

# Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council

## Welsh in Education Strategic Plan

2017 – 2020

**Reviewed November 2017**

This document is available in Welsh on request.



## Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for Blaenau Gwent 2017-2020

**1. Please state your local authority's vision, goal and objectives for Welsh medium education over the next three years. Please refer to section 19 in the guidance for what you need to include in this section.**

### **Vision:**

The Council and the Welsh Education Forum's vision is that we want Blaenau Gwent to be a better place to live and work, we want vibrant communities and by promoting Welsh medium education we aim to equip residents and visitors with the skills to use the Welsh language increasingly in the years to come. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) will place emphasis on children and young people, but will also cascade into family and community settings.

The Draft Blaenau Gwent WESP takes into consideration the following Welsh Government's Strategy and Policy Framework, including:

- the Child Poverty Act (2010),
- School Standards and Organisation Wales Act (2013), the School Organisation Code (2013),
- the Wellbeing of Future Generations Act (2015),
- 'Rewriting the Future' (2015).
- *Successful Futures Donaldson Review (2015)* –Report on the Curriculum and Assessment Arrangements in Wales
- Special Educational Needs (SEN) framework (2010) now known as Additional Learning Needs (ALN) reform

### **Objectives:**

- **Raise the profile and levels of participation for Welsh-medium education across the County Borough by 2020, to contribute to the vision for one million speakers by 2050.**
- **Increase the early year's provision offer to stimulate parental demand to enable growth across the County Borough.**
- **Increase transition rates from Welsh-medium nursery provision to Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg by 50% in 2020.**
- **Work regionally with South East Wales Local Authorities to secure places for Blaenau Gwent learners in Welsh-medium secondary provision between 2017/2020 and beyond.**
- **Improving Welsh medium learner outcomes by 2020 so that learners raise aspirations and improve their life chances.**

### **Statement:**

Welsh Government has recently launched the vision for one million speakers by 2050. Blaenau Gwent Welsh Education Forum is committed to contributing to meet this ambitious target within the County Borough, by delivering the objectives stated

above. The Blaenau Gwent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017/20 will be endorsed by the Council's Executive Committee prior to submission to Welsh Government in December 2016.

Blaenau Gwent Council has long been committed to encouraging and developing the Welsh language, both within the workplace and in our communities. It is important however, to recognise that children from non-Welsh speaking homes can develop true bilingual skills by attending Welsh-medium schools. The Council's first Welsh Language Scheme was published back in 1998, with the aim of providing a Welsh Language Service that met the needs of Welsh speaking people of Blaenau Gwent, whether fluent, or one of the significant numbers of adults and young people learning the Welsh Language in our Community Education Centres and Schools. Subsequent Welsh Language Schemes have built on these principles, but the fundamentals remain as important today as they did then.

Fundamentally, the aim of the Welsh Language Standards is to ensure the promotion of the Welsh Language in all aspects of Welsh life. In the public sector, all services are available to service users bilingually in both Welsh and English e.g. the Education Directorate offer the following documents bilingually;

- Parent/carer Admissions booklet,,
- Admission application forms for Schools as well in year transfers,,
- School reorganisation consultation documents and events promotion,

In order to meet this requirement, the Council has built on the good work already achieved via our previous Welsh Language Schemes, by initiating Welsh Language elements into key Council policies and processes such as School Organisation Policy (2015), Admissions Policy etc.... Developing our Welsh Language services across Education and all other areas of the Council is considered at a more strategic level than ever before. It is considered as a fundamental in terms of the Council's engagement, decision making and business planning, and with that, this supports the work of the WESP to develop the best Welsh Language education provision that Blaenau Gwent can offer.

The current position in Blaenau Gwent is Welsh-medium education is provided by one primary school namely Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg, with secondary provision provided from Ysgol Gyfyn Gwynllyw in partnership with the SEWC Councils across the region. The SEWC partnership has successfully delivered growth for Welsh-medium secondary provision and this is important in that it secures places for Blaenau Gwent Learners at secondary provision.

The South East Wales Regional Forum leads on the development of Welsh education standards, supporting the Welsh Government's vision for Welsh in Education. Blaenau Gwent is a committed partner who contributes to working together in the region to equip schools and education providers across age ranges and linguistic sectors with the capacity and sustainability to increase standards in Welsh and promote the use of the Welsh language within families, communities and workplaces. Blaenau Gwent Council will review the promotion and benefits of bilingualism by engaging through the WEF with key partners such as the Aneurin Bevan Local Health Board and early years providers as well as utilising the live birth data for the annual Welsh demand survey and linking in with the Admission Round

for Schools including promotion of both English and Welsh medium settings. Blaenau Gwent and its partners will stimulate demand and provide local, accessible, sustainable, community-focused provision to meet the growing demand for Welsh-medium education in the County Borough. The WEF will continue to review demand and to determine if there is an opportunity to develop a seedling Welsh medium provision within the County Borough in the future.

It is acknowledged that the development of a strong Welsh Education Forum is critical to the successful delivery of this WESP plan. The WEF is currently under review, including the terms of reference to provide high-level objectives for the Forum. The WEF's approach has been agreed with partners in the Autumn term 2016, to enable implementation during the WESP's delivery period (2017/2020). The Forum will further develop a formal channel of communication between Blaenau Gwent Council, its maintained Welsh Medium schools and other partner organisations; that are able to work collectively towards localised and strategic priorities.

The Forum's priorities will include:

- act as a consultative group, contributing towards the development, monitoring and implementation of the WESP;
- develop, implement and monitor a localised action plan;
- monitor and review provision to reflect Welsh medium demand;
- monitor the provision of Welsh-medium education and determine as a group work towards future developments; and,
- provide an annual report to the Welsh Government describing progress in terms of implementing the WESP's targets against the approved timetable.

The Blaenau Gwent Forum will identify a lead member for each of the outcomes in the draft WESP. The lead will be accountable for the progress made against the outcome and report back to the Forum. This distributed leadership approach will facilitate improved partnership working and drive forward improvement over the lifespan of the WESP (2017/2020).

The Blaenau Gwent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017/20 is directly aligned to both the Welsh Government's and the Council's Welsh Language strategic frameworks. Blaenau Gwent acknowledges that across Wales there has not been a significant increase in Welsh medium education in either nursery or post 16 provision. Therefore, there is a need for all partners to contribute to raising the levels of Welsh language provision in all aspects of education. The strategic priorities for the WESP document over the next three years can be summarised into the following activity:

- Raising the profile of Welsh-medium learning through an ongoing and fundamental review of the Blaenau Gwent Welsh Education Forum (WEF) by 2017. This will include a revision to the terms of reference, the representation on the forum and clear lines of responsibility/accountability against the 7 outcomes of the WESP.
- A determination to stimulate parental demand particularly by increasing the early years offer and a commitment to undertake annual Welsh-medium

demand surveys to inform future service delivery for the period of 2017/20.

- Improving pupil transition rates from early year's provision to statutory Welsh-medium education.
- Securing places for Blaenau Gwent's Welsh-medium learners through regional collaboration remains a priority; the Council will work with its regional SEWC partners to complete a catchment area review 2017/18 for Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to ensure the availability of places for Blaenau Gwent learners into the future.
- A commitment to improving Welsh-medium learner outcomes at Foundation Phase and all Key Stages, but particularly at Key Stage 4. The Council and its partners also recognise the importance of improving the skills of Welsh parents to use the Welsh Language, and therefore, will work with both Coleg Gwent and the Aneurin Leisure Trust Adult and Community Learning team on the provision of adult Welsh medium learning opportunities.

In summary, the Council and its partners acknowledge that the development of Welsh-medium education within the County Borough has been through a challenging period with learner outcomes particularly in the primary sector stagnating in recent years. Moving forward, however, the pupil outcome data is now improving and this will have a significant impact on delivery of the WESP's priorities between 2017/2020. Blaenau Gwent is also committed to aligning the WESP plan 2017/20 to the work of all Local Authorities across the SEWC region and will continue to contribute to the SEWC WEF forum.

**2. Local authorities have a statutory duty under Section 10 of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 to promote access to education and training through the medium of Welsh. Please provide a statement regarding the accessibility of Welsh-medium provision in your local authority in relation to home to school transport. Please highlight any challenges and/or areas of good practice through collaboration.**

Blaenau Gwent, similar to every Council within the region complies with the requirements of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 through providing transport to Welsh medium schools for pupils of statutory school age in accordance the Council's Transport Policy. Blaenau Gwent's Transport Policy involves free transport for primary, secondary and post 16 learners well above the statutory limits, this is far more generous than the Welsh Government's statutory limits by providing transport for pupils living 1.5 miles for under 8's and 2 miles for over 8's. A review of the Council's current transport policy will be undertaken in 2016/17 and this will involve the provision of Welsh medium transport arrangements.

The Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) requires the Education Directorate to review the current home to school and post 16 transport policies; this review will involve a full formal consultation and will also take into full consideration any implications for Welsh-medium learners, particularly the regional nature of provision across the SEWC area.

The challenge for all Councils in determining their transport policies is that Welsh-medium provision has to be consistent with the provision for English-medium learners. This consistency in approach will be adopted to comply with the Learner Travel Measure which 'prohibits travel arrangements made by Councils discriminating between various types of learner'.

The Council's Transport team closely monitors how many 'spare' places are currently on Welsh-medium transport capacity. The Council is currently more than adequately meeting primary and secondary sector demand and will be in a position to accommodate additional demand in the future as it materialises. Blaenau Gwent also provides free transport for all post 16 pupils to both Gwynllwy and Cwm Rhywni in lieu of the post 16 Travel Grant.

The Welsh Language Commissioner has produced a report on Post 16 learning and the effects on learning participation levels and standards and the WESP plan (2017/20) will consider the commissioner's report when reviewing the Blaenau Gwent post 16 Transport policy.

**The Council has reviewed the Home to School and Post 16 Transport Policy with a view to offering discretionary Nursery transport. This is a very positive step in the process of growing Welsh-medium provision and will also influence the development and uptake of Welsh-medium pre-school development.**

**Parents whose children attend the school had indicated that in terms of part-time nursery provision, they found it difficult to travel to the school twice in a morning. As a result Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg began offering full-time provision in October 2016.**

This has had a positive impact upon numbers in that, 30 pupils have been allocated a nursery place in comparison 22 pupils last year.

1. Please demonstrate how you will achieve Outcomes 1-7 referring to section 19 for what you need to include. You will be expected to submit data (a list of which is available at annex 1) to support your targets, please list as appendices. Ensure you cross reference your data to the Outcomes.

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

**Please provide your current position relating to the number of seven year olds taught through the medium of Welsh and your targets for the next three years.**

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 24 pupils year 2 academic year 15/16</li> <li>• 30 pupils year 2 academic year 16/17 (September16)</li> </ul>	<b>38</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>24</b>

**List your four main objectives to achieving this outcome**

- The WEF will undertake annual Welsh-medium demand survey with parents of pre-school children.
- The WEF will systematically improve marketing, promotion and information to provide parents/carers on the benefits of Welsh-medium education so that the demand for Welsh-medium education is met.
- Increase the number of seven year old children taught through the medium of Welsh by 2020.
- Explore the option for part time nursery class to become full time places to increase demand.

**Supporting Statement:**

Blaenau Gwent’s 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme Band A prioritised Welsh-medium learning as the top priority. The capital investment profile initially committed £2m to the development of Welsh-medium secondary provision in the region. In 2014, Newport CC informed Blaenau Gwent that the financial contribution was no longer required, and subsequently, a re-profile exercise within the original cost envelope for other projects was submitted. The Newport project Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed opened in September 2016, with the new building being completed on the Dyffryn site in 2018/19, Furthermore, within the Band A proposal, provision was made to expand the Welsh-medium primary setting in Blaenau Gwent, subject to parental demand, which will be closely monitored between 2017/20.

As outlined within the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Strategic Outline Programme, Blaenau Gwent intends to invest £1 million in the establishment of a Welsh-medium seedling provision within the Tredegar/ Sirhowy Valley. This provision will address

latent demand that has been identified within the area (please refer to the attached briefing note for more information). A sub-group of the WEF will be established to inform the seedling development period, pre-implementation of the Band B Programme. As of the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2017, the Council can confirm that the Executive Committee has agreed the Band B Programme, which includes £1 million investment in the development of Welsh-medium Primary provision.

The Council intends to undertake research into dual stream provision and liaise with existing establishments in order to further inform the approach on a local level. Research will be undertaken throughout early 2018 with a view to discussing the findings at with the Blaenau Gwent WEF in the Summer-term 2018. The Councils current priority is the immersion of learners into Welsh-medium education provision; with the focus for the next 3 years being the growth of early years and primary provision. The Education Directorate is currently taking forward the self-improving schools and 3-16 'all-through schooling' models, however, the provision of Welsh-medium is provided via a regional basis. The Council is currently consulting on a self-improving approach including establishing greater school to school working. Consequently, for Welsh medium provision, it is intended to consider regional implementation options for collaborative working.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council currently maintains one high quality Welsh medium primary school building. Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg was built in 2010 with an investment of £6 million as a replacement for Ysgol Brynmawr. Bro Helyg opened in September 2010 with capacity of 360 pupils places, the school building is categorised as 'good' and has a condition and suitability rating of 'A' for both suitability and condition. In September 2015 (Jan 2016) there were 234 pupils (inclusive of part time nursery provision) on roll aged 3-11 years this created a surplus capacity of around 35%. Blaenau Gwent's September 2016 PLASC return illustrates that there were 30 pupils being taught through the medium of Welsh out of a cohort of 790 which equates to 3.79%. This is a reduction, but overall is a relatively stable position on the 2014-15 figure of 5.4%. The Nursery admissions numbers for 2016/17 is 41. Blaenau Gwent, however, will review the demand for Welsh-medium provision and extend the offer should the levels of parental demand exist.

Consequently, it is envisaged that taking forward Outcome 1 objectives will significantly impact upon the number attending year 2 in 2017. Therefore, the following targets for 2017 onwards have been set for inclusion within the plan.

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Nursery Projections	24	33	30	28	29
Nursery Targets	10% (27)	10% (36)	10% (39)		

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg has undergone major transformation since it was placed in special measures in March 2015. 70% of the teaching staff has changed and the school moved from the red to the amber category last year, with the aim of another positive move this year, though the categorisation process has only just begun and won't be agreed until January 2018.

Bro Helyg's results show an upward trend for the last 3 years with results in 2017 comparing very favourably with both LA and Wales results:

- a) Foundation Phase results were in 100% in PSE and Maths and 97% in Welsh at Outcome 5 (1 child joined us late with no Welsh at all) meaning that we were above the LA and Wales results in all areas, with a FPI of 97%.
- b) At KS2 our Level 4 results were also above LA and Wales except for Welsh which, at 89%, was 3% below the Wales results. English – 94%; Maths 97%; Science 94% and CSI 94%.

Bro Helyg will continue to strive to improve the +1 levels moving forward. The Headteacher, Council and WEF are committed to working together to raise the school's profile in line with the schools improvement journey. The aim of the work will be to diminish negative perceptions of both Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and Welsh-medium education in general.

The Council's Education Transformation team, Early Years Childcare and Play team and Mudiad Meithrin plan to undertake the following actions:

- Jointly assess and respond to demand on an annual basis
- Meet on a termly basis to plan: parent engagement, pupil tracking pre and post entry into Welsh-medium pre-school settings and transition
- Termly Welsh-medium engagement sessions with parents
- Work towards the development of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Welsh-medium provision.
- Establish effective links with other seedling provisions e.g. Cardiff
- Establish a Parent Forum and Welsh Medium Champions Scheme
- Review the content of the School Admissions Booklet / website
- Produce a series of case studies of families who have chosen Welsh medium education which can be used in any promotional campaigns / social media
- Develop a press & communications strategy
- Explore staff training options and opportunities

The Council's Early Years Childcare and Play team and Mudiad Meithrin are working together to develop Welsh-medium playgroup (pre-school provision) where demand is established and promote/ increase take-up rates of Welsh medium childcare and ultimately, education. The Council has identified a lack of Welsh medium childcare provision in the Ebbw Fawr area as part of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (2017) and as such the Early Years Child Care and Play team have the following actions in their action plan:

- To assess the demand for Welsh medium childcare from parental engagement sessions.
- Work with WEF partners to establish whether a new Welsh medium sessional setting could be feasible/sustainable in the Ebbw Fawr area.

The following is an excerpt from the gap analysis in the CSA which outlines the

findings in respect of WM childcare:

#### Welsh-medium Childcare Provision

There is limited Welsh medium childcare available in Blaenau Gwent, There are 2 Cylchoedd Meithrin (CM) both Welsh Medium, The 3<sup>rd</sup> CM Pobl Bach in Tredegar, decided to become a bilingual setting in April 2017 and therefore is no longer a member of Mudiad Meithrin (cylch Meithrin). The existing providers are in different Community Planning Areas so are spread out and offering some choice of language provision in those areas for children between the ages of 2 years to 4 years. Both Cylchoedd Meithrin have seen an increase in numbers over the last year. Transfer rates for (16/17) are currently being collated by Mudiad Meithrin, before being sent to Welsh Government – indications are they are much higher than the 13% initially anticipated. It's important to note that staff at the Cylchoedd Meithrin discusses the 'Benefits of Being Bilingual' with the parents. Families do opt for Welsh Medium Education because of their experience at the Cylch Meithrin even though the family's intention was for the child to go English Medium Education before attending. However, the limited opening hours may impact upon parental choice for those parents requiring childcare over longer days (6 hours plus). All settings are Flying Start providers and benefit from Flying Start childcare placements.

The parental survey indicated that 1% of children come from predominantly Welsh speaking homes, with a further 6% stating they are bilingual homes. There is a lot of parental support for bilingualism with 55% of parents wanting their children to become bilingual, however, only 8% of parents intended on sending their child to Welsh medium school.

When asked 'Are there any barriers affecting your ability to benefit from Welsh Medium childcare provision?' 394 parents responded as below;

- No – 68% (269)
- Not available locally – 7.8% (31)
- Not available for the hours required – 1.2% (5)
- Age range not appropriate – 0.5% (2)
- Cost – 2% (8)
- Other – 4.3% (17) Comments were asked for and included;
  - 'Not speaking language myself'
  - 'Estyn inspection very poor'
  - 'Concerned as I don't speak Welsh.'
  - 'Yes - Child in a Special Needs School'
  - 'the only provision in the LA area is severely underperforming and I would not choose to send my child into that learning establishment'
  - 'Don't want S.... to have to travel'
  - 'No local Welsh comprehensive. My oldest daughter had to travel from Brynmawr to Pontypool and my 6 year old will have to do the same'
  - 'Not many places - but haven't looked into it properly.'
  - 'Difficulty in transport'
  - 'Trouble in welsh school, just moved to English school'

Of the 31 parents stating there is no childcare available locally, the geographical spread is as follows; Sirhowy – 8, Ebbw Fawr – 11, North Ebbw Fach – 3, South Ebbw Fach – 9. The survey showed a split in opinion over whether there was enough Welsh medium childcare with 29 parents agreeing there was and 17 disagreeing. 51 parents felt that childcare was available in the language of their choice, but 10 did not. The parental demand measured showed that 2 parents would be looking for Welsh medium childcare in future and 21 would be looking for Welsh and English medium”.

A survey was undertaken by the Welsh Education Forum in the Autumn-term of 2016 to establish views on Welsh-medium primary education/childcare provision, there were 67 responses recorded as follows:

- 46% of parents wanted their children to be able to speak Welsh fluently;
- 57% said they felt their child would benefit from a Welsh medium education;
- 28% of parents stated that they currently used childcare; and,
- 28% also said they would choose Welsh medium childcare if it was available.

The results of both surveys indicate a level of demand for Welsh-medium childcare in the Ebbw Fawr Valley, although the numbers of participants/ completed surveys were very low and so additional engagement work and consultation is required in order to establish the extent of the demand.

Historically, Blaenau Gwent Council has established Welsh-medium early years provision that could not be sustained linked to diminishing demand, therefore extensive research and engagement work will need to be undertaken to ensure the right provision is setup, in the right place. The Council plans to review the approach linked to parent engagement and participation, and establish a programme of activity in the coming month, in order to inform further work.

### **30 hour childcare pilot**

#### **Local Developments**

In relation to the 30 hour Childcare Offer Blaenau Gwent currently have two settings that identify as Welsh-medium, both of which have registered to deliver the offer. There is one other playgroup setting that identifies as both Welsh and English-medium and 8 childminders who report they use Welsh as an additional language, 6 of whom have registered as providers. There are several other providers registered for the Offer (6 childminders, 5 pre-school playgroups and 2 Day Nurseries) that report they use Welsh as an additional language in the delivery of childcare. Out of 126 applications received for the Childcare Offer, 17 have indicated a preference for Welsh medium childcare, which is a significant proportion of parents (13%). Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg offer full time Meithrin class, however, under the 30 hour offer the children are still able to access their 9 week holiday entitlement. Cylch Meithrin Helyg Bychan are in the process of investigating the possibility of opening the setting during holidays should take-up rates makes it possible to do so.

The Council intends to monitor the progression of the children in line with Welsh-medium uptake. To date there has not been any parents or interested party

indicating that there is a lack of Welsh-medium provision available to them. The Council will continue to review this on a regular basis. The Early Years Childcare and Play and Education Transformation teams are in discussion with the EAS and Mudiad Meithrin, about the potential for Gwdi Hw in Brynithel to become a registered education provider.

### **Regional Developments**

The intention of the next planning cycle for the Regional Welsh in Education Forum is to have four task and finish groups to take forward significant work programmes. One sub group is focussed on developments within Early Years. This sub group will have relevant officers from each local authority in Gwent, Mudiad Meithrin and the three Menter Iaith organisations in the region, as well as representation from Rhag or other organisations at relevant pertinent meetings. Initial focus areas will include:

- Increasing the number of Welsh medium childcare places across the region including the development of new provision as well as expanding existing provision through change in premises or additional services offered.
- Training and staff recruitment and improving Welsh language skills across the region to develop consistency in language usage by childcare setting staff to promote language acquisition, including linking with the feeder primary school for consistency in language usage and supporting positive transition.
- Sustainability and business support to ensure all childcare has a robust business plan to ensure it is maintained and able to increase over the course of this plan. This focus will also look at how childcare settings are able to receive funded places through the Childcare Offer, Flying Start and Early Years Education to maximise any funding received as well as provide a wider service to fee paying parents and delivering a community provision.
- Improving transition rates between Cylchoedd and Primary Schools.

The Childcare Offer will require significant additional childcare places and location may be critical to their sustainability so this group will link through the Regional WEF to ensure the sub group looking at planning school places is linked in development work with the early years group developing childcare provision.

Blaenau Gwent has indicated its commitment to exploring and developing co-location opportunities, within the Council's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Band B Strategic Outline Programme submission. The Council also intends to bid for the Childcare Offer capital programme, anticipated in 2018-2021

All parents receive information on Welsh medium education through the parent/carer school information booklet, which is distributed with phased admission application forms. Booklet application forms and posters are produced bilingually, and upon request attend carer/parents meetings at schools to promote Welsh-medium learning opportunities. Moreover, parents are able to access information on Welsh medium childcare and early years' education provision through the Council's Family Information Service.

Helyg Bychan (located in the grounds of the Bro Helyg) will support the further promotion of Welsh-medium education and is now a registered flying start provision providing approximately 14 flying start childcare places for eligible children during the term after their second birthday.

Mudiad Meithrin currently provides 2 Cylchoedd Meithrin in Blaenau Gwent CM Gwdihw (Brynithel), CM Pobl Bach and CM Helyg Bychan. There is also a Cylch Ti a Fi (parent and Toddler groups) currently running at the Integrated Children's Centre at Ty Bedwellt.

A new venture by Cymraeg i Blant 'Cymraeg for Kids' will start groups in Blaenau Gwent from October 2016. Families can enjoy all kinds of fun activities such as baby massage, singing and story-time and baby yoga. The benefits of care and education through the medium of Welsh are relayed to prospective parents and families with babies and young children ensuring that everyone knows about opportunities for children to become bilingual by attending the Cylch Ti a Fi (adult and baby/toddler group) and cylch meithrin (Welsh-medium playgroup) before going on to Welsh-medium schools. Blaenau Gwent WEF acknowledges that only 13% of children transfer into Welsh-medium education from meithrin for some of the following reasons such as parental choice and transport issues for non-statutory education.

Pupil projections are undertaken twice a year. The latest projection for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg based on the September 2015 return shows a reduction of 9.5% in the present number on roll compared to the same time last year. However, since 2010, there has been an increase in demand for pupil places from the Ebbw Fach valley. The school has nearly 35% surplus places, which is a priority area to address during the term of this WESP's lifespan. The Education Transformation team will work with Bro Helyg;

- To assist the school with several self-help approaches this will include a capacity review in early 2017 for admission numbers in 2018/19 round of the school being reduced and surplus places going forward decreasing.
- Analyse the demand for Welsh-medium learners to explore opportunities to develop seedling education provision in an area where demand for Welsh medium learning places exists.

The current projections for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg up until 2020 strongly indicate that Welsh- medium demand can be fulfilled at the existing school. However, within Blaenau Gwent's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools Programme Band A proposal, financial provision remains secure to support Welsh-medium primary provision should demand increase. In the latest Welsh Demand Survey undertaken in November 2016, some latent demand has been identified in the Tredegar/Sirhowy area, However, there was a low response rate to the questionnaire circulated 2.79% of the target audience responded. This low response rate would suggest that further work is required on a national, local and regional basis to determine the best methods to identify latent demand.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council, as part of the admissions process for 2016/17 provided a bilingual parent/carer information booklet to all parents with children looking to secure a school place at nursery, reception and secondary school. Welsh applications forms were also provided to all Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg parents of children who were due to apply for a place at a school. The 2016/17 parent/carer booklet was designed to promote education within the County Borough, in an easy to read format, including featuring photographs of children from Blaenau Gwent's Welsh medium school.

Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council has recently established an on-line admissions process and this is provided bilingually. The admissions team has provided a link to the Dewis Choice Facebook page through the Blaenau Gwent website and this will be monitored moving forward.

The local WEF Group will maximise opportunities and explore, support and extend the promotion of Welsh medium education through partnership link newsletters / social media / posters / advertising etc. The parental surveys of demand for Welsh-medium education will be carried out on an annual basis in a timely manner- i.e. in line with the Council's school admission dates, particularly the Nursery places closing dates which is in October. There are many forums to promote the important of bilingualism and the local WEF group will consider engaging with expectant parents and linking in with the local health board to promote Mudiad Meithrin and Cymraeg i Blant providing equal opportunity. Welsh Government's recent announcement for Blaenau Gwent to be an early adopter for the 30 hours of free childcare pilot may provide an opportunity to consider the barriers associated with transport provision, particularly for parents in the Sirhowy Valley.

Blaenau Gwent Education Directorate will continue to work with the Family Information Service (FIA) as the first point of contact for families within the area and will strengthen partnerships with Mudiad Meithrin, RhAG, Menter Iaith, Urdd Gobaith Cymru to promote Welsh Medium Services for children and Families within the County Borough.

The Council's Education Directorate working closely with colleagues in Regeneration and Planning who actively pursues section 106 financial agreements; currently there are new housing being proposed but not enough demand to create a new school building, and in one area it will be a contribution towards remodelling. Based on the latest Welsh medium demand survey there is no requirement to secure additional Welsh-medium places under this funding stream, However, this will be reviewed on an annual basis in line with the parental demand surveys.

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

**Please provide your current position and targets for the next three years relating to the number of year nine learners who are assessed in Welsh (First Language)**

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
What is the current percentage of learners in Year 9 who are assessed in Welsh (First Language)? <b>The current Year 9 pupils (2016/17) stands at 3.7% of the cohort from Blaenau Gwent (674) of which 24/171 at Gwynllyw come from Blaenau</b>	<b>2.8%</b> <b>(21/756)</b>	<b>3.2%</b> <b>(22/682)</b>	<b>4.49%</b> <b>(35 /779)</b>

<p><b>Gwent, all pupils (100 %) are assessed in all subjects (with the exception of English) through the medium of Welsh.</b></p> <p>How does this figure compare with percentage of learners in Year 6 who were assessed in Welsh (First Language) three years earlier? <b>In Blaenau Gwent, during the 13/14 academic year (Year 9s in 16/17), there were 25 pupils being taught through the Medium of Welsh out of a cohort of 674 which equates to 3.7%</b></p>			
<p><b><u>Effective transfer and linguistic continuity</u></b></p> <p>Non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools delivering the Foundation Phase? <b>13% (13 out of 103 children in Meithrin moved to WM school nurseries in 15/16).</b></p>	<p><b>3.4% (26/756)</b></p>	<p><b>3.2% (22/682)</b></p>	<p><b>4.49% (35/779)</b></p>
<p>Non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase? <b>BG has no funded non-maintained settings*</b></p>	<p><b>20%</b></p>	<p><b>Annual review</b></p>	<p><b>Annual review</b></p>
<p>Non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase? <b>BG has no funded non-maintained providers*</b></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>Funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings and maintained Welsh-medium /bilingual schools? <b>BG has no funded non-maintained providers*</b></p> <p>Non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase and subsequently maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools? <b>BG has no funded non-maintained providers*</b></p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>	<p>-</p>
<p>• Foundation phase and Key Stage 2? <b>In the 2015/16 academic year, of the 27 pupils that were assessed in</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p>	<p><b>30</b></p>	<p><b>38</b></p>

<p><b>Welsh First Language, 24 have remained in Ysgol Bro Helyg.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Stage 2 and 3?  <b>In Blaenau Gwent, at the end of Key Stage 2, 22 pupils were assessed in Welsh (First language) and 21 of these pupils went on to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.</b></li> </ul> <p><b>In the transfer between Key Stage 2 (Welsh Medium) and Key Stage 3 (Welsh Medium), 95.6 % transferred from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 in Blaenau Gwent. 1 pupil transferred to an English medium setting.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key Stage 3&amp;4?  <b>In the transfer between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, all pupils transferred and remained within the Welsh Medium setting. One pupil, due to a move to Caerphilly Authority, transferred from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni between Year 9 and Year 10.</b></li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If your authority has bilingual secondary schools (categories 2A, 2B, 2C and 2CH), please provide data for each school showing how many pupils are in the Welsh-medium stream and how many are in the English-medium stream, by Key Stage. <b>There is no secondary school within the County Borough.</b></li> </ul>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>n/a</b></p>	<p><b>40</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>n/a</b></p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>100%</b></p> <p><b>n/a</b></p>
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List your four main objectives to achieving this outcome (please list your objectives in bullet point format).

- Secure a high transfer rate to Welsh-medium education from KS2 to KS3 by 2020**
- To improve profile of Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg within Blaenau Gwent in order to attract pupils to Welsh medium education**
- Improve liaison between Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and Welsh medium and other pre-school settings in order to maximise the number of pupils**

transferring to the school at foundation phase.

- To increase the numbers starting nursery at Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg by offering full time nursery places from the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2016.
- Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to increase opportunities for academic transition activities for e.g. monthly lessons for More Able and Talented (MAT) pupils.

#### **Supporting Statement:**

In recent years, the number of pupils assessed in Welsh in Y9 has been broadly commensurate with the number assessed in Y6. There is no significant difference. There is one Welsh Medium primary school and all pupils transfer from this school to the Key stage 3 setting in a neighbouring LA. An Estyn Inspection at the primary school in March 2015 judged the school to require Special Measures. This has had an adverse impact on the number of pupils who have remained at the school and on the number of pupils who have chosen to attend the school. Since March 2015, the school has made progress in addressing the issues identified, as reported through Estyn monitoring visits, and there are early indications of this trend being reversed. Since March 2015 the school has made progress in addressing the issues identified, as reported through LA monitoring arrangements and Estyn monitoring visits. The school was removed from special measures within one year such was the excellent pace of progress achieved. In particular, there have been excellent improvements in standards of reading, writing, numeracy and key skills, Levels of pupil attendance have also improved. Significant progress has been made in improving the quality of teaching, pupil tracking and assessment arrangements, and the school has developed strong leadership and governance which are impacting effectively on its current performance profile which is good.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg has introduced full-time nursery places from October 2016 onwards for pupils to support demand for Welsh medium education. This is anticipated to stimulate and meet parent choice for Welsh-medium or English medium demand as they make the decision for their child's education at a very young age. This links with key service provision in early year's settings and the non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3.

Within the lifespan for the WESP Bro Helyg will have ample capacity to accommodate potential increase of additional learners. Subsequently, with the recent catchment area review undertaken by Torfaen County Borough Council Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, which is the catchment area school for Blaenau Gwent learners, will also be able to accommodate learner's post 2020.

The WEF will work to monitor and improve the percentages of learners assessed at the end of each Key Stage and to grow/stimulate demand throughout the lifespan of the WESP plan.

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

**Outcome 4: More students aged 14-19 in study subjects through the medium**

## of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work-based learning.

Current position and targets relating to the percentage of learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) entered for at least two further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
All pupils in Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw <b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Objectives:

- **Work with Torfaen CC to ensure that provision for 14-16-year-old learners at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw complies with the Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) 2009**

### Supporting Statement:

Blaenau Gwent pupils in Welsh-medium primary education transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw (Torfaen) Welsh-medium school. This is with very few exceptions and equates to in the region of approx. 35 pupils per annum. Blaenau Gwent pupils who currently attend Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw are entered for two Maths, two Science, three optional GCSEs and the Welsh Bacc. Through the medium of Welsh. This is in addition to Welsh / Welsh Literature. The opening of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Is Coed, Newport, will secure the availability of places for pupils from BG for the duration of the WESP plan.

The percentage of learners entered for GCSE Welsh (first language) being entered for at least **five further** level 1 or level 2 qualifications though the medium of Welsh is shown below.

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
All pupils in Welsh-medium education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw <b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### Objectives:

- **Maintain 14-19 provision at the level of 14-19 grant provision activities.**
- **Work through 14-19 Networks and 14-19 Regional Forums to sustain and improve Welsh-medium provision**

### Supporting Statement:

Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw works in strong partnership with Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and both schools have been innovative in ensuring healthy 14-19 provision through the 'Partneriaeth 6' strategy. The withdrawal of the 14-19 grant poses significant threat to this strategy and to the diversity of courses on offer to Blaenau Gwent pupils currently attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. Transportation costs are an added stress on the viability of courses and will need to be addressed at a regional level.

Due to the provision of one Welsh-medium secondary school having to offer 25

courses at 14-16 and 30 courses 16-19, securing viable numbers will always be an issue. Consideration should be given to lowering the number of courses Welsh-medium schools must offer. This should be lower than in other secondary schools as access to Welsh-medium provision locally is not readily available with transport costs and the availability of transport impacting on the viability of courses. Cwm Rhymni and Gwynllyw have been creative in their partnership whereby staff travel to teach alternative or low take-up courses but following the withdrawal of the grant, this is no longer financially viable and will never be due to the low numbers.

Data will be used to identify successful and high achieving courses. These will be supported whereas courses that do not meet the standards of performance expected might be replaced with courses that are more appropriate to the needs of the pupils.

The 14-19 Forums have officially come to an end, however, CYDAG SE Wales continues to meet to explore the possibility of continuing practices such as arranging conferences and staff collaboration meetings that were in place to March 2016. Creativity and commitment will be needed to enable continuity.

Gwynllyw and Cwm Rhymni have in the past held joint governance meetings to gather, analyse and use data for 14-19 Welsh-medium provision and plan for post-16 Welsh-medium provision within partnerships. This is to be relaunched to include the new secondary provision at Gwent Is Coed.

Coleg Gwent currently have 54 learners enrolled for 2016/17 at Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone Campus who are Welsh speakers. 35 of which live in Blaenau Gwent and enrolment continues, therefore, this number is subject to change. It is not possible at this early stage for the Coleg to accurately say how many learners study bilingually, however, this is usually around a 3<sup>rd</sup>. The college has set itself a target for increasing the number of learners who study bilingually by 10% every year for the next 3 years.

#### **Outcome 5: More students with advanced skills in Welsh**

Current Position	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Welsh: Pupils from Blaenau Gwent currently transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, Torfaen. 22 pupils (2016/17)	<b>35</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>40</b>
Welsh Second Language: Welsh: Do the LA or Coleg Gwent have any data for the number of pupils enrolled for AS/LA Welsh Second Language? <b>Only data available for current academic year (35 students 2016/17)</b>			

List your four main objectives to achieving this outcome (please list your objectives in bullet point format and refer to annex 1 for the data you need to include for this outcome).

**Objectives:**

- **Ensure that English-medium schools are aware of the LA's vision to increase AS/A level numbers and work with Coleg Gwent to monitor uptake.**
- **Encourage English-medium schools to increase formal and informal provision for Welsh Second Language at KS3 and KS4 so that GCSE Full Course uptake is increased and that both languages are widely used as mediums of communication**
- **Encourage English-medium schools to enter nearly all pupils for GCSE Welsh Full Course when the current Short Course is withdrawn in 2018 (pupils currently do not have to be entered for any examination in Welsh Second Language) and plan for the implementation of Successful Futures to ensure transactional competence for all pupils aged 16.**

**Supporting Statement:**

Ysgol Bro Helyg has access to a range of Welsh literacy programmes and CPD through their involvement with the EAS regional literacy network and direct support from a Welsh literacy advisor. Programmes currently available include the 'Cyfathrebu'n Gyntaf' initiative for literacy in the Foundation Phase and the 'Ar Lafar', 'Y Darllenwr Dygn', 'Ditectifs Darllen' and 'Seiliau Sgrifennu' programmes that are all targeted at developing literacy in each of the attainment targets across all phases. This includes KS3 to ensure commonality of approach to the teaching and learning of skills when pupils transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. There is structured school to school support available to the Welsh-medium schools across the region through the SE Wales consortium literacy support arrangements with lead schools for literacy leading aspects of the designed CPD programmes outlined.

The adoption of the *Siarter Iaith* initiative from September 2016 will further support the region's schools in improving pupil confidence and competence in using the Welsh language both inside and outside the classroom. Ysgol Bro Helyg will achieve the *Siarter* gold standard by July 2019.

Secondary schools will be encouraged to provide adequate time for the study of Welsh as a second language in line with the new Welsh GCSE taught from September 2017 and with the requirements of the new curriculum to ensure transactional competence at the end of KS4 for all pupils in all aspects of school life. The current non-core status of Welsh in English-medium schools will continue to 2021. Pupils must study Welsh to 16 but there is no requirement for students to sit an external examination in Welsh.

Coleg Gwent have Welsh Second Language courses at Crosskeys and Blaenau Gwent Learning Zones Campuses. Learners on priority bilingual programmes e.g. child care are offered Welsh courses through the Gwent Welsh for Adults Centre. The College has set a target of increasing the numbers of learners completing additional Welsh courses by 10% each year for the next 3 years. All learners

complete Welsh language awareness units and are encouraged to evaluate the benefits of bilingualism in the workplace. The College has an active Welsh Club providing opportunities for learners to participate in informal events e.g. trips, outdoor activities (Urdd). The College has set a target for increasing the participation in Welsh Club events by 10% each year for the next 3 years. Staff development opportunities are offered to all staff to further develop their bilingual teaching skills and embedding the Welsh dimension. The College has set a target of increasing the number of learners completing work in Welsh by 10% each year for the next 3 years. The College enjoys a very good working relationship with Menter Iaith together with numerous activities organised in conjunction with the Urdd.

The local Urdd and Menter groups will work with schools and the community to provide opportunities to practise their Welsh skills in less formal situations. Pupils from both Welsh and English-medium schools will have access to the following opportunities to practise their Welsh language skills in formal and non-formal settings with a growing emphasis on opportunities from both communities to work together as shown in **appendix 1**.

Welsh literacy is a specific improvement priority in the EAS Consortium's business plan which is based on robust analysis of schools' performance and areas for development. The business plan is reviewed on a 6 monthly basis and updated annually. The Council receives progress reports on EAS Welsh literacy school improvement work within Welsh and English-medium schools on a termly basis. Workforce training needs are planned in relation to outcomes on a regional, local and cluster basis. The Council and EAS will provide support and challenge to schools in order to continually improve their standards against performance indicators and, particularly in English-medium schools their provision for Welsh and bilingualism. Support is targeted in inverse proportion to success. All primary and secondary schools in receipt of high level support and challenge for Welsh (Welsh and English-medium schools) have bespoke support plans that are monitored on a six weekly basis. As well as specialist in-house Welsh language and methodology support for teachers and support for leadership of Welsh from the EAS LLC Welsh team there will be:

- Specialist EAS central language training provision and follow up support for practitioners involved with the WG Sabbatical Scheme
- Support for nominated cluster leads for Welsh (Welsh and English-medium schools) to build cluster capacity
- Leadership networks, including Welsh-medium HT networks
- CPD provision by lead primary and secondary teachers and schools as well as members of the EAS Welsh in Education Support Team.
- Monitoring of provision for and support for the teaching of the new GCSE for Welsh and Welsh Second Language and the transition from full to short course in Welsh Second Language
- Specialist teaching programmes to improve teaching in the Welsh-medium sector, 'Anelu at Ragoriaeth'
- Support for the Informal Use of Welsh programmes Siarter Iaith and PCAI in Welsh-medium schools and Cymraeg Campus in English-medium schools.

The role of key partners such as: the Urdd, Y Blant, Mudiad Meithrin, the Youth Services, Early Years Childcare and Play Team etc. will then be to ensure increased use of the Welsh language in an informal context/ settings in line with Welsh Government's framework for children and young people's informal use of Welsh.

### **Outcome 6: Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)**

List your four main objectives to achieving this outcome (please list your objectives in bullet point format).

- **Ensure that all pupils with Additional Learning Needs educated through the medium of Welsh in mainstream are appropriately provided for**
- **Ensure regional collaboration continues to support pupils with ALN including complex needs provision**
- **Complete the process of revision and development of new ALN processes to support learners with ALN.**
- **Ensure that all new and revised ALN documentation (for operational use in schools) is available through the medium of Welsh.**

#### **Supporting Statement:**

There has been an increase in the number of Council employed Welsh speakers across Education teams/services, particularly for Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision. This will support further improvements in the provision for Welsh-medium learners between 2017-2020. Advice and support can be provided to Welsh-medium schools from a range of Welsh speaking educational professionals, including educational psychologists, school improvement and inclusion officers, SpLD teachers, specialist behaviour support and systems leaders. In addition, the regional Sensory and Communication Support Service is further developing its Welsh language support.

Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg does not currently have any pupils attending who are in receipt of a Statement of Special Educational Need. In addition, the overall percentage of pupils on the SEN registers at both school action and school action plus is below the Blaenau Gwent average. The last assessment was carried out in January 2017, with the next planned for January 2018. Blaenau Gwent Council has established that current provision is sufficient for the needs of Welsh-medium learners in line. Work being undertaken by the SEWC Regional Group for additional learning needs. The aim of this work is to foster growing regional collaboration. There are Welsh-medium specialist classes within Caerphilly CBC, which could accommodate the needs of Blaenau Gwent learners should the need arise.

Parents are offered the opportunity to contribute to statutory processes through the medium of English, Welsh or bilingually. This includes statutory assessments and annual reviews of Statements of Special Educational Needs.

The ALN review has been completed including changes to SEN funding, criteria and Panel processes. New processes and policies are improving the ability of all schools to manage pupils with ALN and the changes in funding arrangements is giving schools the flexibility to provide appropriate and timely support for pupils with special educational needs.

ALN policies and ALN documentation are reviewed annually as part of the policy review cycle. Operational documents are available through the medium of Welsh.

**Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuing professional development.**

List your four main objectives to achieving this outcome (please list your objectives in bullet point format).

**Objectives:**

- **Audit practitioners' Welsh language skills (teachers and TAs) Welsh and English-medium schools and Cylchoedd Meithrin on an annual basis to assess training needs.**
- **Draw up systemic plan for release of staff to Sabbatical Scheme training in collaboration with schools and clusters.**
- **School improvement plans to demonstrate commitment to improving practitioners' linguistic skills, working with Welsh in Education Officers (English medium schools) and through planning for systematic release of staff to attend Sabbatical Scheme training (Welsh and English-medium schools) according to needs analysis.**
- **Improve practitioners' methodological skills through the work of Welsh in Education Officers and through designed school-to-school initiatives**

**Supporting Statement:**

There is one Welsh medium school in the County Borough and to date the Council's Organisational Development team who lead on human resources matters have not experienced any difficulties in terms of recruitment or the professional development of staff.

The Organisational Development team works closely with EAS and the Governing Body of Ysgol Bro Helyg to ensure an effective recruitment process is in place for Headteacher and Deputy Headteacher posts. In the last year, the school has recruited a new Deputy Headteacher and this process enabled the school to stabilise its management structure. The school undertakes its own recruitment and selection of teachers, and have successfully sourced both teachers and support staff into posts.

Current regional uptake on the sabbatical scheme training is low (Welsh and English medium schools) and requires strategic planning, therefore, the Forum will work with schools to plan for systematic release of staff and teaching assistants to attend WG Sabbatical Scheme training in response to needs expressed in Welsh language audits undertaken. A cluster by cluster approach may be adopted. Improving staff language skills, particularly in English-medium schools in Blaenau Gwent will be vital

in implementing the Successful Futures vision and moving forward with the 2015 Million Speakers' agenda.

There is healthy collaboration across schools within the Council and through the regional working model. There is a growing Welsh-medium CPD programme (literacy) available to Welsh-medium schools from the EAS with lead Welsh-medium schools sharing good practice within a centrally organised joint programme of advisory and school based support (methodology). There is also a regional school to school programme to support teachers in aiming for excellence in Welsh-medium schools: '*Anelu at Ragoriaeth*'. English-medium primary schools have access to a wide and diverse programme of CPD through the EAS programme of language and methodology training. There is also a programme of targeted intervention in place for identified primary and secondary schools to improve the Welsh ethos of schools and practitioner language / methodology.

All schools have access to EAS leadership programmes (Preparing for Headship, NPQH and HT Y1 and Y5). There is support for Welsh-medium leadership through regional peer partnership programmes with facilitation of regional secondments where appropriate. The region's Welsh-medium secondary schools work in strong partnership, regularly discussing recruitment. To recruit Welsh-medium TAs, the region's secondary schools to discuss the provision of suitable courses (e.g. *Cache*) for pupils.

Coleg Gwent has a programme of continuous professional development for all teaching staff to develop their skills in embedding the Welsh dimension. In collaboration with Sgiliaith, the College offers training for managers in embedding Welsh into the curriculum together with practical help for teaching staff in supporting and encouraging learners to use and develop their Welsh language skills. Currently around 6% of Coleg Gwent academic staff have Welsh language skills and these staff are actively encouraged and supported to use these skills with their learners. Welsh for Adults courses are offered free of charge and during work hours for all Coleg Gwent staff with 31 staff enrolled on courses starting in September 2016. The College has recently approved a new recruitment policy with the aim of increasing the number of teaching staff able to deliver bilingually by 10% each year for the next 3 years. From September 2016, posts that fall within the Welsh Government's Bilingual Priority Areas e.g. child care will be Welsh essential or a commitment to learn Welsh to an intermediate level within 2 years (fully funded by the Coleg).

### **Corporate Welsh Language Training programme:**

The Council is committed to developing the Welsh language skills of our staff, in line with the requirements set out by the Welsh Language Standards. Classes for corporate staff will be provided, which will include the Education Directorate. However, it should be noted that schools have not yet received their Compliance Notices from the Welsh Language Commissioner and as such do not at present fall under the requirements of the Welsh Language Standards. The number of courses and number of participants is to be provided to the Welsh Language Commissioner on an annual basis as part of the monitoring report.

Childcare Courses – It is important to have high quality qualified members of staff

working in cylchoedd Meithrin. Staffing Levels for all settings have to meet the Statutory requirements for CSSIW and Care Council for Wales. It's providing very difficult to employee staff with the Welsh Language skills with the correct level of childcare qualification to work in settings.

Mudiad Meithrin through its subsidiary company Cam Wrth Gam offers training on the CACHE Level 3 Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development (CCLD) for those who wish to work in cylchoedd meithrin, day nurseries and Welsh-medium nursery classes in schools across Wales. For staff to work in pre-school setting employees must have this qualification (or equivalent). A L3 in Class Room Assistance nor a qualified teacher qualification appear on the 'List of required qualification to work within the Early Years and Childcare Sector Workforce'.

In order to meet the demands of 30 hours free childcare Blaenau Gwent need to increase the numbers of practitioners with necessary Welsh language skills and qualifications available to work in Welsh Medium childcare settings ( including Cylchoedd Meithrin)

- Consider Marketing careers in childcare with Year 10 and 11 pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gymraeg Gwynllyw and Coleg Gwent. Offer apprentice opportunities in line with Progress for Success. Supporting Statement:
- Promote Cam wrth Gam (a subsidiary of Mudiad Meithrin) which has a target for training 208 apprentices by July of 2018.

Signed: ..... *L. Jones* ..... Date: .....20.12.2016.....

(This needs to be signed by the Chief Education Officer within a local authority)

Annex 1 Data:-

## Data (Annex 1)

In the relevant section in the template, please note the key messages from your data.

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

#### **Expanding provision**

What is the percentage of seven-year-old children currently taught through the medium of Welsh?

AS of September 2016 PLASC, there were 30 pupils being taught through the medium of Welsh out of a cohort of 780 which equates to 4.6%

3.5% of Y2 pupils from Blaenau Gwent assessed in Welsh-medium schools in 2016

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

What is the current percentage of learners in Year 9 who are assessed in Welsh (First Language)?

The current Year 9 pupils (2016/17), 3.7% 24 out of 674 Blaenau Gwent and 171 of Gwynllywl pupils (100 %) are assessed in all subjects (with the exception of English) through the medium of Welsh.

How does this figure compare with percentage of learners in Year 6 who were assessed in Welsh (First Language) three years earlier?

In Blaenau Gwent, during the 13/14 academic year (Year 9s in 16/17), there were 25 pupils being taught through the Medium of Welsh out of a cohort of 674 which equates to 3.7%

## **Effective transfer and linguistic continuity**

### **Welsh Education Forum – Transfer Data**

What are the rates of progression between:

non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools delivering the Foundation Phase?	13% (13 out of 103 children in Meithrin moved to WM school nurseries in 15/16)
non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase?	We have no funded non-maintained settings*
funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings and maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools?	We have no funded non-maintained providers*
non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase and subsequently maintained Welsh-medium/bilingual schools?	We have no funded non-maintained providers*

\*settings are not funded by the LEA but do receive Flying Start funding.

- Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2?

In the 2015/16 academic year, of the 27 pupils that were assessed in Welsh first Language, 24 have remained in Ysgol Bro Helyg. 3 have left but we do not have destinations.

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- Key Stages 2 and 3?

In Blaenau Gwent, at the end of Key Stage 2, 22 pupils were assessed in Welsh (First language) and 21 of these pupils went on to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.

In the transfer between Key Stage 2 (Welsh Medium) and Key Stage 3 (Welsh Medium), 95.6 % transferred from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3 in Blaenau Gwent. 1 pupil transferred to an English Medium setting.

- Key Stage 3 and 4?

In the transfer between Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4, all pupils transferred and remained within the Welsh Medium setting. One pupil, due to a move to Caerphilly Authority, transferred from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni between Year 9 and Year 10.

If your authority has bilingual secondary schools (categories 2A, 2B, 2C and 2CH), please provide data for each school showing how many pupils are in the Welsh-medium stream and how many are in the English-medium stream, by Key Stage.

Not applicable

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

100% Gwynllyw

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### **Outcome 4: More learners aged 16-19 studying subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools, colleges and work-based learning**

#### **Increasing the percentage of learners aged 14 -16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh**

What is the current percentage of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 5 or more further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh? (You should NOT include Welsh literature. Applied GCSEs, double science count as two subjects; short courses count as one subject. It may not be possible to include BTEC because the awarding body does not differentiate between Welsh-medium and English-medium)

Currently, all pupils in Year 11 in Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw will be entered for the two Mathematics GCSE papers, at least one Science GCSE subject, Welsh Language GCSE and English Language GCSE, a minimum therefore of five subjects. Most pupils will study

between four to six other subjects to GCSE level as well. Therefore, the percentage is 100 %.

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What are the authority's targets for increasing this percentage? This can be expressed either as annual targets or as a single end of Plan target

No plans to increase this target.

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What is the current percentage of Year 11 learners who are entered for GCSE Welsh First Language who are studying for 2 or more further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh?

(You should NOT include Welsh literature. Applied GCSEs, double science count as two subjects; short courses count as one subject. It may not be possible to include BTEC because the awarding body does not differentiate between Welsh-medium and English-medium)

As above

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What are the authority's targets for increasing this percentage?

As above

This can be expressed either as annual targets or as a single end of Plan target

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### **Increasing the percentage of learners aged 16-19 who study subjects through the medium of Welsh in schools**

What is the percentage of learners aged 16-19 who study 2 or more subjects through a) the medium of Welsh b) bilingually (e.g. elements of qualifications/modules)?

All pupils (100 %) in Years 12 and 13 (16-19) study two or more subjects through the medium of Welsh in Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.

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

#### **Improving provision and standards in Welsh First Language**

What is the percentage of learners at the end of the Foundation Phase who reach at least Foundation Phase Outcome 5 in Language, Literacy and Communication Skills in Welsh-medium/bilingual schools?

In the 2015/16 academic year, 96.3% of pupils achieved the expected level in LLCW

#### Additional info:

Significant increase of 29.3 percentage points on 2015 (67%)

Performance is above Wales (90.7%) by 5.6 percentage points

Performance is above SE Wales (93.4%) by 2.9 percentage points

The 3 year trend shows an increase of 20.6 percentage points

Blaenau Gwent is ranked 2 in Wales in 2016 up on 2015 by 20 places

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in teacher assessment in Welsh?

In the 2015/16 academic year, 81.8% of pupils achieved the expected level in Welsh First Language.

Additional info:

Results increased on 2015 (69.2%) by 12.6 percentage points

Performance is below Wales (90.8%) by 9.7 percentage points

Performance is below SE Wales (93.1%) by 11.3 percentage points

The 3 year trend shows a decrease of 6.2 percentage points

Blaenau Gwent is ranked 22 in Wales in 2016 which is consistent with 2015

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in teacher assessment in Welsh?

The percentage of learners in Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw that reached at least Level 5 at the end of Key Stage 3 in 2016 is 87.7 %. (Wales 92%)

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A\*-C in GCSE Welsh first language?

The percentage of learners in Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw provisional L2 data: 75.4% GCSE A\* to C (Lag/Lit) at the end of Key Stage 4 in 2016 is only 75 %.

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### **Improving provision and standards of Welsh Second Language**

What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 2 who reach at least Level 4 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language?

In the 2015/16 academic year, 80.5% (Wales 77.9%) of pupils achieved the expected level in the assessment of Welsh Second Language.

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 3 who reach at least Level 5 in the teacher assessment of Welsh Second Language?

In the 2015/16 academic year, 78.0% (Wales 81.9%) of pupils achieved the expected level in the assessment of Welsh Second Language.

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A\*-C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course?

Of the 222 pupils who sat GCSE Welsh Full Course at the end of the 2014/15 academic year, 163 achieved a pass at A\*-C grade, which equates to 75.8%. (Entry for full course = 31.9% of cohort)

2015/16 Of the 242 pupils who sat GCSE Welsh Full Course at the end of the 2015/16 academic year, 180 achieved a pass at A\*-C grade, which equates to 74.4%. (Entry for full course = 37.1% of cohort). Increase in full courses entries as a % of the cohort on 2014/15, up by 5.2 percentage points. Standards are fairly stable at around 75%.

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What is the percentage of learners at the end of Key Stage 4 who achieve grades A\*-C in GCSE Welsh Second Language Short Course?

Of the 308 pupils who sat GCSE Welsh Short Course at the end of the 2014/15 academic year, 125 achieved a pass at A\*-C grade, which equates to 44.6%.

(Entry for short course = 41.3% of cohort)

Of the 274 pupils who sat GCSE Welsh Short Course at the end of the 2015/16 academic year, 99 achieved a pass at A\*-C grade, which equates to 36.1%.

(Entry for short course = 42% of cohort)

\*Pupils who achieved a pass in Full Course were removed from the Short Course list to avoid double counting.

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What are your targets for improvement in each of the above – either year on year or at the end of the 3-year Plan period?

What percentage of the cohort is entered for (i) GCSE Welsh Second Language Full Course; (ii) GCSE Welsh Second Language Short Course; and (iii) not entered for either?

Targets for improvement in pupil performance are set by schools based on individual pupil level data from FP to KS4 in Welsh. These targets are reviewed on a termly basis, challenged and monitored EAS Challenge Advisors. Targets for 2017 will be set in the autumn term 2016. For Welsh Second Language no targets are set by schools for the EAS at KS4 due to the non-core status of Welsh Second Language (up to end KS3 only). The LA will need to set targets based on trend (2015.16 figures below) but very hard to do as it depends if the school's run Full /Sort courses, enter, or not enter pupils. All pupils SHOULD be sitting Full Course by 2019 as only Full course will be offered from September 2017. Last Short course entry: summer 2018

In 2015:

- i) 222 pupils out of a cohort of 673 (33%) were entered for Full Course Welsh
- ii) 308 pupils out of a cohort of 673 (45.8%) were entered for Short Course Welsh
- iii) 143 pupils out of a cohort of 673 (21.2%) did not achieve a Welsh qualification

In 2016:

1. 242 pupils out of a cohort of 653 (37.1%) were entered for Full Course Welsh
2. 274 pupils out of a cohort of 653 (42%) were entered for Short Course Welsh
3. 137 pupils out of a cohort of 653 (21%) did not achieve a Welsh qualification

\*Pupils who were entered in Full Course were removed from the Short Course list to avoid double counting.

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### **More learners with higher-level Welsh language skills**

What are the current total A Level Welsh first language entries as a percentage of GCSE Welsh first language entries two years earlier?

There were 2 entries for Advanced Level Welsh in Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in 2016 as compared with 162 entries at GCSE level in 2014. This is a percentage of 1.2 %  
2015 data: 11 pupils – A level, 3 pupils – AS level Welsh (from all LA's feeding Gwynllyw)

2016 data: As above

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What are the current total A Level Welsh second language entries as a percentage of the full and short course GCSE Welsh second language entries two years earlier?

2015 data: 11 pupils – A level, 4 pupils – AS level Welsh

2016 data:

No pupils in schools as there are not any 6<sup>th</sup> Forms

(6<sup>th</sup> form College)

Last year – AS Welsh – 7 A2 Welsh – 6

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#### **Outcome 6: Welsh-medium provision for learners Additional Learning Needs**

No data

#### **Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development**

No data

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## Appendix 1:

	Welsh-medium schools	English-medium schools
<b>Urdd Gobaith Cymru</b>	<p><b>Primary schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Adran yr Urdd – Every week for Yrs 3-6 – Located at Ysgol Bro Helyg. A variety of activities on offer, including trips.</li> <li>• Sporting Events including – Rugby, Netball, Swimming, Football, Gymnastics, TAG Rugby and Cricket.</li> <li>• The Urdd National Eisteddfod – Opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions, including singing, dancing and recitation.</li> <li>• Residential Trips to our 3 centres – Llangrannog, Glan-llyn and Cardiff.</li> <li>• Jambori</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Language Youth Officer working in the area.</li> <li>• Weekly Urdd Club at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw – A variety of activities on offer.</li> <li>• Sporting Events including – Rugby, Netball, Swimming, Football and Gymnastics</li> <li>• The Urdd National Eisteddfod – Opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions, including singing, dancing and recitation.</li> <li>• Residential Trips to our 3 centres – Llangrannog, Glan-llyn and Cardiff.</li> <li>• Trips Abroad to Disneyland Paris and Spain.</li> <li>• A variety of day trips.</li> <li>• Welsh Language Youth Forum</li> <li>• Volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• Accreditation</li> <li>• All these activities offer children and young people the opportunity to use and practice their Welsh outside of the classroom.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Primary Schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sporting Events including – Rugby, Netball, Swimming, Football, Gymnastics, TAG Rugby and Cricket.</li> <li>• The Urdd National Eisteddfod – Opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions, including singing, dancing and recitation. Some competitions are specifically for Welsh Learners.</li> <li>• Residential Trips to our 3 centres – Llangrannog, Glan-llyn and Cardiff.</li> <li>• Jambori</li> </ul> <p><b>Secondary schools</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Welsh Language Youth Officer working in the area, supporting the English medium secondary schools and offering young people Welsh language activities in their community.</li> <li>• Sporting Events including – Rugby, Netball, Swimming, Football and Gymnastics</li> <li>• The Urdd National Eisteddfod – Opportunity to compete in a variety of competitions, including singing, dancing and recitation. Some competitions are specifically for Welsh Learners.</li> <li>• Residential Trips to our 3 centres – Llangrannog, Glan-llyn and Cardiff.</li> <li>• A variety of day trips.</li> <li>• Volunteering opportunities.</li> <li>• Accreditation</li> <li>• Weekly Welsh Clubs at Tredegar Comp and Abertillery.</li> <li>• Informal chatting sessions</li> <li>• All these activities offer children and young people the opportunity to use and practice their Welsh outside of the classroom.</li> </ul>

## Appendix 2:

### Lleoliad ysgolion cyfrwng Cymraeg a darpariaeth Mudiad Meithrin / Location of Welsh medium schools and Mudiad Meithrin Provision



#### ALLWEDDOL KEY

- Clychoedd Meithrin / Playgroups
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg / Welsh Medium Primary School
- Clychoedd ti A fi / Parent & toddler group:

**1** Clych Meithrin Pobl Bach  
Sirhowy Flying Start Hub  
Rhoslan  
Tredegar  
NP22 4PG

**2** Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg  
Rising Sun Industrial Unit  
Blaina  
NP13 3DQ

**3** Clych Meithrin Helyg Bychan  
Rising Sun Industrial Unit  
Blaina  
NP13 3DQ

**4** Clych ti a fi Blaina  
Hearts of the Valley's Integrated Children's Centre  
High Street  
Blaina  
NP13 3BN

**5** Clych Meithrin Gwddi-Hw  
Brynithel Flying Start Hub  
Penrhiw Estate  
Brynithel  
Abertillery  
NP13 2GZ

### Appendix 3: Additional Data

2015/16 (Jan 16) numbers on roll – 234 (inclusive of 32 part time nursery places)

CURRENT numbers of pupils in each year group at Ysgol Gymraeg Brohelyg (as of 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016).

Group description	Girls	Boys	Students
Year 1	17	21	38
Year 2	20	10	30
Year 3	15	9	24
Year 4	24	16	40
Year 5	15	14	29
Year 6	19	16	35
Year R	13	11	24
Year N1	3	3	6
Year N2	13	4	17
			243

Pupil Projections for Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Helyg

\*\* based on NOR Sept 16 BG project total number of year 7's 17/18=35, 18/19=29, 19/20=40.

	Projections (Jan 16)
2016/17	251
2017/18	248
2018/19	257
2019/20	257

Pupil numbers Gwynllyw

2016/17	<b><u>Bl.7</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.8</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.9</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.10</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.11</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.12</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.13</u></b>	<b><u>Bl.14</u></b>	
<b><u>Blaenau Gwent</u></b>	22	21	24	24	26	14	17		<b>148</b>
	<b>135</b>	<b>172</b>	<b>171</b>	<b>162</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>75</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>935</b>