

CLANN GÀIDHLIG

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Peadar chòir,

Plana Nàiseanta na Gàidhlig

Taing mhòr airson cothrom ar beachdan a thoirt dhuibh mu dreach Plana Nàiseanta.

'S e buidheann coimhearsnachd a th' ann an Clann Gàidhlig (chi sibh am bileag an cois) agus tha sinn glè thoilichte a cuir fàilte don Phlana seo, far a bheil dreuchd na coimhearsnachd cho cudthromach.

Tha na beachdan againn air taobh eile na duilleig seo agus tha sinn an dòchas gum bi iad feumail dhuibhse. A-thaobh an iris "Stiùireadh air Planaichean Gàidhlig" tha sinn cinnteach gum bi am fiosrachadh seo feumail dhuinn nuair a bhios sinn a' deasachadh am Plana Cànan againn fhèin.

Leis gach deagh dhùrachd

Rf. 
Rùnaire
Clann Gàidhlig

General

- ClannGàidhlig welcomes the draft Plan as an important step in revitalising the language, raising awareness amongst the general public and giving Gaelic language and culture the status they merit
- The Vision and Mission, as set out in the Plan, are acceptable
- The Plan, however, lacks clarity on priorities, milestones and targets. It also needs to be much clearer in structure, with appropriate cross-referencing and a management summary. A version in simpler language, to improve accessibility, would also be welcome.
- Far greater co-ordination and communication amongst Gaelic bodies (national and local) will be essential to avoid overlap and ensure clarity of responsibilities in delivering the Plan's vision

Vitality

- We agree that vitality in the home and community is the key ingredient for success. Improved resources, learning schemes (see "Education" below) and support structures for parents, families and communities are needed, particularly for the 13-25 age-group where language loss is most likely

Status

- Much needs to be done here to address widespread ignorance and downright hostility to the language amongst many who are in positions of power (e.g. senior levels of some public bodies and in the media)
- There must be a single point of responsibility for Gaelic at a senior level within public bodies to ensure that language development is progressed timeously and that clarity exists amongst service users regarding accountability
- A major effort is required to persuade fluent speakers of the value of their knowledge and experience and of the need to share this with others who are supportive to the cause of the language

Education

We believe that key priorities are :

- Provide incentives for the training and retention of Gaelic-Medium teachers
- Expand the resources and support for Gaelic-medium staff, who are often not accorded the respect they merit
- Undertake a "Skills Audit" to identify existing teachers able and willing to move to teaching through the medium of Gaelic or teaching Gaelic as a subject. Financial support for those willing to give up current posts and retrain should be considered
- Expand the Gaelic Learners in the Primary School (GLPS) scheme as a means of spreading awareness of, and respect for, the language
- Develop a "Scottish Studies" subject for the school curriculum, to include Gaelic & Scots language, literature, history and culture
- Adult learners and semi-speakers have a vital role to play in spreading awareness, developing communities of speakers, as parents of GME children and as prospective tutors.

A priority here is to develop a standard syllabus with a national assessment scheme to ensure consistency of approach nationally. The prime objective should be to encourage spoken use of the language.

Immersion courses (part- and full-time) have proven to be a highly successful means of bringing learners to fluency. A scheme of financial support for students on such courses would assist greatly in increasing the number of fluent speakers

- Develop and introduce a tutor training scheme to tie in with above

Culture & Communications

- In addition to the real urgency for a digital television channel, we believe a priority is to develop the capability and promote the inclusion of Gaelic material and Gaelic-related material (in English) in mainstream print media
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