for experts working in ICT and lesser-used languages would be organised by the Council in 2007.

Adult education and minority and lesser-used language education provision were discussed by Ministers, and it was agreed that, whilst acknowledging that the approach adopted and the support for adult education provision will vary from one Administration to another, there are valuable opportunities to be gained in continuing to share and exchange experiences in this area. A practitioners workshop will be organised by the Council in 2007 to explore opportunities for cooperation between member Administrations.

The Ministers then considered and approved proposals for the future work programme of the Indigenous, Minority and Lesser Used Languages Group. The Group will continue to advance work in the areas of language transmission with the family, adult education and ICT. The Group will also turn focus on two new areas namely Planning and Linguistic Considerations – establishing a sub Group to facilitate that work – and Research, Data and Language Use Surveys.

**British-Irish Council (Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages Sectoral Group) - 27 October 2006**

# British-Irish Council (Indigenous, Minority and Lesser-used Languages Sectoral Group)

## List of Delegates

Friday 27 October 2006

<b>Irish Government</b>	
Minister for Community, Rural and Gaeltacht Affairs	Éamon Ó Cuív TD
<b>Welsh Assembly Government</b>	
Minister for Culture Welsh Language and Sport	Alun Pugh AM
<b>Scottish Executive</b>	
Minister for Education Young People and Gaelic	Peter Peacock MSP
<b>Government of the Isle of Man</b>	
Manx Language Officer	Rosemary Derbyshire
<b>Jersey</b>	
Minister for Education, Sport and Culture	Senator Michael Vibert
<b>Guernsey</b>	
Minister for Culture and Leisure	Deputy Peter Sirett