

Shaetlan Language Plan

Working in partnership with Shetland based community groups UHI Shetland sets out the following key objectives:

Objectives

- 1) To raise the profile of Shaetlan locally, nationally, and internationally
- 2) To promote the use of Shaetlan, including in education settings
- 3) To increase research activity with respect to the understanding, use and future position of Shaetlan as a vernacular language

Key partners: Shetland forWirds, I Hear Dee, Shetland Amenity Trust, UHI Language Sciences Institute, UHI Institute for Northern Studies, Shetland Islands Council, Education Scotland, Scottish Government, MSPs.

These objectives are in line with our strategy in being collaborative and inclusive, and the language plan supports our vision of being an inspirational hub of innovation and learning designed to meet the needs of the people of Shetland.

1 Increased profile

Locally to support and implement projects which increase awareness of Shaetlan, including:

- Recognising the bilingual nature of Shaetlan speakers and building confidence in everyday use
- Development and provision of adult learning opportunities in Shaetlan, for non-speakers to learn and for Shaetlan speakers in writing (e.g. the freely available primer developed by I Hear Dee).
- Normalise the use of Shaetlan in signage and placenames (engagement with national bodies to facilitate this).
- Using Shaetlan in a bilingual context within UHI Shetland, including our signage.
- Development of a working group drawn from interested council officials, community representatives, Shaetlan language bodies/organisations and UHI staff

Nationally to raise the profile of Shaetlan as a vernacular language

- Promote the inclusion of Shaetlan (and Orcadian) as recognised languages in the next Scottish Census
- Develop and support research to increase understanding of the importance of Shaetlan in the vernacular context

Internationally

- Build on existing initiatives to celebrate Shaetlan as a minority language on the international stage (e.g. I Hear Dee's ongoing collaboration with Marine Conservation Without Borders to be supported by UHI Shetland)
- To engage in international language research projects
- Supporting the publication of Shaetlan language books and research through UHI ePublishing

2 Use in education

To promote the inclusion of vernacular minority languages in teacher training at UHI, and Shaetlan at UHI Shetland.

- Support the development of educational materials in Shaetlan for use in schools including development of curriculum at primary level.
- To assist community groups in the production of educational materials (e.g. I hear Dee's ongoing translation work of material supplied by Marine Conservation Without Borders)
- Engage with Shetland Islands Council to promote and normalise the use of Shaetlan in educational settings.
- Development of courses for adult learning

3 Research

- Develop and support research to increase understanding of the importance of Shaetlan in the vernacular context
- Support research in partnership with UHI Language Sciences Institute and other key stakeholders
- Help facilitate stakeholder engagement and community participation in research
- Assist in the dissemination of results.

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