

**Newport City Council**  
**WESP 2017-2020 DRAFT FOR CONSULTATION**  
**FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

**Menter Iaith Casnewydd**

*NCC: A representative from Menter Iaith Casnewydd is a member of the Newport Welsh Education Forum and all members took a collaborative, partnership approach to developing the final draft WESP.*

- **There is a lack of detail regarding the planning and development of the Welsh-medium pre-school and childcare sector. Parents do not have faith in poor quality, unsustainable provisions and decide not to use them. How will provisions be established, where and by whom?**

*NCC: An Early Years strategy is referenced as strategic objective 1 and will be developed this coming year.*

- **There is a lack of planning and development at a micro level in relation to the primary sector. Consideration needs to be given to the numbers of pupils in Welsh-medium schools at ward level in order to make the small gains which will lead to big gains.**

*NCC: The comments on planning of school places will be put to the Planning of School Places Group for the Spring Term to review.*

- **A new primary school needs to be established in the west of the city as this will be the location of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed in a year and a half's time. A starter class could be established during this plan.**

*NCC: The comments on planning of school places will be put to the Planning of School Places Group for the Spring Term to review.*

- **A training programme is needed for the early years workforce - starting with raising awareness in secondary schools.**

*NCC: An Early Years strategy is referenced as strategic objective 1 and will be developed this coming year.*

- **Detailed and careful planning is needed in terms of promoting Welsh-medium Education. One campaign in one year should not be considered effective promotion. This promotional work should be part of the Council's central marketing plan and should get the resources it deserves on an annual basis.**

*NCC: The comments on promotion can be a subject for further debate by the Newport Welsh Education Forum members this coming Spring Term.*

- **We believe that there needs to be far more emphasis on the contribution that Welsh-medium Education makes to the Tackling Poverty Agenda and it would be good to see what specific strategies the County could adopt in this respect, including Flying Start and Communities First.**

*NCC: The Newport Welsh Education Forum is a multi-disciplinary, multi-stakeholder group and includes membership by the Flying Start Programme Manager who holds a senior policy management role within the Council, your comments will be shared. A response can be set before Newport Welsh Education Forum in the Spring Term.*

- **We believe that there needs to be a policy to ensure that Welsh-medium education provision is increased sufficiently in areas of new housing, amongst other general policies.**

*NCC: The comments on Council policy are noted and this will be raised with the Partnership and Policy Manager and also the Planning & Development Control Manager for consideration. A response can be set before Newport Welsh Education Forum in the Spring Term.*

- **The Council's current post-16 transport policy militates directly against any plan to promote and develop Welsh-medium education. We would like to see the impact study conducted when the decision was taken, without any consultation, to increase transport fees to £370 per learner per year. What impact has this had on the numbers attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw? Transparency is needed.**

*NCC: The comments on Transport Policy are noted, the Education Service Development Manager will arrange to correspond with the Passenger Transport Manager to review any Fairness & Equality Impact Assessment as a result of that decision. A response can be set before Newport Welsh Education Forum in the Spring Term.*

- **It is inevitable that significant additional funding is needed to expand Welsh-medium Education. There are no cross-references in this document to the County's priorities with regard to Welsh-medium projects during the 21st Century Schools Programme's next funding period after 2019/20. The Council is expected to provide details on this.**

*NCC: The submission of a 21CS Band B Strategic Outline Programme business case has a deadline of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, working towards that the 21CS Client Manager will be carrying out a stakeholder engagement programme during the early part of the Spring Term – which will provide some detail on Council plans.*

- **A lack of ambitious KS2 targets means that the commentary is less meaningful. We need to know about the growth planned by the county and how the vision will be realised. We refer to a letter from Alun Davies AM, Minister for Lifelong Learning and Welsh Language, sent to all LAs in August 2016, in which he states that Welsh in Education Strategic Plans are vital in terms of achieving the aim of reaching a million Welsh speakers by 2050. He also noted that he expects robust plans with ambitious, challenging but achievable targets.**

*NCC: The development of the WESP was taken forward by the members of the Newport Welsh Education Forum as a collaborative partnership approach. Each Outcome was authored by an Outcome Lead working with co-authors from other Members. This can be set before Newport Welsh Education Forum in the Spring Term.*

- **Questions must be asked as to whether the Plan, in its current form, shows clear progress over three years towards achieving the targets of the Welsh-medium Education Strategy, in accordance with the Government's guidance. Does the Plan reflect the need to measure and create demand for Welsh-medium education? There is an expectation not only to meet the demand but to stimulate new demand. It is questionable whether the current Plan is doing this sufficiently.**

*NCC: The new template was devised by WG and is embryonic, it is almost certainly going to be reframed as time goes on and all local authority submissions support that development of how the plan would act and be used by us all.*

- **There are a number of on-going housing developments across the city. We therefore want the authority to open Welsh-medium schools in areas where there are significant housing developments which include a plan for a school. We want to see this aim included in the Plan.**

*NCC: There is a formula used that is recommended by WG to determine the pupil yield in each housing development. From that the Planning of School Places Group regularly assess the latest*

percentage of demand for RC Faith, English medium, and Welsh medium education. The latest percentage demand for Welsh-medium education is 5%. The situation will be reviewed on an annual basis.

- **We note that there is a difference between managing places and planning to extend provision. Greater clarity is required in terms of how the County intends to achieve this during this Plan. Surplus places are often seen in the higher classes in schools and, as noted in the guidance, it is unfair to count them as normal surplus places.**

*NCC: This comment will be set before the Planning of School Places Group for consideration and a response brought back to Newport Welsh Education Forum.*

- **It is vital that there is clear cross-referencing between this Plan and the Local Development Plan in order to show the work that has been undertaken to assess the adequacy of Welsh-medium places in areas where there are significant housing developments using recent evidence of proposed housing sites as well as current evidence of the demand for Welsh-medium education.**

*NCC: This comment will be set before the Planning of School Places Group for consideration and a response brought back to Newport Welsh Education Forum.*

- **We must avoid the tendency to presume that any new schools will be English-medium schools.**

*NCC: The process for establishing a new school is through a Cabinet Member for Education & Young People decision to take forward a regulated statutory consultation process. There is no formal policy to set the linguistic character of any new school, it is however, considered based on the demand and availability of school places before any decision is taken. The evidenced based demand can be assessed as follows as at Autumn Term 2016:*

- 3 Welsh-medium primary schools have a combined capacity of 689 places
- 3 Welsh-medium primary schools have a combined number on roll of 622
- The surplus position which exists within Welsh-medium primary sector is 67 places

*This approach will be carried out prior to taking the decision to move to launch the formal consultation on any new school proposal.*

- **What percentage of Flying Start provision is provided through the medium of Welsh? There is insufficient detail in the current document, yet it is vital to the development of Welsh-medium Education.**

*NCC: The Flying Start Programme Manager is a member of the Newport Welsh Education Forum and as such worked with all other members to develop this final Draft for WG to review. Following the WG response the Newport Welsh Education Forum members will have the opportunity to address relevant areas of the WESP.*

- **The Council needs to take the lead in terms of promoting, raising awareness of, and stimulating interest in Welsh-medium Education through actions such as:**

- ensuring that information about both systems is sent concurrently to Flying Start groups, English and Welsh-medium nursery groups, childcare groups and parents alongside registration forms, including information about transport arrangements, as Welsh-medium schools cover bigger catchment areas than English-medium schools

- ensuring that information about both systems is available to estate agents and letting agents to give to families moving into the area

- ensuring that the website and the Parents Information Booklet are up-to-date

- providing the Council's frontline workers with language awareness training and informing them of the benefits of Welsh-medium education / bilingualism, working with the Health Board to provide the same training to midwives and health visitors and finding ways of sharing positive messages in a consistent and thorough manner.

- working closely with the Welsh Language Plan for Children.

*NCC: All of the above comments are noted and will be set before the Newport Welsh Education Forum during the next Spring Term.*

• **What is the link with the University of South Wales and the Coleg Cymraeg in terms of creating formal contact to train the workforce of the future?**

*NCC: The Head of Welsh in Education, Education Achievement Service is a member of the Newport Welsh Education Forum and as such worked with all other members to develop this final Draft for WG to review with a focus on the Outcome for Workforce Development with other members.*

*Following the WG response the Newport Welsh Education Forum members will have the opportunity to address relevant areas of the WESP including this comment by Menter Iaith.*

## **Rhieni dros Addysg Gymraeg –**

*NCC: A representative from Rhag is a member of the Newport Welsh Education Forum and all members took a collaborative, partnership approach to developing the final draft WESP.*

### **1. Vision:**

• **We understand that Newport City Council is part of the South-east Wales Education Consortium but that Newport is responsible, as an individual Local Authority, for the development of Welsh-medium Education in the city. It would be good to see Newport taking more ownership of the vision, including the Council's corporate language, namely 'Dinas ar Dwf' (A City on the Rise). The Council has a strong vision but it needs a local touch to set Newport apart from other counties in South-east Wales.**

*NCC: Comments are noted and will be shared with the Partnership & Policy Manager for the Council.*

• **"We will aim to stimulate and provide local provision" - is it possible to use positive language here? Omit the work "aim" to show a real desire to succeed.**

*NCC: Comments are noted.*

### **Objectives:**

• **"Having developed a Welsh-medium early years and childcare strategy, [we] will take the first steps to implement an action plan in order to demonstrate a seamless pathway through the medium of Welsh and at the same time to stimulate demand for Welsh-medium education in Newport."**

**The Council needs to note the main outcome of this early years strategy e.g. establishing Welsh-medium pre-school early years provision in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin / Flying Start - there is no non-maintained Welsh-medium provision in Newport at present - how will this change over the next three years?**

*NCC: An Early Years strategy is referenced as strategic objective 1 and will be developed this coming year. A representative of Mudiad Meithrin is a member of the Newport Welsh Education Forum.*

- "Increase the number of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of the Foundation Phase from 5.2% to 5.6% by 2018."

- we acknowledge that it is not possible to increase this target significantly during the short period of this plan as the pupils are already in the system

*NCC: Comments are noted.*

**These numbers need to be reviewed against current numbers as they don't appear to reflect the true numbers. The targets for 2018-19 and 2019-2020 are the same. Why?**

*NCC: Comments are noted, this will be reflected upon by the members of the Newport Welsh Education Forum during the Spring Term*

- Increase the number of pupils assessed in Welsh first language at the end of Key Stage 3 from 2.5% to 3.2% by 2018. We question this percentage. There is no Secondary School in Newport yet so how is it 2.6% now? Year 9 will not be taught through the medium of Welsh in Newport until 2018-2019.

*NCC: Comments are noted. Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw share data with Newport City Council via the Education Achievement Service.*

#### **Declaration:**

- "This Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017 - 2020 is intended to demonstrate alignment with the 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy for Newport City Council."

- We agree with this concept.

*NCC: Comment is noted.*

- The document states that the 5 Year Strategy for the Welsh Language includes targets to increase the use of school places, and that members of Newport's Welsh-medium Education Forum will be able to work together to set additional targets for Council services which show community and business links with school life.

- We are not sure of its meaning

*NCC: Comment is noted and will be shared with the Partnership & Policy Manager for the Council. The Newport Welsh Education Forum will be able to review the response during the Spring Term.*

2.

#### **Transport Statement:**

**We do not believe that this section gives the full picture in terms of post-16 transport arrangements for pupils in Newport. Welsh Government guidance states the need to identify challenges, whilst this document states:**

**"However, a further challenge arises from the fact that Post 16 home to school transport policy is not statutory. This transport is discretionary for all local authorities in Wales which can be an additional barrier to accessing education, training and learning."**

**...it does not state how much pupils in Newport would be charged for this provision or its impact on post-16 Welsh-medium Education. This section should be completely transparent and show how Newport City Council will ensure that Welsh-medium Education is just as accessible to Welsh-medium pupils as English-medium pupils. Currently, post-16 pupils from Newport pay £370 a year to travel to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw - which does not promote Welsh-medium Education.**

*NCC: Comments on transport are noted.*

**The Guidance notes Outcomes rather than Results. Perhaps we should adhere to the language used in the guidance. NCC: The Comments set out below against all of the Outcomes are noted and will be set before Newport Welsh Education Forum during the Spring Term.**

**Outcome 1:**

**More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh**

- **There is no growth here over the next three years. The commitment to open a fourth Welsh-medium Primary School in the west of the city within the period of this strategy needs to be noted.**
- **Not enough attention is paid to specific areas of Newport e.g. the development of Welsh-medium Education in the south-west where there is currently no local Welsh-medium School but where Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed will be located in September 2018.**
- **There is no mention of how the pre-school provision is going to feed early years provision. A target needs to be set in terms of establishing a provision in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin.**
- **There are no details on how exactly the Authority is going to promote Welsh-medium Education during the period of the plan and the impact this will have on numbers in the future. It should be noted that a Group will be established to look at direct promotion and create**
- **An assessment to measure the demand for Flying Start: There is too much past narrative here. The document should note how many places there are currently and how many places there will be and how these places will be promoted. The minister stated clearly enough that he did not want to see past history.**
- **The document should state the current transfer rates from Flying Start provision to Welsh-medium Education and how these rates will increase during the period of the strategy.**
- **It would have been useful to follow Welsh Government's guidance and set targets according to the list of points to be considered.**

**Outcome 2:**

**More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary school to secondary school.**

**This outcome appears to refer to the transition from KS2 to KS3 but the guidance asks for general transfer rates. We acknowledge that the outcome does not reflect the information requested in the guidance and we have informed the Welsh Government of this.**

**Perhaps the document should adhere to a-d as seen in the Welsh Government's guidance in order to show progression in terms of the targets.**

**We comment on the objectives as they appear in the consultation document:**

**2.1 We are unsure how the current percentage is 3.42%. Currently, no year 9 pupils are being taught through the medium of Welsh in Newport. Newport will be unable to report on this percentage until 2018 - 2019.**

**2.2 A non-maintained, high quality provision needs to be established in Newport as a matter of urgency. The Council needs to take an innovative look at the current situation in the city and take brave strides to combine Early years expertise in the city in order to find a sustainable, high quality solution. It needs to report in numbers as well as percentages. Percentages do not give the full picture. The Authority should be working with Mudiad Meithrin, local primary schools, Menter Iaith Casnewydd, Flying Start and the Welsh Government to ensure robust and prompt development.**

**2.3 Is it possible to explain the exact meaning of "more effective transfer?" Is it referring to the development of an effective transition plan between stakeholders of all funded non-maintained provisions and school provision, including a transition strategy and monitored annual development plan?**

**2.4 Is it possible to explain the exact meaning of "more effective transfer" Is it referring to an effective transition plan between all KS2 and KS3 stakeholders, including a transition strategy and monitored annual development plan?**

**We suggest a target referring to establishing a centre for newcomers for KS3 modelled on a number of other schools across Wales where a language immersion class in year 7 supports the linguistic development of pupils who choose to transfer from English-medium education in the city.**

**Supporting Statement:**

**Where the document states "Newport's 3rd Welsh-medium primary school", it would be good to give the name of that School, namely Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnnon.**

**We feel that this part is too wordy. It should be reviewed to ensure that it is clearer.**

**Outcome 3:**

**More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh**

**Outcome 4:**

**More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh**

- We are happy that the study rates through the medium of Welsh are 100% and continue to be 100%.s**

**Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh**

- Welsh for Adults needs to be included here**

**Outcome 6:**

**Welsh-medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)**

- We welcome the targets in this section

#### Outcome 7:

##### Workforce planning and continuous professional development

- A target needs to be added to increase Newport City Council staff and partners' awareness of Welsh-medium Education in general by providing practical awareness training as part of the Council's Continuous Professional Development programme, and identifying needs within the Council's functions along with the knowledge and expertise required to provide information and plan for the development of Welsh-medium Education. Online guidance could be developed on the council's intranet to share information and ensure that clauses relating to awareness of Welsh-medium Education are included in the job descriptions of key officers.

*NCC: Comments set against all of the above Outcomes are noted and will be set before the Newport Welsh Education Forum during the Spring Term.*

#### Additional anonymised comments

**In outcome 1 the WESP is constricted by only considering/ measuring the next three years. These pupils are already in the system and therefore increasing the number of pupils is no easy task.**

*NCC: The comment is noted.*

**In outcome 3 Regionality (a common enough circumstance in WM education) should be considered and the question asked should specify if it seeks data on "Current learners in Newport" (therefore for Gwent Is Coed in future including South Monmouthshire pupils) or if we should be collecting and differentiating data on "Current Newport Learners" and have to divide the data between the Newport learners and the South Monmouthshire pupils.**

*NCC: The comment is noted.*

**I note that today is the deadline for responses to the Draft WESP Casnewydd. I'm sure that note was made of the comments and suggestions put forward in our meeting on the 7th of November and that these stand as our response.**

*NCC: The final draft WESP submitted to WG for the 20<sup>th</sup> December was incorporating the comments and suggestions from the Newport WEF Workshop on the 7<sup>th</sup> November.*

**Will there be a meeting to discuss Newport's revised version of the draft document to take into account all comments before we meet as a regional WEF on the 10th of January in Bro Helyg?**

*NCC: The timetable was published with the draft WESP for consultation and it is highlighted within that timetable that the submission date of the final draft WESP to WG is the 20<sup>th</sup> December. All members of the Newport Welsh Education Forum will receive a copy of the final draft WESP before that submission takes place. Further changes are not operationally easy in the short turnaround time available. The Newport Welsh Education Forum members will be given an opportunity to reflect upon the WG commentary during the time period allocated in the early Spring Term.*