

**ANNUAL REVIEW REPORT
WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN**

DECEMBER 2020

OVERALL SUMMARY PLAN	<p>Despite the difficulties posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the Council has made good progress in terms of its commitment to developing Welsh-medium education.</p> <p>A school reorganisation proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school has been approved, and work is now underway to ensure that the school is able to open as planned in September 2021. A temporary governing body has been established, and all applications received by the Council for admission to the nursery class in September 2021 were successful. Applications can now be made for places in the Reception year group.</p> <p>Two non-maintained providers were successful in their tender applications to provide Foundation Phase education, and this will assist in meeting the shortfall of Rising 3 nursery places that the Council has faced at times in recent years.</p> <p>Additional Welsh-medium Flying Start and Mudiad Meithrin provisions are planned, and further work on these aspects will progress into 2021.</p> <p>The provision of improved facilities at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed is a priority project within the Council's Band B programme, and work has now commenced on site. This project will result in capital investment of £18.7m.</p>
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Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

The January 2020 PLASC return confirmed that 103 Year 3 pupils were being taught through the medium of Welsh, an increase from 91 in the previous year. This represents 5.17% of the overall cohort value compared with 4.52% in the previous year. The demand for Welsh-medium education in Newport is increasing, demonstrated by the need to create additional provision for the September 2020 Reception cohort. This additional capacity was possible through the establishment of a 15-place “bubble class” at Ysgol Gymraeg Ifor Hael.

In September 2020, 49 children who were previously attending meithrin groups across Newport were eligible to start school, and 29 of these (equivalent to 59%) progressed to Welsh-medium schools. This compares to 39 of 52 children in September 2019 (equivalent to 75%). The reduced transition rate was attributed to a variety of factors, one being the location of Welsh-medium primary schools in comparison to meithrin groups. For example, all of the children attending Cylch Meithrin Brynglas moved on to the co-located Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion. However at other settings the transition rate was much lower. Cylch staff have provided parents with information around the benefits of being bilingual and encouraged visits to local Welsh-medium primary schools, however some parents have reported that they chose a Cylch out of convenience rather than language preference. Another family withdrew all their children from Welsh-medium provision in response to an inability to assist with home learning during the Covid-19 pandemic. Traditionally, another problem has been the lack of Rising 3 places in Welsh-medium primary schools. The introduction of two new non-maintained Welsh-medium settings in 2021 should have a positive impact on this.

There are currently 5 Cylch Meithrin provisions across Newport – *Cylch Meithrin Y Delyn*, *Cylch Meithrin Brynglas*, *Cylch Meithrin Dros Yr Enfys* (Flying Start), *Cylch Meithrin Dewin Disglair* (Flying Start) and *Cylch Meithrin Chuckles* (operated as a session within a day nursery). It is anticipated that an additional Cylch Meithrin will open in Caerleon from January 2021. As of November 2020, there is a weekly average of 11 of the available 19 places being taken up in *Cylch Meithrin Brynglas*, and 15 of the available 38 places being taken up in *Cylch Meithrin Y Delyn*. The provision at Cylch Meithrin Chuckles operates within the usual morning nursery session for 2 year olds, and as such, all registered toddlers attending morning sessions access it throughout the week. There are currently 22 children attending a morning place throughout the week. In terms of access to Flying Start provisions, there are currently 14 children allocated to *Cylch Meithrin Dros Yr Enfys* and 15 allocated to *Cylch Meithrin Dewin Disglair*.

Both *Cylch Meithrin Brynglas* and *Cylch Meithrin Y Delyn* were successful in their tender and both settings will be able to offer Foundation Phase Nursery Education from April 2021.

A dedicated primary immersion unit was established in September 2019 at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion. During the 2019/20 academic year, 7 pupils accessed the unit, 4 of whom later successfully transitioned to their respective cohort groups. The remaining 3 pupils are still accessing the immersion unit because of delays due to Covid-19.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- The school reorganisation proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school has been determined and the school will now open in September 2021;
- Two non-maintained settings have been commissioned to deliver Foundation Phase nursery education from April 2021;
- A new Cylch Meithrin will open in Caerleon in January 2021;
- Three new Welsh-medium Flying Start provisions are planned to open across the City.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

The proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school in Newport was determined in June 2020, and thus work is now underway to ensure that this school is able to open as planned in September 2021. A temporary governing body has now been established, and will work with the Council to organise the arrangements for the new school – including agreeing a name and appointing a Headteacher.

The school will be open only to Nursery and Reception pupils in the first year. The admission application window for the nursery class has opened and closed, with five first preference applications received. The admission application window for the Reception class opened in November 2020 and runs until January 2021. As regards the seedling school building, a programme of works from Newport Norse suggests that work will commence on site in February / March 2021, with an anticipated completion date of 2nd July 2021.

In March 2020, the Council commissioned two Welsh-medium playgroups to deliver Foundation Phase Nursery education. It was initially planned that this would commence in September 2020, however the restrictions around training and support for new settings because of the Covid-19 pandemic, has meant that delivery of nursery education in these settings has been delayed until April 2021. The settings are receiving virtual training and support. The contract is for a period of four years, with the option to extend for an additional year.

Mudiad Meithrin is establishing a new meithrin group in Caerleon from January 2021. This is an area that has historically seen limited demand for Welsh-medium education; however, alongside the establishment of the seedling school it is anticipated that this provision will be well received and that legacy arrangements will continue once the new school moves to its permanent location.

The new Flying Start provisions are planned for Pillgwenlly, Bettws and Ringland. The Pillgwenlly project has been delayed by four months because of the Covid-19 pandemic; however, construction is now due to start in February 2021. Completion and formal handover is scheduled for August 2021, and will provide capacity for up to a maximum of 26 children aged 2-3 years or up to a maximum of 31 children aged 3-12

years. The Bettws project is due to commence on site in May 2021, with completion scheduled for September 2021, providing capacity for up to a maximum of 29 children aged 2-3 years or up to a maximum of 36 children aged 3-12 years. The Ringland project is at a feasibility stage and is based on an expansion of current provision within the current Ringland hub. The provisions at Pillgwenlly and Bettws will need to be registered with CIW, and this is not likely to commence until after handover.

The Flying Start team has already developed excellent relationships with primary schools and robust transition processes are in place. Whilst Covid-19 has complicated this, individual 'Covid-safe' arrangements have been put in place with each setting to ensure that the transition process can go ahead. A pilot review of this will be undertaken in the spring term 2021.

The Council created a new fixed-term post of Welsh Promotion Officer in early 2020, with an individual commencing in this role in February 2020. Unfortunately, the national lockdown in response to Covid-19 commenced soon after this, and as a result, a large proportion of the planned work could not proceed, specifically around engagement with community groups. However, during this time, the "Being Bilingual" content of the School Admissions literature was reviewed and updated to reflect those questions, queries and concerns received from communities less likely to choose Welsh-medium education (e.g. BAME communities). The updated document also promotes and raises awareness of the benefits of Welsh-medium education to better recognise Newport as a multilingual city and appeal to residents who live in the area of the permanent location of the new school. This officer has since left to Council to return to education and consideration is ongoing as to how to move forward with this role.

Outcome 2: More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

In 2020, 74 Year 9 learners (4.2% of the cohort) were assessed in Welsh 1st language compared with 71 pupils assessed in Welsh (1st language) three years previously (2017) when they were in Year 6.

In September 2020, 78 pupils transferred from Newport's three Welsh-medium primary schools to Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, representing 96.2% of the pupils in the cohort. This compares with 99% of pupils who transitioned from the Welsh-medium primary schools to the secondary school in September 2019.

During the 2019/20 academic year, 1 pupil accessed immersion facilities before successfully transitioning to their correct cohort group. In addition, two pupils from within the 2020/21 Year 7 cohort group are currently accessing immersion provision within Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- The Governing Body of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed has appointed a Language Support Officer to enable immersion to be facilitated within the school, and two Year 7 pupils are currently accessing this provision.
- The Language Support Officer is also supporting pupils from older age groups who went through immersion in a different setting in previous years.
- A virtual Christmas Transition concert is being held in December 2020, with all Year 6 pupils from the cluster primary schools and Year 7 pupils from Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed taking part together.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

The two Year 7 pupils currently accessing immersion provision in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed previously attended the primary immersion unit at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion. However, their time at this provision was curtailed due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and as a result, they lost a significant amount of this learning before September 2020. Their immersion therefore will be extended over a longer period. Older pupils who went through the immersion process previously also lost some of their Welsh language skills and now need extra support.

Cluster transition activities begin in Year 5 so that parents and pupils are fully aware of the opportunities available at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed. Transition has continued this year, with all activities taking place virtually rather than through physical visits to the secondary school, including teachers introducing themselves via video link. New videos show pupils and parents the opportunities on offer at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed.

Covid-19 has had an impact on Welsh-medium schools and the Welsh language. Whilst this may not be unexpected in an area of Wales where very few parents speak Welsh themselves, primary Headteachers have reported a significant dip in oracy standards – particularly in Early Years – and a lack of confidence from pupils to use the Welsh language with their peers. Blended learning opportunities have been and are being delivered, but there are less on-line resources and reading schemes available in Welsh, which has therefore put additional pressure on staff in Welsh-medium schools.

Menter Iaith Casnewydd cooperates with a national network of Mentrâu Iaith to create and share resources and opportunities that support the learning and the use of the Welsh Language. This work is in the local community and online in the digital community. There are virtual activities, quizzes, clubs and forums for the Welsh-medium pupils, and they run events and activities for children, parents, and families providing additional opportunities and locations for learning and using the Welsh Language.

Menter Iaith Casnewydd also provide after school care to Welsh-medium primary school pupils with fun opportunities to socialize, play and build confidence and pride in Welsh beyond the classroom in a safe, exciting and caring environment. Prior to Covid-19, clubs were operating at Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd and Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion. In September 2020, the club at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Teyrnion re-opened, and the overall aim is to provide clubs at each of Newport's Welsh-medium primary schools.

Outcome 3: More 14-16 year old students studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

The school cohort at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed includes Year 11 from September 2020, and therefore the full KS4 curriculum is now being provided as required. There are currently 81 learners in Year 10 and 77 learners in Year 11. The school is complying with the Learning Skills Measure.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed is benefitting from capital investment under the Council's 21st Century Schools Band B programme. Works have commenced on site and are scheduled for completion in the spring term of 2022.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

The budget for these capital works was agreed as £16.5m. However, following detailed design and tender, project costs inflated significantly, resulting in a £5.2m funding gap. The Council, providing a total maximum budget of £18.7m, has identified additional funding of £2.2m. The funding gap was the focus of the value engineering/scope reduction exercise, and in the circumstances, there was no viable alternative to removing the sports hall building from the project. The planned provision for the school hall has also been reduced.

This has been shared with the Headteacher and Chair of Governors who have expressed concern that this decision will mean that the school will be unable to deliver a full Key Stage 4 curriculum offer, and will affect the ability to make productions for parents, cluster school pupils and the wider community. Having provision to allow external companies to perform through the medium of Welsh would benefit the uptake for Welsh-medium education.

These changes to the project will have consequences for curriculum delivery, pupil wellbeing, staff retention and recruitment.

Outcome 4: More 16-19 year old students studying through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work based learning

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

The school cohort will include Year 12 from September 2021 and Year 13 from September 2022. The Headteacher is in the process of identifying those students likely to be accessing post-16 education on the site to confirm curriculum arrangements.

Post-16 transport is a discretionary service which the Council funds at £150 per year for each eligible student (applies to attendance at school or college).

Coleg Gwent has confirmed a decrease in both the number of learners engaging with enrichment activities and the units completed in Welsh as a direct result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Between 1st September 2019 and 6th March 2020, 827 learner engagements took place through the medium of Welsh, compared to 208 for the period from 9th March 2020 to 31st July 2020. This was a marked decrease particularly when, under usual circumstances, a significant number of events are scheduled to take place over the summer term.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- The Council is working with Careers Wales to raise awareness of the economic benefit of learning and using Welsh learnt through studying a variety of subjects.
- The research commissioned by the Council to assess training provision, and gaps, for early years and childcare, will provide a basis to develop provision with stakeholders and encourage students to continue studying through the medium of Welsh.
- Coleg Gwent have reported plans to support additionality in terms of Welsh-medium Childcare units and to facilitate a variety of enrichment activities.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

The establishment of Post-16 provision at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed will have significant cost implications for the school. Post-16 funding is allocated from Welsh Government and is based on pupil numbers. This pupil number is likely to be small in the first year, and providing a broad curriculum, even with collaboration, is going to be a challenge.

The Headteacher and Chair of Governors have also expressed concern that the reduced Band B investment will affect the curriculum offer and delivery at Key Stage 5, and that ultimately this could result in reduced pupil numbers and the loss of experienced staff.

Coleg Gwent has advised that the planned additionality sessions were not delivered in the summer term of 2020 due to the Covid-19 pandemic. However, from September 2020, all Level 3 Childcare learners enrolled at the Newport Campus will complete one full unit of their main qualification bilingually. This unit requires them to evidence how they promoted and supported Welsh in an early years setting.

Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

End of Key Stage data:

It is now the Welsh Government expectation that school targets should only be used to support self-evaluation and should not be aggregated up to a local authority or regional measure of performance.

Siarter Iaith:

All of Newport's Welsh-medium schools are working on Gold award objectives, and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed has adopted the Siarter Iaith framework.

Cymraeg Campus:

22 primary schools are working on Silver award objectives and 13 are working towards the initial Bronze award. Secondary schools are at various stages of formal adoption of the Charter. Three English medium secondary schools have formal Charter plans in place.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- Provide bespoke support to schools and settings in line with agreed school improvement priorities that arise from self-evaluation and reflect the current situation and positions of schools and settings.
- Support schools with the Continuity of Learning agenda and the recovery and development of language skills in order to maintain and raise standards in the current climate. Design and model distance and blended learning resources and approaches, to support the development of literacy and language skills.
- Share best practice across schools capitalising on school-to-school models and through professional learning.
- Provide ongoing support for the Welsh language Charter in Welsh-medium and English-medium schools through professional learning, school-to-school support, and verification as appropriate, moving forward.
- Provide professional learning and bespoke support and guidance to schools to help them realise Curriculum for Wales.
- Online activities for children and young people in the Newport area.
- Face-to-face sporting activities.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

In order to support schools through the initial Covid-19 crisis, the EAS has worked with Welsh Government, partners including Estyn and with schools to develop a shared, research informed understanding of distance and blended learning and to develop and share distance and blended learning resources and approaches. This work led to the launch of the EAS Distance and Blended Learning website (Nov 2020) and a series of Blended Learning Masterclasses. Masterclasses included a specific session for Welsh-medium schools with over 100 regional participants in attendance at the Welsh language event.

As well as supporting EAS driven initiatives, the Welsh in Education team has worked extensively with cross-consortia colleagues and education stakeholders (including Estyn and NAEL) to develop a bank of distance and blended learning resources supporting the ongoing development of Welsh literacy skills within each phase of learning. Consideration of the needs of pupils who come from non-Welsh speaking homes and who attend Welsh medium education has been at the forefront of developmental work. The resource bank reached approaching 150 distance learning resources by the end of the Summer term 2020. National collaboration continues in support of the Welsh language in both Welsh-medium and English-medium schools with ongoing resource development. Schools have the opportunity to engage with the work as consultative partners and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed has contributed significantly to the developmental work for KS3 and KS4 alongside peers from across Wales. This collaboration across consortia and including schools has worked well to identify needs and to target resource development appropriately.

All resources have been made available through the Hwb resource platform for use by schools in support of distance learning. Resources have also been shared via EAS Hwb networks and via Heads of Welsh and Literacy Coordinator network meetings where the focus has now shifted from distance learning to the blend. Future work will be shared via the EAS Distance and Blended Learning Resource area of the website and via national platforms.

Whilst in-school support was paused, this has recommenced in the autumn term. To ensure the safety of all partners there now is a balanced approach between the ongoing developments of resources and modelling of blended learning, virtual professional learning and school support in line with self-evaluation and school priorities.

Half-termly Heads of Welsh networks have continued to convene virtually to enable ongoing dialogue on standards, distance and blended learning and changes to qualifications. Language Coordinator network meetings have enabled the sharing of key messages and best practice by Learning Network Schools.

Support for the Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg Campus is ongoing however, verification of progress towards Gold/Silver/Bronze awards has been paused for review in Spring 2021. The Siarter Iaith has a central role to play in maintaining language skills, particularly for learners from non-Welsh speaking homes.

The EAS approach has been on sharing best practice in language recovery methods (including drill and the development and use of vocabulary and language patterns) in partnership with LNS and the regional Siarter Iaith lead. The EAS have also developed a suite of resources to support parents.

Primary:

Cymraeg: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/HsK8VRP1o2Mwk/>

English: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/jukWji7b3NMHa/>

Secondary:

Cymraeg: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/W0RV3W0FbrE11/>

English: <https://spark.adobe.com/page/Opwl1woGoSu3x/>

There will be a renewed focus on Cymraeg Campus in the Spring term to ensure momentum is maintained. A Welsh Government review of the Charter Framework and Approach has been published. The EAS will support the response to the Charter review findings.

The Council has agreed a Community Partnership with the Newport Gwent Dragons to raise the profile of the Welsh language in local and diverse communities and through various education streams. The project is aimed at developing opportunities for young people to gain leadership and team working skills whilst using Welsh in the community and it is intended that this will demonstrate and raise awareness of Welsh as a living language outside the field of education and work. Unfortunately, this has not progressed as planned due to Covid-19, but a project was taken forward with pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed to support Gwyl Newydd.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Urdd has postponed planned community activities for 2020. However, some national digital sessions were facilitated, and it is hoped that these will be rolled out on a local level shortly to compliment community work. The work of the Youth Officer has continued however, with this service offered to pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, and Urdd Sports Clubs have re-started. In early 2021, Urdd will offer schools a package of activities to meet individual needs. Urdd is also working closely with the Youth Service on Welsh language youth provision in the area and a new digital Welsh Language youth club will start in 2021. All English-medium secondary schools will be able to access various activities through the Cymraeg Pob Dydd Programme.

Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

There is no annual data to report in relation to his outcome area.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- To establish a regional ALN group to work with the ALN Transformational Lead to address Welsh-medium ALN Provision, including a Managed Move Protocol.
- To ensure that work progresses around establishing a LRB provision within the Welsh-medium primary school estate.
- To support the regional ALN group in working with the ALN Transformational Lead to look at ways in which regional working can support pupils with ALN who are accessing Welsh-medium education.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

A Primary Managed Move Protocol has been developed for all Primary School clusters across Newport, including the Welsh-medium cluster. An initial discussion has taken place with Heads of Inclusion from the five LAs across the South East Wales region to agree to collaborate on a regional Managed Move protocol however due to Covid-19 this work has yet to be progressed.

The proposal to establish a new Welsh-medium primary school in Newport was determined in June 2020, and thus work is now underway to ensure that this school is able to open as planned in September 2021. The proposal includes the establishment of Welsh-medium primary LRB provision, although this will not be introduced until the school moves to its permanent location in September 2023.

The Assistant Head of Education (Inclusion) has enabled the Educational Psychologist linked to the Welsh-medium cluster to access a Welsh course to expand her knowledge of the Welsh language. The SEWC Inclusion group has also discussed exploring opportunities to share resources across the region, such as Welsh speaking Educational Psychologists.

Through ALN Transformation work, specific Welsh ALN resources have been identified and will be purchased for each Welsh-medium cluster across the region. This has been delayed however, in part due to Covid-19 and in part due to the retirement of a key lead in September 2020.

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development (CPD)

KEY ANNUAL DATA

(where possible, please note if data shows a % increase / decrease since previous reporting period)

The LA holds data collected through the SWAC survey in relation to practitioner language skills. The EAS has collated local, school specific data on staff language and methodology training needs. This is being used to target schools and practitioners.

Sabbatical Scheme - Welsh in a Year Programme (14 places available to each region annually):

- One teacher from Newport attended and completed the 2019-2020 WG funded Welsh in a Year Programme
- Two teachers from Newport currently attending the 2020-2021 WG funded Welsh in a Year Programme

Over the last three years, six Newport teachers have enrolled on Welsh in a Year training.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

(please list the intended actions and use the progress/update/pressures section to provide further information)

- Deliver an ongoing regional programme of professional learning in support of language and methodology development linked to need. Deliver specialist language training and work with communities of schools via the LNS model (Ysgol Gymraeg Casnewydd, Gaer Primary) to share best practice in teaching and learning.
- Support understanding of and accurate personal assessment against the National Language Competency Framework descriptions ensuring that regional professional learning notes clearly the skills focus/level of each language-training event.
- Work with Welsh Government to tailor and implement future Sabbatical Scheme models and support recruitment.
- Provide follow up support to Sabbatical Scheme attendees, and work with Sabbatical Scheme attendees, in particular Welsh in a Year graduates to build capacity through the regional cluster and LNS model
- Provide professional learning linked to the LLC language continuum to help schools realise Curriculum for Wales.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

(please use this section to report on progress made during 2020 as well as highlight where progress has been impacted by Covid-19)

Comparing professional learning data 2018-19 and 2019-20 is challenging due to the impact of Covid-19 on professional learning needs, availability of staff working in the new normal and pressures on teacher release.

Professional learning has been maintained with a number of events held over the summer term of 2020, although attendance was variable due to Covid pressures:

- 16 language and methodology events targeted at practitioners in the primary phase (English-medium) - 35 participants from Newport schools
- 2 Heads of Welsh network events (1 x Welsh-medium and 1 x English-medium) - 1 Welsh-medium secondary school and 1 English-medium secondary school from Newport engaged.
- 1 Literacy Coordinator event (Welsh-medium).

Whilst synchronous, face-to-face virtual learning was on offer, a professional learning playlist was also made available to staff (English-medium and Welsh-medium practitioners) to support personal language skill development and share information on grammar and language checking tools, during the summer term 2020.

<http://bitly.ws/8GJF> (English)

<http://bitly.ws/8GJm> (Cymraeg)

Professional learning in the autumn term has continued through synchronous face-to-face opportunities but all methodology training and presentations in network events have also been made available to all EAS teachers asynchronously through Webinar recordings.

- 4 x Heads of Welsh (2 x English-medium and 2 x Welsh-medium)
- 1 x Literacy coordinator network meeting
- 1 x Charter coordinator network meeting (Welsh-medium) and 1 x Charter cluster event
- 23 language and methodology events targeted at practitioners in the primary phase (English-medium)

Sabbatical training programmes are currently on hold and Welsh Government is reviewing planning for future training in light of the current crisis. The Welsh in a Year programme for 2019-20 is underway through a blended learning model with two participants from Newport engaged. Data on synchronous engagement currently being collated. All practitioners who have completed the Welsh in a Year scheme have received additional funding from the EAS to continue their Welsh language journey and develop projects and workstreams that will build on linguistic capital. The additional grant is subject to terms and conditions and these are monitored through dedicated EAS support and guidance visits. To date, the EAS (through follow up visits and network meetings facilitated by the Welsh team) are able to report that practitioners have:

- Developed school-based projects in support of the Welsh language. They have developed and trialled work in relation to Welsh across the curriculum (Curriculum for Wales) and have delivered in-house language and methodology training. They have also made progress with the Cymraeg Campus award.
- They have shared best practice in the regional Sabbatical Network where practitioners convene with all past Sabbatical Scheme participants (all Sabbatical courses) and Cardiff University colleagues, to share approaches to in-house and cluster development, and share newly developed resources.
- Delivered language training to TAs within their clusters. The EAS have collated evidence of TA responses to cluster training provided by practitioners with positive feedback collated e.g. Bassaleg cluster

- A practitioner from Maindee Primary School has been appointed an EAS Sabbatical Champion for 2020-21 and is working with the EAS to further develop and plan the approach to the development of Welsh through big/ideas / themes in line with Curriculum for Wales. This work will support all Sabbatical Graduates to further explore planning approaches following share practice and discussion at the EAS Sabbatical Network.
- Sabbatical practitioners have also further invested in their personal language journey following completion of their Sabbatical Year (e.g. Maindee Primary – Cwrs Uwch)
- Headteachers from funded schools are fully engaged with programme expectations and grant terms and conditions and provide positive feedback on the impact of the scheme on their schools.

Alway Primary School has been a Learning Network School for Welsh in English-medium primaries for the last two academic years (2017-19). The Headteacher has seen at first-hand how the sabbatical scheme (Welsh in a Year and 3 month sabbatical scheme) has impacted positively on the ethos and developing standards of Welsh provision within the school and continues to send staff on Welsh in a Year and other sabbatical schemes as a result.

Increasing pressures to recruit Welsh-medium secondary teachers is a significant concern and needs an urgent regional and national response. The Council has commissioned work, which commenced this year, to understand the gaps in Welsh-medium education/training focussing on career development in the childcare/early year's sector, with the aim of making a series of recommendations to respond to these. The project has experienced some delays due to COVID-19 restrictions but continues to be developed.

Working with Careers Wales, the Council has helped develop a number of vlogs and chats to promote Welsh as a workplace skill that will help people get jobs and gain employment and demonstrate how Welsh is used in the workplace. It is intended that this will support careers events to encourage pupils to look for employment that will develop their language skills.

FORWARD LOOK MILESTONES	<i>To ensure that the new Welsh-medium primary school opens as planned; To support planned expansion of provision across Early Years, Flying Start and Mudiad Meithrin; To review current methods for promoting and stimulating demand for Welsh-medium education; To work with partners and stakeholders to develop a new WESP for Newport.</i>
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Date:	17 th December 2020