

HITZARGIAK – Languages illuminating each other

Cornish Language Programme

GENERAL INFORMATION

DATE: 02-03-2016

1	Name	Cornwall Council
2	Language	Cornish
3	Working area (education, communication, teaching, leisure, administration...)	Local government, administration
4	Email and phone number for contact	Mark Trevethan mtrevethan@cornwall.gov.uk +441872 326914
5	Social networks (Webpage, Facebook, Twitter...)	Website: www.magakernow.org.uk Facebook: www.facebook.com/magakernow Twitter: @magakernow

DESCRIPTION OF GOOD PRACTICE

1	Description of the practices	Cornish Language Programme
2	Brief description of the practices	<p>The Cornish Language Partnership was established in 2005 and was seen as an opportunity to strengthen Cornwall's identity in a global economy. The language started to be seen as an asset in terms of marking out Cornwall a special place – so even though the number of speakers was still small, it was a source of pride.</p> <p>Maga, the office of the Cornish Language Partnership, created an official presence for the language and a central point to coordinate the various voluntary efforts in support of the language, such as film, radio and information about classes, which were all much more easily accessed through the web. The website brought together information about adult classes, online classes and correspondence courses - whereas before it was hard to find out where classes were taking place as most teachers were volunteers, so these were often in village halls or in homes. Other activities carried out to raise the visibility of the language were the introduction of Kernewek into road signs, company logos, entrances to buildings, etc. Maga also employed two education officers – to create school resources and to run classes in schools. This helped introduce the language into a number of schools. Nonetheless, Cornish is not yet part of the curriculum so learning is not sustained.</p> <p>The Partnership has now been replaced by the Cornish Language Office within Cornwall and the language programme now focuses on raising status and visibility of the Cornish language, building up the number of speakers during the next five years by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Delivering the brand as a driver for distinctiveness and economic benefit ▶ Delivering increased social cohesion through reinforcing local identity



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Raising the aspirations and skills of children and young people ▶ Reversing language shift by increasing take-up and moving learners through to fluency
3	Precedents (reasons, needs...)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 2000 – Government commissioned the MacKinnon report ▶ 2003 – Government ratified the European Charter for Regional and Minority Languages including Cornish ▶ 2005 – Cornish Language Strategy published ▶ 2006 – Cornish Language Partnership formed – first funded support.
4	Objectives	<p>The four strategic aims of the Cornish language programme are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the numbers of Cornish speakers (Acquisition Planning) • Increase the use of Cornish as a community language (Language Use) • Maintain and increase the profile and status afforded to Cornish in public life (Status Planning) • Maintain and develop Cornish as a dynamic language that can be used for a full range of purposes in all fields of economic and social activity (Corpus Planning)
5	Main and close working areas	<p>Main current focus is on promoting visibility of the language. If funding is awarded, the focus will move to education and communication to build up the number of speakers.</p>
6	Collaborating entities and their working areas	<p>Cornwall Council leads on language use and various partners on delivery. Akademi Kernewek leads on corpus.</p>
7	Implementation period	<p>2015-2025 strategy Awaiting funding decision for 5 year work programme</p>

FILE FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT BEST PRACTICES

8	Expansion (number of influenced people, internal and external expansion...)	Cornwall
9	Investment (economic, time, people...)	Waiting to UK Government funding for the next five years
10	Results	10 year review of language planning in which good results concerning the number of speakers, visibility and economic benefit have been reached
11	Presentation video	https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UF40Bi2pB7w
12	Other relevant information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Too few fluent speakers are young ▶ The language relies on the voluntary sector ▶ Expectations are high – for example setting up bilingual schools – but there is not the capacity to meet these expectations ▶ Resources – it is hard to attract funding for a small language community <p>To counter some of these weaknesses, we have focused on supporting events such as Kan Rag Kernow – Song for Cornwall – an annual competition where the</p>

winner competes at the Pan Celtic Song Contest. Cornwall has won more than any other Celtic country this century – and the event supports local musicians, creates more material in the language and is an easy way in for new learners to hear and experience the language.

We also provide promotional material relating to local sports – wrestling and rugby – taking the language to people rather than expecting them to come to classes – and making it more relevant and fun.

Learn Cornish Now: <http://www.learncornishnow.com/>

