

Appendix 1

Summary of Progress Against WESP Outcomes

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

- Information about the benefits of bilingualism and Welsh education is prominent on the county's website and on Denbighshire's X page.
- We have collaborated with Menter Iaith Sir Ddinbych and RHAG to produce postcards to share in the community, which will contain QR codes directing parents and parents-to-be to information and events about the Welsh language and Welsh education.
- The number of Cylchoed Meithrin and the number of children attending the cylchoedd is increasing.
- The percentage of children who transfer from the Cylch Meithrin to a Welsh-medium primary school is increasing.
- The number of Welsh-medium Flying Start childcare places is increasing.
- There is now a cylch meithrin on the grounds of every school / or within close walking distance of every Welsh medium school in Denbighshire except for Ysgol Betws Gwerfyl Goch (however Cylch Ti a Fi has been established here). Cylch Rhuthun has moved to a converted building in Ruthin and therefore within walking distance of Ysgol Pen Barras. A Cylch Meithrin has reopened at Ysgol Bro Dyfrdwy.
- The authority has used a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment to identify areas for development.
- An application for funding was submitted to the Welsh Government's Childcare Capital Fund at the end of March for developments at Ysgol y Llys and Ysgol Bro Elwern. We are awaiting a response to this request from the Welsh Government.
- The development of sites in Ruthin and Ysgol Dewi Sant are long-term projects.
- Projects are underway to develop sites on the grounds of Ysgol Twm o'r Nant, Ysgol y Llys, Ysgol Gwernant, Llangollen and Ysgol Llanrhaeadr.

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

- The number and percentage of learners in the Reception Class who are taught through the medium of Welsh has been increasing, but the impact of the pandemic particularly on the two largest Welsh schools in the north of the county has seen the numbers decrease in 2023 -24.
- The number and percentage of learners in year 1 who are taught through the medium of Welsh has increased by 1.4% between 2022-23 and 2023-24.

- There are 8 Welsh-medium schools that are either full, or almost full.
- The highest number of empty places are in our largest schools. It must be noted, however, that the data does not include school nursery classes.
- DCSd, Menter Iaith and RHAG have been working together, by holding events and creating digital platforms to encourage parents in the north of the county to send their children to Welsh-medium schools.
- The numbers of learners initially registered at Y Llys and Ysgol Dewi Sant in September 2024 are significantly higher than in 2022 and 2023.
- The numbers of pupils in two of our smallest schools cause concern.
- Project developments in three schools are developing (Ysgol Bro Elwern, Ysgol Bro Cinmeirch and Ysgol Henllan) .
- Planning work is underway to build an extension to Ysgol Gwernant.
- 6 English-medium primary schools have indicated that they are category T2 schools. With the support of the authority's officers, the Welsh provision will increase in these schools over a period of time.
- The authority's officers work closely with the 6 T6 schools to map their linguistic journey and create detailed action plans to increase the use of the Welsh language.
- Denbighshire's model of supporting latecomers is evolving and developing well. Two members of staff provide outreach support to the latecomers and numbers have increased every term.

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

- The only category 1 and 3 primary school in the county has indicated that learners from the Nursery and Reception class this year will not have the option of choosing English as the medium of their education until they are in year 3. We are in constant discussions to explore the option of changing the school into a category 3, Welsh medium school.
- 93% of year 6 learners in Welsh-medium schools in Denbighshire go to a Welsh-medium school/stream in secondary school. 200 learners.
- County officials, head teachers of primary and secondary schools meet regularly to draw up clear strategies and procedures to encourage learners to continue with Welsh education in secondary school.
- Ysgol Glan Clwyd staff and county officials work together and visit some English medium primary schools to encourage learners to go to the immersion class in Glan Clwyd.
- County officials support year 6 individuals who have chosen to go to the immersion class.
- Plans are underway to open an immersion class at Ysgol Brynhyfryd.

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

- County officials work closely with the 6 T2 schools to map their linguistic journey, draw up detailed action plans, monitor developments and train and support staff.
- The number and percentage of learners registered for GCSE Welsh First Language and GCSE Welsh Second Language has increased.
- More learners are following an A-level Welsh (first language) course, but fewer are following an AS course.
- More learners follow a Welsh course as a second language at AS and A level.
- The two category 2 secondary schools offer more subjects through Welsh than in the previous year.
- We are in constant discussions with the two secondary schools in the south of the county to increase their offer to pupils to study more subjects through Welsh.
- Headteachers of the 3 schools that offer Welsh education are keen to look at e-ysgol as a means of offering more subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- We are in discussions with the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol to see how more students can be encouraged to study Welsh as a subject.
- Denbighshire's secondary networks have been created to offer support to Welsh coordinators.

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

Siarter Iaith

- The Welsh language support officer has created a 'Sglein ar Lein' website which is a very useful resource for teachers to use to develop learners' speaking and listening skills in progression steps 1, 2 and 3.
- The county's oracy scheme has been active in the Welsh-medium primary schools since September 2023 and will continue to be used during the next year.
- There are plans in place to create a website separate from 'Sglein Ar Lein' for promoting and celebrating Siarter Iaith.
- All Welsh-medium primary schools have received the gold award and we are monitoring progress at each school to ensure that the gold standards are maintained.
- There are also plans in place to collaborate with Conwy and Gwynedd to introduce a framework similar to Siarter Iaith in the Welsh-medium secondary schools (Glan Clwyd has established 'Byw'r Gymraeg' and we are in discussions to develop this further).
- Termly visits take place at each school to meet headteachers + coordinators, to train staff, share good practice and monitor progress.
- A LA officer is part of each school's self-evaluation process as well as helping to identify priorities for each school's Development Plan.
- Effective collaboration has begun with Conwy CC.

Cymraeg Campus

- 25 English-medium primary schools have received the Cymraeg Campus bronze award.
- 7 English-medium primary schools have received the Cymraeg Campus silver award.
- Schools are targeted to aim to win the next award.
- The authority's officer supports schools effectively to introduce and use the Welsh language.
- DCC have created our own Cymraeg Campus Framework for the 7 secondary schools that deliver Welsh as a second language.
- The framework has been created and shared with the co-ordinators and management teams of the 7 secondary schools who are committed to implementing Cymraeg Campus.
- There are resources available and support for schools to receive the bronze, silver and gold award.
- Denbigh High School has received the bronze award and is being validated for the silver award in the Autumn term.
- It is anticipated that at least two more schools will receive the bronze award next year.
- The authority collaborates with the Urdd and Menter Iaith to prioritise support for schools and to draw up a schedule of visits.

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

A detailed annual audit is made of the provision and support for ALN pupils through the medium of Welsh.

The authority's ALN departments

- All departments (apart from home schooling) are able to offer service and support in Welsh to learners who wish to do so.
- No department has refused support to any learner who wishes support through the medium of Welsh during the last three years.
- A lack of Welsh language resources is an issue.
- Recruiting staff who can speak Welsh is a problem.
- The authority has facilitated that a member of the council's staff is trained to be an educational psychologist. These individuals will work for the authority as an educational psychologist at the end of her training period.

ALN coordinators of Welsh-medium schools

- 81% of the coordinators state that their schools meet the learning needs of their ALN learners through the medium of Welsh. Main challenges – lack of resources, lack of Welsh speaking staff/assistants, learners' linguistic standard is generally low.

- 75% work together effectively as a cluster. Of the 25% who did not collaborate effectively, the school's ALN coordinator and the cluster's ALN coordinator were new to the job.
- 100% noted that there are not enough resources available through the Welsh language. Although resources are shared between schools, there are obvious gaps in assessment tests, series and reading books, resources to support spelling, intervention programmes such as Toe by Toe, checklists for disorders e.g. dyslexia, adhd and an IDL system in Welsh.
- 75% believe that the authority's ALN departments give good support to schools. 25% indicated that the main challenges here were a lack of materials, resources and Welsh speaking staff.

The heads of the three special schools

- There are very few Welsh-speaking learners in the schools.
- Although the offer and the provision are in the schools, no parent/learner has asked for aspects of the curriculum to be taught through Welsh in the last 3 years.
- Some children receive a small proportion of their education through the medium of Welsh.
- There are teachers and assistants in the three schools with the ability to support learners through the Welsh language.

Carrying out an annual audit has been very useful to stimulate conversation among the different stakeholders and to identify gaps in the provision. In general, the support through the Welsh language for ALN learners in the county is positive but we face obvious challenges, in particular the lack of Welsh language resources and the shortage of staff who can speak Welsh.

There is no pattern of pupils choosing (or moving) to English-medium education due to a lack of provision or resources in Welsh.

The most effective collaboration takes place within clusters to share resources and expertise.

There are cross-county meetings for the authority's ALN officers and we share services such as the Sensory Service with neighboring counties. Denbighshire's Educational Psychologist does some work through the medium of Welsh in other counties.

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

- There is an increase in the number of teachers who can teach/work through the medium of Welsh.
- There is also an increase in the number of teachers who are unable to teach/work through the medium of Welsh.
- There is no significant pattern in the data, but it reflects a national challenge to recruit Welsh-speaking staff.

- The authority continues to promote the sabbatical course and is proud to say that there are 5 teachers on the course this year with one of these teachers working in a transitional T2 school.
- School staff have received presentations about Learning Welsh courses from The National Center for Welsh Learning.
- The authority has arranged for 4 teachers from our T2 schools to attend a joint pilot course with teachers from Conwy County's T2 schools.
- There are 6 members of staff in the Welsh Language Support Team, meaning that there is support for staff and teachers in the primary and secondary sectors, Welsh or English medium as well as support for latecomers.
- The support structure has facilitated training sessions, meetings and visits in order to develop the use of the Welsh language in the schools.
- Secondary school networks have been extremely useful for Welsh language coordinators to discuss ideas and share good practice.
- Meetings were held to raise awareness among the head teachers of all the authority's schools about the need to plan deliberately to develop the workforce and to increase the Welsh language provision.
- The officers of the Welsh Language Support Team have created and shared a Welsh language development plan with school leaders, indicating step by step, how to develop speaking and listening skills and how to increase the social use of Welsh.
- A comprehensive training program has been shared by the authority.
- The 'Sglein ar Lein' website is a great resource for teachers to enable them to present language patterns to learners.
- Denbighshire County Council and GwE officers identify potential leaders within the Welsh sector and develop them professionally.
- 5 Headteacher positions in a Welsh language school have been filled this year.
- Recruitment to the childcare sector is a concern as the cylchoedd cannot be open if the staff member does not have the correct qualification.
- Mudiad Meithrin provides many opportunities for staff through courses such as Step by Step and Croesi'r Bont for the staff of cylchoedd meithrin and also for the staff of English placements.
- Mudiad Meithrin work closely with schools and offers their service to school staff
- The Early Years Inclusion and Early Education Team has appointed two Welsh-speaking consultant teachers. They support cylchoedd, provide Welsh language training for the staff of the settings and work together with Mudiad Meithrin and Welsh language consultant teachers to support the promotion of the Welsh language in English speaking settings.
- The Child Care and Play Development Team works in partnership with PACEY Cymru to recruit Welsh speakers to consider a career in childcare.
- Training through Camau is promoted to support practitioners who want to develop their linguistic skills.