

12. STATUS OF IRISH LANGUAGE IN THE AREA

Beart / Action 12.1 Awareness Campaign

This is an awareness campaign based around some of the old customs/attitudes relating to Irish that exist in Gaeltacht Mhúscraí and are difficult to change. For example:

- Why do we lack self-confidence when speaking Irish?
- Why do fluent speakers feel that they are putting not so fluent people under pressure if they speak Irish to them?
- Why do we speak English to people as a default?
- Why do people feel that fluent speakers can be 'snobby' about their Irish?

Beart / Action 12.2 – Campaign for Bilingual Meetings

There is a habit of defaulting to English at local meetings even when Irish speakers are in the majority. How can we reverse this habit? How can non-Irish speakers be facilitated at meetings? How can we introduce practices that work in other European Countries?

Beart / Action 12.3 – Welcome Packages for Newcomers

There isn't any system in place for welcoming 'new people' who move into Gaeltacht Mhúscraí:

- This package would be full of information about Gaeltacht Mhúscraí; what being a Gaeltacht means, a list the local facilities, a list of the various community organisations, a list of the Irish Classes available etc.....
- It is necessary to recruit and train Advocacy Facilitators as part of this action. The Advocacy Facilitators will welcome 'new people' to the neighbourhood and present the 'welcome package' to them in a warm and informative manner.

Beart / Action 12.4 – Package for Expectant Parents

This support package will be made available to expectant parents.

- The package will contain literature about the advantages of raising your children through the medium of Irish as well as supports that exist for parents who are taking this route.

Beart / Action 12.5 - Paraphernalia

Various paraphernalia can make it fun to show and promote our identity. Bracelets, The Fáinne, Pencils, Stickers, Umbrellas, Cups etc....

The CFM can create local competitions to come up with new ways to promote Irish with fun objects and catchy phrases.

Beart / Action 12.6 – Irish Language Ambassadors

To recruit Irish Language Ambassadors for each village.

The idea has been floated to recruit ambassadors who are fluent in Irish and some with very little or no Irish. Those with little or no Irish could start their language journey with the community.