

A Charaid,

Comann nam Pàrant (Inbhir Nis) – Thoughts on the National Gaelic Plan

CnP (Inbhir Nis) welcome the publication of the Draft National Plan for Gaelic and its overall vision for Gaelic development.

We are pleased that there is an emphasis throughout the plan on the importance of the use of Gaelic in the Home and on increasing the opportunities to use the language in a variety of situations.

We are pleased to see that Comann nam Pàrant is named as a primary organisation in the areas of education and Gaelic in the home and that Bòrd na Gàidhlig recognises the experience and expertise of parents in these areas. It must be noted, however, that parents, however well motivated, are acting in an entirely voluntary capacity and that support is essential from related organisations and/or by strengthening Comann nam Pàrant.

'Promote the designation of all jobs with a direct impact on Gaelic-medium events and environments as being Gaelic-essential' (p16)

We are pleased to see the inclusion of this statement as a high priority. A new Gaelic-medium school is to open in Inverness next year and Comann nam Pàrant is still seeking assurance that all employees of the Council and of Alpha Schools working within the school environment will be fluent Gaelic speakers.

'Increase access to Gaelic-medium education and to the enhanced education experience of dedicated Gaelic schools' (p25)

We agree that this is an appropriate project for this sector and would like to see far more priority given to the establishment of Gaelic schools.

'Expand Gaelic childcare provision' (p26)

We would like to see this given higher priority and we believe that access to quality Gaelic-medium childcare will not only increase overall numbers in Gaelic-medium education, but also the fluency of the children due to greatly increased exposure to the language from an earlier age than is presently being achieved.

'Increase the number and incidence of secondary subjects taught through the medium of Gaelic' (p27)

We see this as of the utmost urgency with provision at High school level having deteriorated in Inverness.

We would like to see more support for the establishment of stand-alone Gaelic-medium High Schools

'Develop targeted professional support services for Gaelic-medium pupils, available through the medium of Gaelic' (p27)

We welcome this priority as being essential not only for children accessing GME from Gaelic-speaking households, but also to increase the status of the language.