



*COLAISDE A' CHAISTEIL*



### **Feedback on National Plan for Gaelic**

- Gaelic in the Further Education sector - both in respect of opportunities for Gaelic language learning and Gaelic in technical and vocational education - is lacking impetus and this is not addressed by the draft plan. There needs to be a review of this sector in terms of what is currently available and the aspirations of the sector. Closer links should be developed between technical and vocational opportunities within schools and colleges. Possibility of a vocational 6th form development being developed as an Integrated Service between the local authorities, local enterprise company and college in any area.
- One important aspect of vocational education is Care and Health. Many of the students in this sector eventually find employment in cròileagain, nurseries and as childminders. Currently there are few opportunities for these students to enhance or develop their skills in Gaelic or gain a recognised qualification with Gaelic. Bòrd na Gàidhlig should ensure as a matter of urgency that such opportunities be developed to enable this sector to provide students with Gaelic oral and literacy skills. This skill could continue to be developed by those entering employment through CPD. Another vocational area, which requires addressing, is Administration and Clerical.
- As well as the course for translation currently being developed at post-graduate level, the accreditation of translators currently working in Gaelic should be further developed and implemented.
- A review should be undertaken of the courses available in the further education sector in terms of courses, modules and units currently on offer.
- Specific funding should be made available for colleges offering Gaelic courses. Though specific funding is available for Gaelic education no funding has been allocated to the technical and vocational stage.
- A PDA (Professional Development Award) in Early Education on offer within UHI has an optional module 'Promoting Language, Literacy and Numeracy in Early Education and Childcare'. There is reference to bilingualism in this module. It is felt that another option could be developed within the PDA relating to Gaelic for delivery online in Gaelic and English.