

**RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL**

**MUNICIPAL YEAR 2018-19**

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**26<sup>th</sup> September 2018**

**REPORT OF:  
DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND  
INCLUSION SERVICES**

**Agenda Item No. 3**

**Welsh in Education Strategic Plan  
(WESP) Update of Progress**

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**1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide an update on the actions outlined in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (2017-2020) as approved by the Welsh Government on 15 March 2018, and as agreed in Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee on Tuesday 1 May 2018.
- 1.2 To provide Members with relevant Pupil Level Annual School Census (January 2018) data for Rhondda Cynon Taf.
- 1.3 To provide Members with provisional 2018 data on the numbers of pupils taught Welsh in the Central South Consortium (CSC), the Joint Education Service for the Rhondda Cynon Taf, Bridgend, Merthyr, Vale of Glamorgan and Cardiff County Councils.
- 1.4 To present comparative data on the targets detailed in the WESP (2017-2020).

**2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 2.1 Acknowledge the contents of the report.
- 2.2 Consider whether they wish to scrutinise any parts in greater depth.

**3. BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 places a duty on local authorities to consult on, produce and review three year plans that provide the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of Welsh medium and Welsh language education in their locality.

- 3.2 The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan includes seven outcomes setting out how local authorities will be expected to improve Welsh medium and Welsh language education in the area. Priorities include:

**Outcome 1:**

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

**Outcome 2:**

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

**Outcome 3:**

More 14-16 year old students studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

**Outcome 4:**

More 16–19 year old students studying through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work based learning.

**Outcome 5:**

More learners with higher skills in Welsh.

**Outcome 6:**

Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs (ALN).

**Outcome 7:**

Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development (CPD).

**4. CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 Following a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee meeting held on Tuesday 1 May 2018, it was resolved:
- To provide Members with an update against the WESP action plan;
  - To provide Members with comparative data from other Authorities across Wales;
  - To receive an update from the Strategic Working Group informing Members of their progress;
  - For the Chair, Vice Chair and a small group of Members to meet with Officers to consider what specific data was needed for the Committee to further scrutinise on this subject area.
- 4.2 The Chair and Vice Chair of Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Heledd Fychan met with Officers on 7 September 2018. It was agreed that a progress report on the Actions outlined in the WESP would be provided for Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the 26<sup>th</sup> of September 2018.
- 4.3 Updated actions are detailed in Appendix 1.

- 4.4 The Pupil Level Annual School Census (January 2018) suggests that the percentage of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh at primary level has not increased during the past academic year. There has been a marginal decrease in the percentage of learners taught in Welsh medium secondary schools.

**Table 1: Percentage of Learners Taught in Welsh Medium Settings**

School Type	% Welsh Medium Learners 2017	% Welsh Medium Learners 2018
Primary	19.04	19.04
Secondary	19.45	19.35

- 4.5 The Pupil Level Annual School Census (January 2018) on dual medium settings suggests that Penderyn Primary continues to increase its percentage of pupils taught through the medium of Welsh. Over the last 5 years, the numbers of learners educated in the Welsh stream in this setting has increased by 6.5%. Both Dolau Primary School and Heol Y Celyn had a slight dip in the percentage of pupils taught in the Welsh medium stream last year.

**Table 2: Percentage of Learners Taught in Dual Medium Settings**

School	% Welsh Medium Learners 2017	% Welsh Medium Learners 2018
Penderyn Primary	75.21	76.82
Heol-y-Celyn Primary	32.23	30.11
Dolau Primary	42.89	41.27

- 4.6 Provisional data for 2018 relating to the numbers of pupils taught Welsh in the Central South Consortium (CSC) suggests that there has been a slight increase in the number of pupils taught Welsh as a first language across CSC. A slight reduction in the numbers was evident in Rhondda Cynon Taf when comparing 2017 and 2018 datasets. The data is based on statutory school aged pupils between the ages of 5 and 15 who are taught Welsh as first language in primary, middle and secondary schools only.

**Table 3: Percentage of Welsh First Language Learners in Central South Consortium**

LA	% Welsh First Language 2017	% Welsh First Language 2018	Change (2018-2017)
Bridgend	7.56	7.57	0.01
The Vale of Glamorgan	12.31	12.38	0.07
Rhondda Cynon Taf	19.11	18.80	-0.30
Merthyr Tydfil	7.40	7.34	-0.06
Cardiff	14.50	14.80	0.30
Central South Consortium	13.87	13.92	0.04

Rhondda Cynon Taf has the highest percentage of pupils who are taught Welsh as a first language at 18.80 %.

4.7 The data for Rhondda Cynon Taf against a number of key outcomes is provided in Appendix 2. Data highlights:

- a reduction of 0.72% in the number of 7 year olds being taught through the medium of Welsh in mainstream schools over the last 3 years (from 2015/16-2017/18);
- a reduction of 1.41% of learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school from 2014/15-16/17;
- 444 learners (92.12%) aged 14-16 studied at least 5 Level 1 or Level 2 Welsh medium qualifications in 2016/17, which suggests a growth of 26.35% from 2015/16;
- 482 learners (95.44%) aged 14-16 studied at least 2 Level 1 or Level 2 Welsh medium qualifications in 2016/17, which suggests a growth of 3.95% from 2015/16
- 15.09% of 17 year old learners studied at least 2 Level 1 and Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh in 2016/17, 0.79% less than 2015/16.
- A slight increase of 0.42% in the percentage of learners achieving A\*-C grades in Welsh first language Key Stage 4 outcomes (74.69%, 2016/17)

## **5. NEXT STEPS**

- 5.1 The local authority will continue to monitor and review the effective implementation of the WESP (2017-2020) in partnership with relevant agencies. A robust and appropriate planning and review framework is in place to ensure its effective implementation.

## **6. CONCLUSION**

- 6.1 Data suggests that progress has been evident on some measures; namely the numbers of learners achieving at least 2 or 5 Welsh medium Level 1 and 2 qualifications at Key Stage 4. An increase in the percentage of Key Stage 4 learners achieving A\*-C grade in Welsh (first language) was also evident in 2016/17. The percentage of Welsh first language learners in Rhondda Cynon Taf is the highest in Central South Consortium region. Other measures suggest that there is still scope for further improvement and the numbers of learners accessing Welsh medium education has remained relatively stable over the last 2 years.
- 6.2 Rhondda Cynon Taf remains committed to supporting the growth in Welsh medium education in line with Cymraeg 2050: a million speakers. The WESP brings together many different components of local Welsh medium strategic planning and highlights the different roles that key partners need to play to support the development of Welsh medium education and Welsh language education in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

## Appendix 1

### School Organisation

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
<p>Outcome 1: More seven year olds learners being taught through the medium of Welsh</p> <p>Achieve target of 21% (550) in 2016/2017 &amp; a achieve target of 23% (560) in 2017/2018 (modelled on current pupil numbers in younger age groups)</p>	New and improved school buildings with appropriate capacity levels to fully meet forecasted demand for Welsh Medium (WM) provision in their catchment areas	End of March 2024	A report is being presented to the Council Cabinet on the 20 <sup>th</sup> of September 2018. Further reports will be submitted as and when appropriate
	Extended school buildings to meet forecasted demand for WM provision in their catchment area	End of March 2024	A report is being presented to the Council's Cabinet on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 to obtain approval to commence projects to extend YGG Aberdar and YG Rhydywaun
	Revisions to catchment areas of some WM Primary schools, to better align supply and demand for WM school places (to utilise spare capacity that currently exists). As at January 2017, there were a total of 550 spare places across the WM Primary schools in RCT and 1146 spare places in the WM Secondary schools. WG guidance states that we must first utilise spare capacity that exists within a reasonable distance before any new provision can be made	End of March 2024	A report is being presented to the Council's Cabinet on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 to obtain approval to commence consultation on proposals which will include making Penderyn Primary School a full Welsh Medium school, with alterations to its catchment area

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	Consideration of making dual language Primary schools into full WM schools	By March 2024	Work is progressing under the Band B School Modernisation Education Programme. In addition a report will be presented to Cabinet on 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2018 to consider a proposal in the south of the County Borough. The Council will continue to progress to secure appropriate funding to deliver full Welsh medium schools removing dual language status

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>Relocation of pre-school provision, such as Cylch Meithrin to school sites whenever opportunities arise. This has recently been successfully achieved at Tonyrefail, with the relocation of a Meithrin from a community centre to YGG Tonyrefail. Co- location of this kind of provision on school sites will greatly assist the process of transition into statutory school</p>	End of March 2024	<p>This model will also be considered as part of our Band B proposals with regard to co-location of community facilities on school sites. In addition Business Cases have been submitted to Welsh Government for funding to provide additional provision in areas where demand has been recognised by the Child Care Sufficiency Audit</p> <p>Outcome of the decision of the bid by Welsh Government is anticipated end of September 2018</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress



	<p>Appropriate business cases prepared with evidence to support bids for monies to provide additional school capacity from housing developers where opportunities arise</p>	<p>On-going, as and when larger scale planning applications are submitted (or advance information received from Development Control)</p>	<p>A report is being presented to the Council's Cabinet on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 to obtain approval to commence consultation on a proposal to create a new school provision, with 540 places in total for the new Llanilid housing development in Llanharan</p> <p>This provision will open, in the first instance, as an extension to Dolau Primary School, which is a dual language provision. This will enable the new provision to be established as part of a recognised, successful school and will also give parents purchasing homes on the development the option of choosing a Welsh medium education for their children</p>
	<p>Ensure that our WM Secondary Schools have sufficient capacity to meet recognised demand for places, to ensure a seamless transition from KS2 to KS3/4/5. This is to be achieved using the same sub actions/milestones outlined for Primary schools, as detailed above</p>	<p>End of March 2024</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>





Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>Talk and Play</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase use of basic Welsh phrases in Talk and Play Playgroups</li> <li>• Increase use of Welsh reading books and songs</li> <li>• Explore use of Welsh version of WellComm Assessment</li> </ul> <p>Children's Centres</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage Welsh Language course providers to deliver from Children's Centres</li> <li>• Deliver themes family open days and Welsh language taster sessions</li> </ul> <p>Increase number of Welsh medium Flying Start placements by 10% (total 25% WM placements)</p> <p>Increase spot purchasing of childcare contracts to include an additional 3 Welsh medium providers</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>January 2018</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>July 2018</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>January 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Enhanced usage and introduction of phrase of the week</p> <p>Bilingual story books now used and these are loaned to parents. Weekly singing of Welsh songs and nursery rhymes</p> <p>Assessment offered in Welsh but literature is not in Welsh</p> <p>Free usage of facilities provided to encourage course delivery</p> <p>Taster sessions held and included clog dancing, silent Welsh disco, Welsh for beginners. 200 attendees over 3 days. In addition, Welsh themed singing and dancing Teddy Bears Picnic (3500 in attendance)</p> <p>Achieved</p> <p>25% of placements are now WM</p>

**Youth Engagement and Participation Service + Partners**

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
<p>Outcome 3: More 14-16 year old students studying qualifications through the WM;</p> <p>Outcome 4: More 16-19 year old students studying through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges or WBL.</p>	<p>Research and create an information tool for young people stating the benefits and options of Welsh medium further education and employment. This will need to be created with young people</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<p>Menter Iaith are currently researching and developing this information tool however they have not finalised and confirmed this tool</p>
	<p>Complete a summary report evidencing the research findings highlighting the appropriate tool to use to share this information with young people</p>	<p>March 2018</p>	<p>Menter Iaith are still researching the appropriate information tool therefore have not yet completed a summary report evidencing the findings</p>
	<p>Promote the information tool to young people through schools/colleges/clubs/websites/ career days and community events</p>	<p>April 2018</p>	<p>This is currently ongoing as the information tool has not yet been confirmed</p>
	<p>Identify partners/organisations that could deliver bespoke language awareness sessions for young people highlighting the value of having Welsh language as a skill</p>	<p>December 2017</p>	<p>Menter Iaith &amp; Urdd have completed these sessions Urdd – delivered raising awareness sessions to 350 young people at Tonypany, Aberdare and Mountain Ash Comprehensive Schools</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	Coordinate and monitor the delivery of these sessions in schools/colleges and community settings	January–March 2018	Urdd currently collating feedback from young people and schools and will report on suggested improvements
	Evaluate the effectiveness of these sessions through questionnaires/surveys and generate a report	January-March 2018	Funding applications for 2018/19 will be sent to SMT and Welsh departments in schools
	Coordinate a timetable of events to target sixth formers and college students to meet and use the Welsh language by providing social opportunities for them	December 2017	<p>Menter Iaith and Urdd offer provision for post-16 young people by organising concerts and senior youth clubs at Treorchy and Pontypridd (30+ young people)</p> <p>Menter Iaith support Welsh speaking young people to present a weekly radio show on GTFM every Sunday (with over 1000 listeners)</p> <p>Urdd offer 6<sup>th</sup> formers volunteering opportunities at various events including sports competitions and residential weekends</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
			YEPS offer volunteering opportunities for 6 <sup>th</sup> formers to support Welsh medium provision, including lunch time, after school, evening and holiday provision
	<p>Promote the events</p> <p>Record the number of young people attending and evaluate through questionnaires and surveys</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>January 2018 onwards</p>	<p>Events promoted through the schools/colleges, Wicid website and social media</p> <p>Menter Iaith – 25+ young people Urdd – 40+ YEPS – volunteering opportunities only offered from September 2018</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>Deliver 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd' (Welsh Every Day) to encourage young people studying Welsh as a second language to take on further study to encourage the use of the language outside of school</p> <p>Record the number of young people attending and evaluate through questionnaires and surveys</p>	<p>March 2018</p> <p>September 2018</p>	<p>Urdd delivered awareness sessions to 350 young people at Tonypany, Aberdare and Mountain Ash comprehensives. The secondary schools have liaised with the Urdd youth worker on utilising the offer of £500 to promote the language, eg Tafwyl (annual Welsh Festival in Cardiff), Eisteddfod and bringing in external tutors to promote cultural activities</p> <p>Applications for 2018/19 sent to SMT and Welsh departments in schools</p>



Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>Deliver social Welsh language events and activities for young people including residential opportunities, eisteddfodau, sport and accreditation</p>	<p>March 2018</p>	<p>YEPS – Welsh medium after school clubs offered at the 4 Welsh medium secondary schools during term times. Summer holiday activities offered through the medium of Welsh for both Welsh and English medium schools, included gorge walking, rafting and team building. In total, 241 activities were offered through the medium of Welsh, with 269 participants, and 41% of these were identified as the most vulnerable young people</p> <p>Accredited courses (Work Related Education and PSE) were delivered to 45 young people at 3 of the Welsh medium Secondary Schools</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
Outcome 5: More Learners with Higher Skills in Welsh	<p>Establish a Welsh language working group that will develop a joint strategy by September 2017, that enables Welsh to become the language of social and leisure activities</p> <p>Welsh language working group meetings to take place quarterly, with set agenda and minutes</p> <p>Complete an action plan alongside the strategy to be updated quarterly in line with the strategy</p>	<p>September 2017</p> <p>Quarterly</p> <p>December 2017</p>	<p>The working group was established with Youth Workers from YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith. As part of the action plan the working group have worked in partnership to offer several social opportunities for young people in RCT to participate in Sport Leisure and Cultural opportunities through the medium of Welsh. This includes after school activities in the 4 Secondary Schools, holiday provision and 2 Welsh medium Youth Clubs (Talbot Green &amp; Garth Olwg), offering evening provision for Welsh speaking young people and Welsh learners</p> <p>The Urdd and YEPS supported Menter Iaith at Parti Ponty, which was an Event held at Pontypridd to promote the Welsh language</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>Map out the current provision offered by local authorities and community organisations through the Welsh language, identifying gaps and highlight areas of need</p> <p>Ensure that the provision that is offered is advertised on Dewis</p>	<p>January 2018</p> <p>March 2018</p>	<p>The working group share information on current provision, and have identified evening provision and post 16 provision as significant gaps. YEPS now offer Welsh Medium Youth Club at Garth Olwg with 25+ attending and Penderyn with 15+ attending. The Urdd and YEPS offer evening provision at Talbot Green. These clubs are also open to Welsh Learners</p> <p>Menter Iaith and Urdd offer post-16 provision at Treorchy and Pontypridd following the mapping exercise</p> <p>YEPS have updated information on Dewis and the Wicid website. The working group have identified that promoting the provisions to young people would also be effective using social media, therefore Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram have been utilised</p>

Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Delivery Date <i>(Month/Year)</i>	Progress
	<p>RCT Graduate Officers to complete the Welsh Language standards report which is an audit of the Welsh language skills of the Council's commissioned partners</p> <p>Develop an 'information pack' to distribute to each organisation/community club that has been commissioned by the Council</p> <p>Distribute and promote the information pack both internally and externally to the LA</p> <p>Evaluate the effectiveness of the information pack through feedback from partners</p> <p>Create a timetable of community based social events targeting 16+ and promote</p>	<p>October 2017</p> <p>December 2017</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>March 2018</p> <p>Quarterly</p>	<p>KH (RCT Graduate Officer) - Report presented to Welsh Language Cabinet Steering Group in November 2017</p> <p>Information pack prepared and disseminated as required</p> <p>Pack to be distributed to organisations</p> <p>Restructure of Communities First has prevented progress</p> <p>This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS programme. YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iath utilise each other's social media platforms and the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people</p>

<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Milestones/Sub Actions</b>	<b>Delivery Date</b> <i>(Month/Year)</i>	<b>Progress</b>
	Establish links with the RCT County Youth Forum and other youth forums regarding the promotion of Welsh language provision	January 2018	Menter Iaith support Youth Forums at the 4 Welsh medium Secondary Schools. Individuals from these forums attend the YEPS County Youth Forum that are held quarterly. The Welsh translation service attends the meetings
	Work in partnership to coordinate and deliver holiday programmes through the Welsh language	January 2018	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS programme. YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media platforms and the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people
	Promote activities delivered through the Welsh language through websites and social media platforms	January 2018	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS programme. YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media platforms and the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people

<b>Success Criteria</b>	<b>Milestones/Sub Actions</b>	<b>Delivery Date</b> <i>(Month/Year)</i>	<b>Progress</b>

	<p>Identify champions (both young people and adults) that can attend community events to engage with the public and promote activities on offer through the Welsh language in RCT</p>	<p>March 2018</p>	<p>Welsh language working group chaired by YEPS has focused on promoting provision through Welsh</p> <p>Young people from the Menter Iaith youth forums promote opportunities in RCT for young people at their Schools. YEPS staff attended several community events (Parti Ponty, Big Bite etc) during the summer to promote opportunities for young people, including Welsh medium provision</p>
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**Comparative data on the targets as noted in the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020**

**Outcome 1: More seven-year-old children being taught through the medium of Welsh**

2015/16	2016/17	2017/2018
<b>With Special Schools</b> Academic year 2015/16: 19.18% (n=545; d=2841)	<b>With Special Schools</b> Academic year 2016/17: 18.64% (n=524; d=2810)	<b>With Special Schools</b> Academic year 2016/17: 18.39% (n=543; d=2952)
<b>Without Special Schools</b> 19.31% (n=545; d=2821)	<b>Without Special Schools</b> 18.64% (n=524; d=2781)	<b>Without Special Schools</b> 18.59% (n=543; d=2921)

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

2014/15	2015/16	2016/17
<b>Without Special Schools</b> Academic Year 2014/15: 19.59% (n=494) D=2522	<b>Without Special Schools</b> Academic Year 2015/16: 18.17% (n=442) D=2433	<b>Without Special Schools</b> Academic Year 2016/17: 18.18% (n=495) D=2722

**Outcome 3: More learners aged 14-16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh**

Year	Entries WFL	Number studying 5+ further L1 or L2 WM qualifications	% studying 5+ further L1 or L2 WM qualifications
2016/17	482	444	92.12
2015/16	482	317	65.77

Year	Entries WFL	Number studying 2+ further L1 or L2 WM qualifications	% studying 2+ further L1 or L2 WM qualifications
2016/17	482	460	95.44
2015/16	482	441	91.49

**Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 in study subjects through the medium of Welsh through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning**

Year	Cohort 17 Year olds	Number studying 2+ qualifications through WM	% studying 2+ qualifications through WM
2016/17	1173	177	15.09
2015/16	1278	203	15.88

**Outcome 5: Improving provision and standards in Welsh First Language (Key Stage 4)**

Year	Entries WFL	A*-C WFL	% A*-C WFL
2016/17	482	360	74.69
2015/16	482	358	74.27