

Council, 17 October 2013

Annual report on implementation of the Welsh Language Scheme

Executive summary and recommendations

Introduction

We launched our Welsh Language Scheme in 2011. The Scheme sets out the actions we will take to ensure that we treat English and Welsh equally when conducting business in Wales.

Part of the Scheme includes the requirement to produce annual implementation reports. The attached paper is the second annual implementation report.

The implementation report has already been sent to the Welsh Language Commissioner for consideration.

Decision

This paper is to note, no decision is required.

Background information

The Council considered the last implementation report in December 2012:
<http://www.hcpc-uk.org/assets/documents/10003DDFenc20-WelshLanguageScheme.pdf>

Resource implications

The resource implications of implementing the Scheme are included by Departments within annual work plans as appropriate.

Financial implications

The financial implications of implementing the Scheme are included by Departments within annual budgets as appropriate.

Appendices

None

Date of paper

7 October 2013

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1. Background

- 1.1 The Health and Care Professions Council launched its Welsh Language Scheme in 2011. This report is the second report setting out the actions we have taken to implement the Scheme.
- 1.2 The Health and Care Professions Council has adopted the principle that in the conduct of public business in Wales, it will treat the English and Welsh languages on a basis of equality. The Scheme sets out how the Health and Care Professions Council will give effect to that principle when providing services to the public in Wales.
- 1.3 We are aware that the Welsh Government is in the process of developing standards for services in Welsh. These standards will replace the requirement to produce Schemes. However, we have continued to work to implement the Scheme to meet our commitment to treat English and Welsh equally when conducting public business in Wales. In addition, we believe that the work we have done already will help us to meet the new standards.

2. Implementation of the Scheme

- 2.1 We have set out below the actions we have taken to implement the Scheme. These are grouped under the relevant section headings from the Scheme.

Service planning and delivery

- We updated our Scheme to reflect our new responsibilities as the regulator of social workers in England and the Welsh Language Commissioner approved our new Scheme on 15 February 2013.

Communicating with the Welsh speaking public

- We have refreshed our website content available in Welsh and added a button at the top of all pages allowing the public to access our Welsh language content directly.
- We have held two events in Wales since we our last implementation report. One event was aimed at employers and another at education providers. We are also exploring the possibility of holding an event for registrants in Llandrindod Wells. These are not public events.
- We send bilingual invitations to the events, use bilingual signage, offer bilingual versions of any information provided and also offer simultaneous translation into Welsh.

- We recently launched an advertising campaign to recruit new members of our Council. Our Council must have representation from all four countries, so we placed a bilingual advert to highlight the vacancy.¹

The organisation's public face

- Since September 2012, we have published the following standards and guidance in Welsh:
 - occupational therapists standards of proficiency;
 - standards of conduct, performance and ethics;
 - guidance on conduct, performance and ethics; and
 - arts therapists standards of proficiency.
- We recently carried out a bilingual public mailing about the role of the HCPC and sent bilingual public information, including 'Is your health professional registered' to third party organisations in Wales, including Citizens Advice Bureaus
- On 5 August 2013, we issued a bilingual press release about the outcome of a fitness to practise hearing²

Fitness to practise hearings

- To date, no one involved in fitness to practise case management or in a hearing has asked to use Welsh

Implementing and monitoring the Scheme

- We intend to review the training we offer to staff on the Scheme in 2014, to ensure it remains up to date and appropriate

¹www.jobswales.co.uk/vacancy/30982228/aelodau+lleyg+a+rhai+sy+n+gofrestreion+o+r+cyngor?parentId=1930442738&chk=786990a2bf5a475baac5168eb4506197&keyword=y+cyngor+proffesiynau+iechyd+a+gofal+&pagetype=searchresults&offset=1&filters=&maxResults=1

² The press release can be found here: www.hcpc-uk.org/mediaandevents/pressreleases/index.asp?id=668