



Blaenau Gwent 10-year Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Consultation: 5th November 20221 – 3rd January 2022

No	Name and Contact Details	Description of Correspondence
1.	<p>From: PACEY Cymru</p> <p>Sent: 03 December 2021 16:26</p>	<p>PACEY Cymru Outcome 1 PACEY Cymru strongly agree that it is important to strengthen and expand Welsh medium childcare provision. It is important to recognise that the decisions that families make about language in relation to childcare prior to early education also has an important role to play in supporting the journey towards bilingual / Welsh medium education. This journey begins prior to the funded non-maintained education and includes a wider range of provision such as registered childminders.</p> <p>PACEY Cymru welcome the training that is available for childcare, early years and play settings and work with Cwlwm partners to promote Camau training through the National Centre for Learning Welsh to increase the use of Welsh within childcare, early years and play settings. There is some information on our website about our work at PACEY Cymru to support Welsh language development and the promotion of Camau, we would be happy to provide more information about our work in relation to this.</p> <p>PACEY Cymru are currently working with local authorities and other partners to promote childminding as a career and support recruitment to the sector, there is further information about this on our website at Local Authorities in Wales.</p> <p>Outcome 3 PACEY Cymru understand that the main considerations within this outcome relate to maintained education, however some of the key messages are relevant to support those working in childcare, early years and play. For example, the importance of upskilling the workforce, which as highlighted within our response under outcome 1 this is available through Camau for the childcare, early years and play sector. Also, where there are references to the importance of good communication links between schools, this is equally important to support the earlier transitions between childcare and early year's settings and between settings and schools, it may be beneficial for these transitions to be included either within this outcome or included within outcome 1.</p> <p>Outcome 4 PACEY Cymru welcome the recognition of the importance of working with schools and colleges to support the accessibility of Welsh and bilingual courses that will further support the Cymraeg 2050 strategy. For example, the availability of childcare qualifications and training through the medium of Welsh or bilingually within the local area could help to address the need for more Welsh speakers within the childcare, early years and play sector, which in turn could support the aims of outcome 1.</p>

2. Mudiad Meithrin
17.12.21

Mudiad Meithrin response to the Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022-2032 Blaenau Gwent County Council
Mudiad Meithrin appreciates the opportunity to respond to the consultation of Blaenau Gwent County Council Welsh Education Strategic Plan 2022-2027.

Mudiad Meithrin's vision is that every child in Wales should have the opportunity to play, learn and grow through the medium of Welsh. Wherever there are small children in Wales then Mudiad Meithrin (and therefore the Welsh language) should also be present.

We have reflected on the Education Plan which has been prepared by Blaenau Gwent County Borough Council for the next 10 years 2022-2032 and would like to make the following comments:

1. We agree with your objectives and want to support you in achieving these.
2. We appreciate the work that was done during the course of the last plan in partnership with key stakeholders to develop a strong marketing communication plan and we look forward to continuing with this work.
3. We welcome the opportunity to work with you further to develop childcare settings, Cylchoedd meithrin and Ti a Fi, throughout Blaenau Gwent that are convenient to families and in their local community to ensure Welsh medium childcare is accessible to all.
4. It's worth noting here the importance of working with the local Health Board and the Health Visitors as well as with Officers that have direct contact with families.

Outcome 1

- Thank you for providing detailed data with the current position of the childcare and nursery places available in Blaenau Gwent.
- It would be useful to clarify what is meant by the term bilingual childcare setting so that parents are clear when they are making a choice what this means.
- To help with providing opportunities to families to be able to choose Welsh medium childcare close to their home consideration needs to be given to provide Welsh Medium Flying Start places in all areas of the county particularly if there are morning and afternoon sessions running at a location where one of these sessions could be Welsh Medium or adopting the model established in the county through supporting groups through the Croesi'r Bont project.
- We are pleased that a Welsh Medium Seedling Primary school is opening in Tredegar as Mudiad Meithrin are advanced in their plans to develop a new Cylch Meithrin through the Welsh Government Setup and Succeed Project to generate interest before the school opens. Children from the cylch meithrin will be able to feed directly to the seedling school.
- We welcome the opportunity to work with you to establish the 2 new childcare settings planned.
- Its difficult/problematic to include the total registered places at Non- Maintained settings in the numbers of spaces available for nursery children as a % of these places will be taken up by Flying Start or fee paying 2 years old children. It might be worth considering explaining this.
- Mudiad Meithrin would welcome the opportunities to work with the local authority and other partners on promotional work and would be happy to share work already carried out through speaking to parents Podcasts 'Baby Steps to Welsh' as well as other resources such as the video 'What is a Cylch Meithrin? Beth yw Cylch Meithrin?' and resources available on the Mudiad Meithrin web Site and You Tube channel. It would also be

beneficial to promote the work carried out through Clwb Cwtsh (Page 28 of document) and Clwb Cylch (Page 28 of document).

- Mudiad Meithrin believes that the work carried out with parents through our Ti a Fi groups is really important. We welcome the opportunities to work with the local authority to develop Ti a Fi Groups and would welcome any funding available to support this work.
- To help achieve the targets for transition rates further analysis of Mudiad Meithrin data will be beneficial to understand the reasons for the transition rates from Cylchoedd meithrin to Welsh Medium Schools and the challenges that are faced by parents.

Outcome 2

- There is no clear plan for developing any further schools. We know from experience is that the schools need to be convenient to families and in their local community to ensure Welsh medium Education is accessible to all. We know that Welsh Medium Education is off putting to families when they have to put young children on buses.
- Once the school is open in Tredegar consideration needs to be given to enable older children to transfer into the school. Families that may not have sent their children on the bus to Bro Helyg because they felt it was too far may want Welsh Medium Education and will now reconsider because the school is on their doorstep. Consider promotion of Immersion. Welsh Government has indicated that money will be available for every Local Authority.

Outcome 3

- It pleasing to note that a regional secondary school is being considered on the Heads of the Valley this will help stimulate demand with the secondary education being more local.

Outcome 5

- Details the work carried out by Mudiad Meithrin with regard to engaging with parents prior to the child starting school and we feel that this information would be best place with outcome 1 which refers to work being carried out for this age group.

Outcome 6

- We are keen to see references to Early Years under this outcome to enable children of all abilities whatever their needs to access Welsh-medium childcare. If the support is not available to children at this stage, we cannot envisage that these children will enter Welsh-medium Education.

Outcome 7

- It's worth noting the lack of Childcare workers in the Early Years sector in this outcome. With the vision to open further Cylchoedd Meithrin a challenge we will face is finding Welsh speaking qualified staff. We would be happy to work in partnership on any campaigns to recruit staff and promote the work.
- Mudiad Meithrin's Cam wrth Gam for Schools scheme is currently supporting pupils who are attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.
- Mudiad Meithrin's Apprenticeship Scheme is also available to give individuals the opportunity to undertake a Childcare qualification although at present there is no uptake within Blaenau Gwent.
- Mudiad Merithrin Academi scheme aims to offer a wide range of development and training opportunities for all staff and volunteers that form part of the Mudiad Meithrin community. This training is provided in various formats, combining traditional face-to-face and online contact, enabling learners to study at times convenient to them.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Croesi'r Bont also introduces language immersion methodology within Cylchoedd Meithrin and securing linguistic transition from Cylchoedd to Welsh-medium schools.
3.	Welsh Language Commissioner 21.12.21	 3. 20211221 LI S Ymateb Blaenau Gw
4.	Estyn 22.12.21	 03.01.22 - Response re Blaenau Gwent W
5.	Governors of Ysgol Gymraeg Gwynllyw 3.1.22 11.18am	 5. CYNLLUN STRATEGOL CYMRAE

The Consultation closed at 12pm on the 3rd January 2022, the below response was received after the consultation closed, however, the response was considered and addressed within the draft 10-year WESP

No	Name and Contact Details	Description of Correspondence
6.	RhAG 3.1.22 23.55	 6. Sylwadau ar Gynllun Strategol C _y