

Report to	Welsh Language Steering Committee
Date of meeting	17 March 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts/ Nicola Stubbins
Report author	Gareth Watson, Team Leader- Communications and Campaign Management
Title	Developments with the Welsh Language regionally and nationally.

1. What is the report about?

This report is about developments with the Welsh Language.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update Members on progress with Welsh Language activities locally and nationally.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To approve the work being undertaken in Denbighshire.

4. Report details

Below is a summary of some of the key projects relating to the Welsh language in Denbighshire.

Mwy Na Geiriau/ More Than Words

Here is a summary of some of the main activity in relation to the More Than Words framework (for health and social care)

This year the sector's awareness raising of the active offer has continued. A presentation was given at a conference for care providers and items for More Than Words and the active offer are included in quarterly newsletters for providers. Language of Work posters and lanyards are distributed, as well as language of work stickers.

All internal council staff are expected to complete an e-learning module on 'Welsh language awareness' and staff new to the Department receive a presentation about More Than Words as part of their induction presentation. A similar presentation is given to social work students based in the authority. In addition we have updated the 'Settings' form for social work students so that they can identify their language skills for the purpose of matching with specific assessors.

In addition a half day course has been run for 'front line' staff and the single access point service. The course is intended to ensure that there are individuals with the skills to greet and meet the public in Welsh and to make the active offer.

Increasing the use of Welsh across social care working groups

We have ensured that the workstations are aware of the free resources, apps and courses available (to include online courses) for staff who want to learn Welsh or improve their Welsh language skills. This information is also available on the Council's internal Web site.

A short Welsh language taster course has been offered to care workers, as well as a 'Give your Welsh a Go' course which is tailored for care staff who have received bilingual education but who need to develop the confidence to use their Welsh.

4 members of staff have attended a residential course in Nant Gwrtheyrn. In addition, 'Paned a Sgwrs' sessions are held to provide an opportunity for internal staff to practice their Welsh.

A 'More Than Words' course for children and adults managers was held to ensure guidance and ownership of 'More Than Words' by departments.

Promotion of the Welsh language at the Community Resource Teams Regional Conference.

Promote specific days for the attention of the care sector, including St David's Day Santes Dwynwen, Shwmai Sumai and Welsh Language Music Day.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

Staff training- during 2019 10 members of staff from 5 schools have attended the sabbatical course. There are 24 other staff from schools receiving termly training and guidance.

Increase in the percentage of children transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 – in 2018 the percentage transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 was 88%. In 2019 this has increased to 93%.

Childcare Grant – Denbighshire County Council has secured a capital grant to support pre-school care places in Denbigh and Rhyl. In 2019, 94% of children transferred from Cylchoedd Meithrin to Welsh Medium Foundation phase provision. The grant will involve the relocation of Cylch Bodawen (54% transfer) and Cylch Rhuddlan (86% transfer) to the sites of Ysgol Twm o'r Nant and Ysgol Dewi Sant.

Number of primary pupils receiving Welsh medium education – in 2017 there were 2,028 full-time primary pupils in our schools accessing Welsh-medium education. In September 2019 there were 2,069 primary pupils in our schools. This is an increase of 2%.

Welsh Language Centre

Work has begun on building a Welsh Language Centre on the Ysgol Glan Clwyd site in St Asaph.

The former science block at the school, which was deemed redundant as part of the £16 million brand new school development on site will now be home to the brand new Welsh Language Centre.

The Centre will be used to provide provision for pre-school pupils, support latecomers to Welsh medium education, a facility for the development of Welsh Language resources, as well as a facility that can be used for adult learning outside of school hours.

The development will provide additional car parking capacity for 40 vehicles.

The plan forms part of the commitment the Council has made towards contributing to the development of the Welsh language in the county and towards the Welsh Government's target of a million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

Welsh Language Linguistic Skills Survey

The Council, as part of its response to the Welsh Language Standards, is expected to carry out a self-assessment of staff's Welsh Language skills.

Previous surveys have generated results and staff were asked to state which level of Welsh they had reached in terms of reading and writing. These levels were:

- Not at all
- A little bit
- Moderately
- Fairly fluent
- Fluent

Whilst the results provided a snapshot, it was agreed to provide more detailed information in terms of the levels, so that this would assist the staff in completing the assessment correctly. It would also mean that more meaningful information would be collated and would be fed into the annual business planning process.

The proposal is to use the same system used by a number of other organisations, including North Wales Police and North Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

The levels for the 2019 self assessment were:

	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
Speaking	No knowledge	Can say place names/Welsh first names or Welsh signs correctly. Can greet and introduce others in Welsh. Can show linguistic courtesy by opening and closing a conversation. Can give, and receive personal details.	Can understand the essence of a conversation in Welsh. Can convey basic information e.g. simple admin. or routine tasks. Can give and receive instructions and directions.	Can converse partly in Welsh but turns to English in discussion and to give detailed information. Can describe people and locations.	Can contribute effectively in meetings within own area of work and argue for or against a case. Can deal with people in most situations in Welsh but turns to English when dealing with complex situations.	Can deal effectively with complex discussions and questions in Welsh. Can adjust the style of language to suit all situations and needs.
Writing	No knowledge	Can write a simple routine request to a colleague, such as 'Can I have... please?'	Can write a short note of request to a colleague or known external contact.	Can write informal memos, e-mail messages and routine requests.	With editorial help, can write business letters, reports and e-mails.	Can write reports and presentations and make full and accurate notes in Welsh in a meeting.

Spoken Welsh competence 0 1 2 3 4 5 (please circle as appropriate)
 Written Welsh competence 0 1 2 3 4 5 (please circle as appropriate)

To date, the completion, 1,602 staff have completed the survey, compared with 777 outstanding. These results do not include schools, as they have completed their own assessments.

Further work is being undertaken to identify the individuals that have not completed the survey and to get as full a picture as possible by the time the Council produces its annual Welsh Language report in June.

Update on Welsh Language Partnership – Partneriaith

The Partnership is made up of a number of organisations, including the Council, Urdd, Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych, Young Farmers, Merched y Wawr, Coleg Cambria and Mudiad Ysgol Meithrin.

Over the past six months, the Partnership has been mapping Welsh language activities across the county, with a view to identifying areas where further support is needed through working with local communities.

Llangollen has been identified as a pilot project area. Over the coming months, the partnership will be working with the local community to identify opportunities to support and promote the Welsh language through social activities.

Once an approach has been agreed, the pilot will be extended to other communities in the county.

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 funding available for this work. Any costs would be absorbed by the current partners and through the goodwill of members.

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 consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Consultation has been carried out with the Welsh Language Steering Group, as well as the Welsh Language Champions.

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

The main risk is a potential decline in the number of Welsh speakers in the county (as measured by the national census). All partner organisations have also committed to contributing towards the development of the Welsh language nationally and towards the million speakers target set by the Welsh Government by 2050.