

Report To: Welsh Language Steering Committee

Date of Meeting: July 9, 2019

Lead Member / Officer: Huw Hilditch-Roberts, Cabinet Lead Member for Children, Young People, Education and the Welsh Language.

Report Author: Gareth Watson, Team Leader – Communications and Campaign Management

Title: Welsh Language Partnerships

1. What is the report about?

This report is about the partnerships that exist in Denbighshire to promote the Welsh Language.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update the Welsh Language Steering Committee on the partnership arrangements in place for the strategic development of the Welsh Language and the partnership's remit.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To approve the report.

4. Report details

At the last meeting, a request was made by Members for information about the partners who work with Denbighshire County Council to promote the use of the Welsh Language.

The Council has its own responsibilities towards developing the Welsh Language, as laid out in the Welsh Language Standards and the authority's own Welsh Language Strategy.

The main aim is to ensure that the Welsh Language is treated no differently to the English language and to positively contribute to the million Welsh speakers target set by Welsh Government by 2050.

The Council is a proactive member of the Partner Iaith, a Denbighshire partnership that has been set up to promote joint working.

The Partner Iaith is made up of the following members: *Denbighshire County Council*; Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych; Coleg Cambria; Mudiad Meithrin (yn cynnwys prosiectau megis Cymraeg i Blant/ Clwb Cwtsh; Welsh Government (Welsh Language Unit); Canolfan Dysgu Cymraeg (Coleg Cambria/ Popeth Cymraeg); Urdd Sir Ddinbych; Merched y Wawr and the Young Farmers.

The Group has been looking at opportunities for cross-promotion, monitoring Denbighshire County Council's Welsh Language Strategy and joint promotion at key events across the County.

The role of Partner Iaith is to:

- Contribute towards the Welsh Government's target of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050, through having a local vision to see the number of Welsh speakers in Denbighshire using the language increasing.
- Increase the number of opportunities for people to use the Welsh language (children, young people, families, businesses and community groups)
- Increasing people's awareness of the value of the Welsh language being part of our heritage and the modern Wales.
- Working jointly with partners to discuss, share ideas and avoid duplication.
- Work on a partnership level to identify any gaps in Welsh language provision and arrange activities to meet the needs.
- Create opportunities to promote the Welsh Language in the local economy and in Public Services – the work of Councils, Health, education and Leisure.
- Emphasising the economic-cultural worth of the language on the tourism industry
 - Emphasising the importance of the language to those organisations responsible for regeneration projects.

Below is a summary of the work of the main partners.

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych

Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych (Denbighshire Welsh Language Initiative) was set up in October 2013 as Menter Iaith Dinbych –Conwy evolved since being set up in 1998. The Menter has been a registered charity since 2004 and a limited company since 2008. The Menter has a board of 10 directors, three permanent members of staff, two part time project officers and 1 officer who supports businesses working across Denbighshire and Conwy.

Denbighshire's Lead Member for the Welsh Language has a place on the Board as a co-opted member.

The Menter's aims and objectives are around normalising the use of Welsh in every day life in Denbighshire; to ensure that there is support and opportunities for incomers and non Welsh-speakers to learn the language; to ensure that native Welsh speakers are given opportunities to expand their knowledge of the language; work to influence a range of social, economic, cultural and educational activities in the County through the medium of Welsh or bilingual.

Urdd Sir Ddinbych

Urdd Gobaith Cymru's mission is to provide opportunities through the medium of Welsh for all Young people in Wales (8-25 years) to develop as individuals; and allow them to play a positive role in Society through helping them to develop personal and social skills.

The Urdd is a National voluntary organisation and a charity that provides opportunities to use Welsh outside of the classroom.

The local team in Denbighshire is made up of a Development Officer (funded by Welsh Government and through local funding); a Young People's Officer (primarily funded by Denbighshire Youth Service); Young People's Apprentice; Children and Young People Officer (north of the County) and an administration officer.

They are managed by Sian Rogers, the Young People and Community Director in the North.

The Urdd Eisteddfod is a National cultural festival held in May each year. Local and County heats take place across Wales before the winners of each competition go on to represent their County at the National Eisteddfod. Competitions range from reciting, singing, cerdd dant, acting, drama, dance, literature, art and Design, science, cooking and hairdressing.

The Urdd also runs many external clubs and hosts a series of sporting events such as swimming galas and football tournaments.

Mudiad Meithrin

Mudiad Meithrin is a voluntary organisation and is the main provider of Welsh-medium early years care and education in the voluntary sector. Our aim is to give every young child in Wales the opportunity to benefit from early years care and education experiences through the medium of Welsh.

It employs over 200 staff nationally, and an additional 1,500 members of staff work in the *cylchoedd meithrin* (Welsh-medium playgroups) throughout Wales. Development Officers work at a local level in each county offering guidance and practical advice to staff, volunteers and parents at our *cylchoedd*.

As play is integral to every aspect of children's development, the experiences and activities offered across our range of provision are based on learning through

play. Special emphasis is placed on language development and the personal, social and emotional development of the children in the cylchoedd groups.

A Denbighshire committee of Mudiad Meithrin exists to provide support to local groups. The Cylchoedd Meithrin are independent charities with the national Mudiad Meithrin acting as a national umbrella organisation.

Welsh in Education (for learners)

Denbighshire has a Welsh Language Advisory Teacher who supports and leads on the development of the Welsh Language in second-language schools across the County. (Schools in categories 4 and 5). He is responsible for arranging courses and follow up support for teachers, assistants and learners in schools, to allow them to develop their Welsh skills using relevant methodologies and specific and relevant arrangements within schools.

They are also responsible for arranging a series of projects and activities to enrich the Welsh language curriculum in schools (categories 1 to 5)

CYMRAEG I BLANT

The Cymraeg i Blant scheme (Welsh for Children) has been in existence since April 2016 and followed the TWF project. The project is managed by Mudiad Meithrin and is funded by the Education department of Welsh Government. Funding has been secured for the next four years.

The main aim of the project is to increase the number of Welsh speakers through providing advice, Support and guidance for parents, prospective parents about the benefits of Welsh medium childcare and education.

There is a lot of emphasis on working with the care sector and early years partners to ensure that as many people as possible receive information about transferring the language at an early age. This is done through a number of sessions, including Story and Song, Baby Yoga, Family Fun and Baby Massage.

Popeth Cymraeg

Popeth Cymraeg is responsible for teaching Welsh to Adults in the community in Denbighshire. It works in partnership with Coleg Cambria as part of Learning Welsh in North East Wales.

Popeth Cymraeg is funded by Canolfan Dysgu Cymraeg Cenedlaethol (The National Learning Welsh Centre)

The organisation is based in Lenten Pool, Denbigh. Its Chief Executive is Ioan Talfryn and the Centre is managed by Verona Pritchard-Jones.

Young Farmers

The Wales Federation of Young Farmers Clubs is a voluntary youth organisation operating bilingually throughout rural Wales.

Over 5,000 young people aged between 10 and 26 years are currently members of the organisation, all of which are members of a network of 157 YFC Clubs and twelve County Federations.

All YFC Clubs are affiliated to one of twelve independent County Federations and are ran by a network of volunteers, supported by a varying staff team at a County level, depending on funding and membership numbers. Each Club operates with an officer team; including a Chairman, Vice Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary, all of whom are within membership age and are elected at the Clubs Annual General Meeting. Each club is required to run democratically following the rules of a standard constitution and provide a programme of activities that the young people are responsible for developing and delivering.

Currently there are Young Farmers Clubs in Nantglyn, Ruthin, Bro Edeyrnion (Corwen) and Llangollen.

County Federations provide a programme of activities for YFC Clubs to be involved in and these are managed through a series of Sub committees. Members are also elected to represent their Clubs views on the governing Federation committee; the County Executive. In a similar vein to County Federations, Wales YFC provides a programme of services and overarching support to all Clubs and Counties in Wales. This too is managed through a network of sub committees and the governing body; Wales YFC Council.

Merched y Wawr

Merched y Wawr is a national organisation that provides opportunities for women to socialise through the medium of Welsh, including learners.

There are over 280 branches across Wales and activities include cookery, crafts, sports, lectures, music, quizzes and charitable work.

Merched y Wawr campaigns for the rights of the Welsh Language and for women's rights and has been involved in a number of initiatives, including the production of Y Wawr magazine; supporting national campaigns; fund raising for breast cancer; supporting Welsh farming wives; recording cassettes for the blind and educating people about the environment.

Denbighshire comes under the Glyn Maelor district which includes parts of Denbighshire, Flintshire and Wrexham. The district officer attends meetings of the Welsh Language Forum.

5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?

The decision contributes to the development of the Welsh Language and culture, which underpins the Council's Corporate Plan.

6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?

There is no budget in place for the Welsh Language. Any costs are expected to be absorbed into existing budgets.

7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?

Whilst no formal Well-being Impact Assessment is needed for this report, it is worth noting some of the key benefits in relation to the Well-Being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Welsh Language Standards.

One of the key components of the well-being and Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 is having: "A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh Language: A society that promotes and protects culture, heritage and the Welsh language, and which encourages people to participate in the arts, and sports and recreation".

The Council also has a role, through its Welsh Language Standards, to promote opportunities for local communities to get involved in Welsh Language activities.

8. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?

The main risk is to the reputation of the authority, as we have already made a commitment in our Welsh Language Strategy and through the Welsh Language Standards to increase the use of Welsh in the workplace and in communities.