

Report to	Welsh Language Steering Committee
Date of meeting	16 March 2020
Lead Member / Officer	Councillor Huw Hilditch-Roberts / Nicola Stubbins
Report author	Manon Celyn Roberts, Welsh Language Officer
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 the 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 Just Words’

In terms of our business plan for 2020-21, below is a summary of the actions achieved in relation to ‘More than just words’. The delivery of some of these actions have been affected by the pandemic.

Continue to inform all internal staff and commissioned services of the 'Active Offer'.

An online course was commissioned aimed at equipping care staff across Adults and Children's services with the skills to greet and meet the public in Welsh and to make the Active Offer.

During 2020-21 we have also shared the details as to where Providers can order the free 'Iaith Gwaith' resources. We've also promoted the orange speech bubble sticker which we recently produced in Denbighshire, since the sticker is useful as a quick and visual indication of language choice on any paperwork, e.g. individuals' files in residential homes or 'what matters' forms. Some care providers are also using the large stickers on the bedroom doors of residents. This year the Welsh Language Commissioner celebrated 15 years since launching the orange speech bubble badge. A Denbighshire member of staff and also residents of a Denbighshire Care Home were included in social media about the importance of the 'orange bubble as part of the care package for carers'.

Increase the use of Welsh by the social care workforce in Denbighshire and promote the use of digital resources and on-line Welsh language courses developed by 'Cymraeg Gwaith'

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 Just Words' as part of their induction presentation.

We have also shared information about the free 10 hour Welsh on-line course available for the care sector, together with the resources produced by Digital Communities Wales. In addition within our monthly social care newsletter, we have shared the details with Providers of a range of Welsh resources which promote and facilitate the use of the Welsh language. This has included a variety of language Apps and details of the new Social Care Wales training resource which 'supports bilingual working' for people working in health and social care.

In addition, specific online course have been commissioned for Denbighshire care staff across Adults and Children's services. These have included a short online Welsh taster course and workbook and also an online course suitable for staff who understand spoken Welsh with ease but lack confidence in speaking Welsh.

Demonstrate commitment to embedding the Welsh language within each service area in Community Support Service / Children's Services

Within Children and Education Services we have commissioned the 'Mind Of My Own' App which was launched in June 2020. <https://mindofmyown.org.uk/> The App is available for children and young people who are referred to Children's Services to express their views. The app is available in English and Welsh.

In addition within Adult Services we have ensured that a newly commissioned piece of work which is happening in partnership with 'Community Catalysts' from York are fully aware of the requirements of the Welsh Language standards as they deliver Community Micro-enterprises.

Additional work in promoting and facilitating the use of Welsh

We are in the process of updating our Social Care Workforce website and have included a section on 'Using your Welsh in care'. The website will be available for both internal and external care staff and will include information about the Active Offer and 'More than Just Words'. The website will also support staff to use and develop their language skills together with providing useful links and resources to promote the Welsh language within Social Care and Social Services. We will include good news stories featuring staff who have attended Welsh language courses, and also promote events such as 'Use Your Welsh Campaign', Welsh language music day and 'Shwmae Su'mae Day'.

A representative from the Workforce Development team has also been asked for input into the workshops to support the pilot of the online Welsh language Champion induction for Dementia Friends Wales and also to be involved in a National project to lead on the work to standardize health and social care terminology.

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

During 2020 we successfully completed the construction of Ysgol Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and the Welsh Center at St Asaph. The Cylch Meithrin provision was opened on the grounds of the new school in Llanfair Dyffryn Clwyd and Ysgol Dewi Sant, Rhyl increasing the number of schools with a co-located Cylch Meithrin on the site.

Covid 19 has had a significant impact on the curriculum enrichment activities and the Urdd Eisteddfod, which was the focus of activities and due to be held in Denbigh, was postponed. Adaptation also required a number of Cymraeg i Blant activities and training, including the sabbatical course for teachers, to be implemented in a virtual manner.

In September 2020 the Denbighshire Welsh Language Center was completed and here is the location for a new Cylch Meithrin in St Asaph City. The building was funded by the Welsh Government through the Welsh Language Capital Grant. The building also has three training rooms, two offices and a meeting room. Covid 19 has had a significant impact on the Center. The construction phase was delayed and as a result the building was not ready until September 2020. The center has run a post-16 nurture course with pupils from Ysgol Glan Clwyd and Dyffryn Conwy attending. Bangor University has also started running its sabbatical course in the building but unfortunately following the reintroduction of a lockdown period this has now closed. 10 members of staff are taking the sabbatical course this year.

In 2019 93% of pupils transferred from KS2 to KS3 and continued in Welsh medium education. In 2020 the percentage has remained static. Of the pupils who have not transferred to Welsh-medium education at KS3, 4% have transferred to English-medium schools and 3% to English-medium streams in schools 2B. Pupils who have moved to English-medium schools have moved to closer Secondary Schools to the nearest Welsh-medium provision and / or to faith provision even though their early school was not faith-based.

On average 263 pupils receive Welsh-medium education in each KS4 year while at KS3 the average is 275 pupils each year. This shows that the pattern of increasing numbers of Welsh medium Secondary education. Ysgol Brynhyfryd's year 7 Welsh stream is 3 classes with over 40% of pupils a year. If pupils from outside the School cluster are excluded the percentage increases to 50%.

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.

The template used for the self-assessment in 2020 was:

	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.

This template was first followed in 2020 to provide more detailed information about the levels so that this would help staff to complete the assessment correctly. It would also mean that more meaningful information would be collated and fed into the annual business planning process.

Here are the results of the survey per service:

Service	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5	Unknown	Total
Business Improvement and Modernization	19	25	15	2	5	5	11	82
Communities and Customers	40	42	19	17	17	14	31	180
Community Support Services	196	118	45	30	26	21	108	544
Denbighshire Leisure LTD	34	47	26	5	14	22	77	225
Education and Children's Services	59	79	25	10	16	16	134	339

Finance and Property	50	45	20	16	10	8	9	158
Highways, Facilities and Environmental Services	183	335	67	30	25	23	35	698
Legal, HR and Democratic Services	16	26	7	4	3	13	13	82
Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services	47	59	19	12	9	8	84	238
Total	644	776	243	126	125	130	502	2,557

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, Mudiad Meithrin and Cymraeg i Blant.

Covid has delayed the mapping of Welsh language activities across the County for the time being as we are unable to work with local communities as we would like to.

The Welsh Language Commissioner's officer was invited to discuss how covid has affected the Welsh language nationally as well as any good practice to implement during this challenging period, and Carwyn Edwards came to discuss the schools categories consultation according to Welsh medium provision.

We are also working on social media campaigns by planning to collaborate on Wales' national celebrations.

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.