

Report to	Welsh Language Steering Committee
Date of meeting	13 th of July 2021
Lead Member / Officer	Cllr Huw Hilditch- Roberts
Report author	Geraint Davies
Title	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2022 - 2032

1. What is the report about?

This report contains information regarding the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which is currently being developed.

2. What is the reason for making this report?

To update Members on the new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will set out how Welsh will be developed in all our schools over the next 10 years.

3. What are the Recommendations?

To note the requirement to create a new 10 year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the target set for Denbighshire.

4. Report details

4.1. It is a statutory requirement for all Local Authorities in Wales to have a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The new plan which is currently being developed will cover 10 years up until 2032.

4.2. Every new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will follow the same guidance and will be arranged around seven outcomes. The outcomes reflect a learner's education journey and are consistent with the policy areas of Cymraeg 2050 and Education in Wales: Our National mission.

Outcome 1: More nursery children/ three year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 2: More reception class children/ five year olds receive their education through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 3: More children continue to improve their Welsh language skills when transferring from one stage of their statutory education to another

Outcome 4: More learners study for assessed qualifications in Welsh (as a subject) and subjects through the medium of Welsh

Outcome 5: More opportunities for learners to use Welsh in different contexts in school

Outcome 6: An increase in the provision of Welsh-medium education for pupils with additional learning needs (ALN) in accordance with the duties imposed by the Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018

Outcome 7: Increase the number of teaching staff able to teach Welsh (as a subject) and teach through the medium of Welsh

4.3. Each Local Authority have been set a target by Welsh Government to increase the number of year 1 pupils receiving Welsh medium education. The lower target for Denbighshire has been set at 35% and the upper target is 39%. As of 2020, 28% of year 1 pupils in Denbighshire access Welsh medium education.

4.4. The new plan will set out how Denbighshire will meet this target and support all seven outcomes. A consultation on the new plan will take place in the autumn of 2021 with the final plan submitted to Welsh Government in January 2022.

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

The new plan 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 specific funding allocation currently linked to the delivery of the plan. Existing funding streams will be utilised by the Council and its partners to deliver the objectives

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

The new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan has the potential to have a positive impact on a Denbighshire of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language, cohesive communities, a more equal Denbighshire and a more prosperous Denbighshire.

8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?

Consultation has been carried out with the Lead Member for Education, Children Services and the Welsh Language.

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

The main risk associated with the new plan is a lack of action by stakeholders in implementing its objectives. All partner organisations have committed to contributing towards the development of the Welsh language nationally and towards the million speakers target set by the Welsh Government by 2050.

10. Power to make the decision

The new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan will be approved by the Welsh Government to comply with the provisions in relation to the Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (WESP) in the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 ('the Act') and regulations made under it.