

**South West Wales Regional Committee SWWR-02-02(p.1)**

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**Venue** Miners Welfare Hall, Ammanford  
**Title** Paper submitted by Alun Davies, Director of Education, Carmarthenshire County Council



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**2002 - 2005**

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**The Education Strategic Plan\_**

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## **Strategic Statement**

*Carmarthenshire County Council is committed to providing an education service which will ensure equal access to high quality educational opportunities for all children, young people and adults, thus enabling the achievement of their full potential within the context of the unique bilingual nature of the county.*

*Strategic*

- supporting and challenging the quality of teaching and learning in order to improve the performance of individual pupils and schools

*Priority*

- focusing upon extending basic, key and thinking skills for all learners, along with the development of bilingual competence

*1*

*Maintaining*

- monitoring and measuring with schools the impact of support, guidance and in-service training upon the quality of teaching and learning

*and*

*Improving*

*Standards*

*Priority*

2

*Building*

A

*Learning*

*Society*

*Strategic*

*Priority*

3

*Developing*

*Leadership*

*Skills*

*Strategic*

*Priority*

4

*Managing*

*Learning*

*Provision*

- developing comprehensive and sustainable learning opportunities, both formal and informal
- harnessing new technology in order to ensure access for all in the pursuit of genuine life long learning

- promoting personal development, community responsibility, citizenship, and international understanding

- developing a culture of self-evaluation and self-directed change in disseminating good practice, targeting support and maintaining appropriate challenge

- integrating performance management with high quality continuing professional development

- building capacity for transformational leadership at all levels within the wider community.

- developing schools as centres of learning within their local communities

- fostering collaboration between key partners in order to ensure effective continuity and progression in learning opportunities

- promoting the principles and practice of inclusion in relation to local learning opportunities, the use and deployment of integrated support services.

## **The Main Linguistic principles fostered by Carmarthenshire**

Carmarthenshire Education Authority believes in the educational value of possessing two languages and positively supports a bilingual policy in its primary and secondary schools.

The long term aim of the policy is to ensure that pupils are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school to enable them to be full members of the bilingual society of which they are a part. The provision made should ensure that pupils are able to communicate confidently in both languages and be aware of the cultural heritage of Wales.

The need for progression into the secondary schools is emphasised by offering pupils the opportunity to study Welsh as a subject and to continue with a proportion of their education through the medium of Welsh.

The Education Authority's aim for Welsh language education is to raise the awareness of members, officers, headteachers, teachers, governors, pupils, parents and the communities of the importance and value of Welsh as a means of communication so that people are able to integrate and live a full life in the bilingual community of which they are a part.

*Welsh Education Scheme - July 1998*

**ANNEX**

### **Primary Schools - Educational Provision**

- Over 60% of schools are over 50 years old
- 15 schools without indoor toilets
- 48 schools with no Hall
- 57 schools with no adequate playing field
- 38 schools with temporary accommodation
- Condition survey of schools indicates need for £18 m + to bring all schools up to a reasonable standard

- Annual building maintenance allocation of £1m approx
- 127 schools with multi-age classes
- Only 9 schools with non-teaching heads
- 102 schools with no nursery facilities

**The Strategy also suggests that in doing so the authority will:**

- better meet its obligations to "secure sufficient primary school places".
- provide a better basis for meeting its wider obligation to promote lifelong learning and community development.
- better support its objectives with regard to social inclusion.
- reduce surplus places whilst also addressing accommodation pressures where they exist.
- support possible re-distribution and/or re-allocation of revenue resources to the benefit of all communities of the Authority, resulting in a more equitable per pupil distribution of resources.
- enable it to more effectively target its scarce maintenance and capital resources.
- contribute to future requirements with regard to the development of nursery facilities.
- reduce incidence of temporary accommodation.
- ensure appropriate facilities and standards at all community schools, in particular with regard to toilets, communal areas etc.
- provide schools of a size which better support the pursuance of individual school organisation options.
- better support the expanded provision of a more appropriate and imaginative curriculum.
- provide a better school organisational arrangement such that more teachers means schools can ensure staff have a range of subject strengths and also allows each teacher to develop considerable age and subject specialisation - including the option of team-teaching.
- provide a better basis for pupils to gain opportunity to work, collaborate, socialise and play with pupils of the same age/sex and develop appropriate interpersonal skills.
- Improve the overall stock of buildings ensuring that on-going maintenance costs are minimised.

The Strategy goes on to confirm that in general this will provide a more consistent level and standard of service provision at each of the Authority's community schools and provide more appropriate facilities for the essential development of the broader community use of these assets.

The Strategy accepted that rationalisation as suggested would inevitable mean fewer schools. In approving the Strategy the Authority confirmed support for these rationalisation principles and commissioned officers to bring forward pilots and proposals for future consideration by Members.

This report confirms the nature, scope and findings of reviews of current provision of school places in the Llanboidy, Cae'r Felin and Cwmamman areas, carried out within the context of this approved Strategy.

