**Dyfodol i’r Gymraeg: Welsh Language Education for all**

**Conference notes:**

* That Welsh Liberal Democrat Education Secretary Kirsty Williams AM has set out an ambitious programme of reform for education in Wales;
* That reforms set out by Kirsty Williams AM include reforms to the teaching of Welsh as a second language;
* The Cymraeg 2050 Strategy sets out the Welsh Government’s long-term approach to achieving the target of a million Welsh speakers by 2050.
* Welsh Government aims for 70% of children to be fluent in Welsh by the time they leave school 2050, and for 40% of children to be taught through the medium of Welsh by 2050
* The annual growth of Welsh medium education for 7 year olds since 2010 is 0.05%
* The 2.5% increase in learners attaining an A\*-C in the Welsh Second Language full course qualification in 2018/19
* A Welsh Government rapid review of Welsh education planning concluded that there were significant weaknesses in the current planning framework for Welsh language education.

**Conference believes:**

* That education is the surest route out of poverty and provides children and young people with the opportunity to achieve their full potential;
* That it is essential that we ensure that all our young people have an equal opportunity to reach the highest standards;
* The Welsh language is an inherent strand of the fabric of our country and that everyone who wishes to speak Welsh can do so.
* That there are barriers to accessing Welsh medium education in Wales which need to be removed.

**Conference resolves:**

* That the Welsh Liberal Democrats will support the introduction a new Welsh Language Education for All Act. This would realign the layering of existing legislation ensuring a clear legal framework for Welsh language education planning.
* The Act would set out clear frameworks for;
	+ Set a long-term national target for Welsh language planning in order to focus and drive developments;
	+ Embedding and delivering on a principle of growing demand for Welsh medium education on a local level rather than simply meeting demand;
	+ Establishing a new, target-driven approach to local education planning doing away with the current Welsh in Education Strategic Plan framework;
	+ Ensuring that financial arrangements, both capital and revenue, facilitate the necessary growth in Welsh medium education;
	+ Providing another body other than Local Education Authorities, such as Estyn or the Welsh Language Commissioner, with a duty for oversight and accountability for national planning;
	+ Setting of statutory targets for the recruitment and training of Newly Qualified Teachers, with specific reference to Welsh language needs;
	+ Increasing capacity for teachers not currently teaching through Welsh but with sufficient Welsh language skills to be upskilled and retrain;
	+ Ensuring that Welsh Language Conversion Units are sufficiently funded and properly structured, such as those in Gwynedd;
	+ Ensure that children with Additional Learning Needs are able to access intensive support throughout their education career.