# WRITTEN STATEMENT

# BY

# THE WELSH GOVERNMENT

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| **TITLE**  | **First meeting of the WESP Advisory Board** |
| **DATE**  | **17 May 2018** |
| **BY** | **Eluned Morgan, Minister for Welsh Language and Lifelong Learning** |

I have previously stated that I intend to review the way Welsh-medium education is planned for through Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESPs). I am pleased to announce that an independent advisory board has been established, meeting today (17.May) for the first time.

The WESP Advisory Board will be chaired by Aled Roberts, who was appointed earlier this year to complete phase 2 of the rapid review of WESPs, by implementing the recommendations made in that report. I am certain that the board members, identified for their experience and knowledge, will help shape the future direction of WESPs and oversee the recommendations of the report. This work will enable equitable access to the linguistic, cultural and academic opportunities gained from a Welsh-medium Education. One of the key tasks of the board will be to review the legislation that determines the scope and structure of Welsh in Education Strategic Plans.

I have been very clear that if we are to achieve our aim of a million Welsh speakers by 2050, we need to be ambitious in the changes we make now. I have been heartened by the commitment shown by local authorities to make changes to the way they approach Welsh- medium education planning.

I look forward to meeting members of the Advisory Board who will lead us through phase 2 of the report.

The board members consist of:

**Meirion Prys Jones**, former chief Executive of the Welsh language Board and the NPLD (Network to Promote Linguistic Diversity) 18 years experience Education

**Bethan Morris Jones**, Gwynedd Primary head teacher with experience of ALN and the Welsh language

**Sarah Mutch**, Early Years Manager at Caerphilly County Council providing valuable Local Authority perspective

**Dylan Foster Evans**, Lecturer/Head of the school of Welsh, Cardiff University and Cardiff school governor