

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

DECEMBER 2020

OVERALL SUMMARY PLAN

During 2020 there has been significant partnership working, innovative and creative solutions to support Welsh language provision and support childcare for children of key workers and vulnerable children and young people during the response to the Coronavirus pandemic, and we assess our progress as GREEN

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

Number of children in Welsh medium Flying Start places requested Jan to March 2020 is 16 (13.11%) which is a slight percentage decrease compared to 26 (13.26%) April to August 2019 [data challenge for April to August 2020 due to Covid impact]
Number of children in Welsh medium or bilingual Childcare Offer places Sept 2020 is 165 of 528 (31.25%) which is a decrease compared to 248 of 672 (36.90%) for Sept 2019.
Number of children in Welsh medium Nursery (N2) Sept 2020 is 344 (18.78%) which is a slight percentage increase compared to 362 (18.66%) Sept 2019.
Number of children in Welsh medium reception Sept 2020 is 369 (18.42%) which is a slight percentage decrease compared to 383 (18.52%) Sept 2019.
Number of children in Welsh medium Primary school Sept 2019 is 2888 (17.62%) which is a slight percentage increase compared to 2918 (17.55%) Sept 2019.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

21st Century Schools team to continue to maximise available funding to increase the places available in Welsh medium school provision to meet parental preference and trends in live birth data

Early Years team continue to work with Menter Iaith Caerffili and Mudiad Meithrin as well as the childcare sector to ensure sufficient Welsh medium childcare places are available as demand is stimulated.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

21st Century Schools update:

There are 5 projects identified specifically in the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Capital Grant. Building Consultancy has indicated that there has been a delay to one of those projects so far due to "materials availability due to manufacturers shutting down during lockdown."

Additional works have also been identified at Welsh Medium sites through the Education Capital Maintenance Programme and are being progressed. The schools are being liaised with closely to enable access as mutually convenient times in light of covid restrictions on many school sites.

The 21st Century Schools and Colleges Band B programme in Caerphilly is currently progressing its Phase 1 schemes through the Statutory processes outlined in the School Organisation Code 2018. Ysgol Gymraeg Cwm Gwyddon has been identified as one of the priority schemes and has recently gained approval from Cabinet to progress to formal statutory consultation through the issuing of a Statutory Notice which is due to be published on the 11th January 2021.

Early Years and partner updates:

During 2020 the early years team has worked with partners to progress the development of Welsh medium childcare places throughout the borough including increasing those offering funded provision through Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Assisted Places schemes. Although there are many childcare settings delivering Welsh places, the number taking up funded provision has decreased slightly which we think is in part due to the impact of Covid and the impact of mixing bubbles in different part time provisions as well as impact on working patterns of families.

During March to June 2020 many Welsh medium settings closed and a majority did not re-open until September 2020. The legacy of funded provision continued from Flying Start, Childcare Offer and Early Years Education to ensure settings remained viable to re-open in September, once the impact of covid diminished. However, Menter Iaith Caerffili groups were impacted more severely with the mixing of bubbles due to the variety of age groups catered for in the afterschool and holiday provision which posed an increased potential risk. As such those groups have remained shut and are being reviewed in January.

Menter Iaith Caerffili continues to support and develop our current Welsh medium childcare provision:

- 1 Clwb Brecwast
- 5 Clwb Gwyliau
- 6 Clwb Meithrin (wrap around)
- 6 Clwb Carco

During March-August 2020, our entire Menter Iaith Caerffili provision was closed due to COVID-19. Consequently over 60 members of staff were placed on the Job Retention Scheme. As of September 2020, our wraparound provision has been fully operational with intermittent closures due to COVID-19 cases. Menter Iaith Caerffili has been able to return the majority of its childcare workforce however it has not been possible to reopen the afterschool, holiday or breakfast provision. Following consultation with Headteachers of schools, where the majority of provisions are based, it was decided that these provisions would not reopen due to the possible impact of COVID-19 cases within these settings, on the relevant schools. A number of childcare workers remain on the Job Retention Scheme and the reopening of these provisions will be reviewed in January 2021. COVID-19 has had a significant impact on the service and Menter Iaith Caerffili as a whole, particularly the sustainability of the service.

Mudiad Meithrin Officers have worked in the Bedwas/Trethomas area to develop a Cylch Meithrin and Ti a Fi. The Ti a Fi opened first although has since been impacted by Covid and the Cylch was impacted and delayed in its registration which has not yet been achieved although it aims to open in the new year. Mudiad Meithrin has continued to support its members throughout the pandemic.

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

PLASC dataset 2020 shows a transition rate of 99.8% from Welsh medium Primary to Welsh medium Secondary school which has remained constant over recent years.

Descriptive analysis of the Mudiad Meithrin data set supplied from their members for accessibility purposes:

During the time period 2015-16 to 2019-20 this is the data from those settings who are members of Mudiad Meithrin. The data does not reflect those settings who have changed their status or have decided not to become or remain a member of Mudiad Meithrin.

- There was a decrease in the number of registered Cylch Meithrin from 15 settings to 12 settings
- The number of daily sessions offered remained fairly stable 18-20 until 2019-20 when it decreased to 16
- The number of children attending Cylch Meithrin has decreased from 591 in 2016-17 to 337 in 2019-20
- The number of children from Welsh speaking homes remains low although there has been an increase to 4.2%
- The majority of children are from English speaking homes (84%) with the remaining from mixed language homes (11.6%)
- The transition rate was increasing from 72.3% in 2015-16 to 83.5% in 2018-19. However, this rate dropped in 2019-20 to 74.9%

During 2019-20 there have been changes in the Cylchoedd, which may have contributed to the changing data above:

- Aberbargoed 123 in the centre of Aberbargoed, has closed on 16/10/2019
- Coed Duon, on Blackwood Comprehensive School site, is registered for 19 children, had 12 children attending at 31.08.19 of whom 2 were Flying Start and has a transition rate of 66.7% to Welsh medium education
- Cwm Derwen, sited in Ysgol Cwm Derwen, is registered for 16 children, had 11 attending at 31.08.19 of who 1 was Flying Start and has a transition rate of 100%
- Cwm Gwyddon, sited in Ysgol Cwm Gwyddon, is registered for 19 children per session, runs 2 sessions a day and had 28 children attending at 31.08.19 of whom none were Flying Start. They have a transition rate of 80%
- Dewi Sant has become a bilingual setting and is no longer a member of Mudiad Meithrin. They continue to be delivering 24 places and serve a large number of Flying Start children
- Ifor Bach, in Ysgol Ifor Bach, is registered for 19 children per session, runs 2 sessions per day and had 29 children attending at 31.08.19. They had 9 Flying Start children attending which may contribute to a lower transition rate of 55.56%

- Nelson, in the heart of Nelson village centre is registered for 23 children and had 23 children attending at 31.08.19 of whom 2 are Flying Start. They have a good transition rate of 94.44%
- Penpedairheol is in the community centre in the middle of the village and registered for 24. They had 18 children attending at 31.08.19 but a poor transition rate of 28.57%
- Pontllanfraith is in the sports pavilion in the Bryn Penllwyn area registered for 13 children operating 2 sessions a day. There are 30 children attending over the week as at 31.08.19 of whom 10 are Flying Start. They have a poor transition rate of 25% but sit adjacent to two community primary schools.
- Rhymni (Meithrin Mwy) sits in Ysgol Y Lawnt offering 28 registered places for wraparound provision of nursery children so transition rate is not applicable. They had low numbers of 5 at 31.08.19 but are a new setting who are building their numbers up over time.
- Rhymni sits in the community centre in the middle of Rhymney village is registered for 16 children operating 2 sessions per day. They had 32 attending of whom 26 are Flying Start and a good transition rate of 86.21%
- Tedi Twt sits on Ysgol Gynradd Gilfach Fargoed is registered for 18 children operating 2 sessions daily. There were 24 children attending as at 31.08.19 of whom 17 were Flying Start. They have a good transition rate of 90%
- Tonyfelin is in the middle of Caerphilly town in the church and registered for 40 children. There were 25 children attending at 31.08.19 and had a very good transition rate of 95.65% to Welsh medium education
- Yr Enfys sits in the centre adjacent to Ysgol Bro Allta and is registered for 20 children. There were 18 children attending at 31.08.19 of whom 3 were Flying Start. They have a transition rate of 100%

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Primary Schools continue to work closely with YG Cwm Rhymni to support positive transition for all pupils and parents

Menter Iaith Caerffili, Urdd and Schools continue to work in partnership to support learners across the borough to improve Welsh language development opportunities in the community.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni's transition support during summer 2020:

The Gelli Haf campus was a key childcare hub for children of key workers during March to June 2020 and changed to mixed age ranges 3 years upwards. This enabled some pupils experience the site and the wider staff teams from across the cluster, prior to attending the school in the September.

Regular transition provision and meetings continued throughout the Lockdown Summer period in order to alter transition arrangements and online transition tasks were provided for the children who were unfortunately unable to attend the school sites. The school arranged regular videos for year 6 children to familiarise themselves with their new school.

The school provided a wide array of online transition arrangements for children moving between different key stages i.e. online videos including an extensive number of key staff and personnel involved in planning the specific arrangements. There was also regular information via email messages to pupils and parents.

This ongoing commitment to supporting transition of pupils from Welsh medium Primary to Welsh medium Secondary has enabled the transition rate to remain high at almost 100% annually.

Menter Iaith Caerffili:

Menter Iaith Caerffili's aim is to increase the use of Welsh within the community in Caerphilly for all ages and make it a language that is part of the county's social fabric by enabling people to live and work in Welsh.

The Mentrau Iaith (Language Initiatives) are dynamic, voluntary, community organisations that promote the use of Welsh throughout Wales. Menter Iaith Caerffili works across the communities of Caerphilly to increase the use of Welsh by all ages by organising social events, working in partnership with local businesses and organisations to make Welsh more accessible to all in the county, providing Welsh medium childcare, Welsh medium play opportunities, youth provision, adult Education classes, Holiday activities for children and young people, Welsh language support to childcare providers, consultation and training.

Menter Iaith Caerffili provides a varied programme of opportunities and services for a range of ages, including the following:

- A variety of social events, workshops, training and activities for children and young people with local partners, dependent on adequate resources and funding and the various opportunities that arise during the plan period.
- Continue to undertake a needs assessment with children, young people and their families to map existing social Welsh opportunities in the county and create a joint strategy with local partners to try to repond to gaps and continue to stimulate social provision. Coordinate this strategy through the Welsh Language Forum and other relevant local forums and as a part of Caerphilly Borough's 5 year Strategy to promote the Welsh language across the borough.
- Respond to local and national consultations on issues relating to our work as a local Menter Iaith in Caerphilly that directly and indirectly affect the use of the Welsh language in the community.
- Provide support and guidance to anyone that wishes to find out more about the Welsh language and how to access the language in Caerphilly.

Y Siarter Iaith / The Welsh Language Charter

During 2019-20, Menter Iaith Caerffili staff have continued to support the 11 Welsh medium primaries in their commitment to the Siarter Iaith which seeks to increase the use of the Welsh language amongst pupils during the school day but also within the community. In addition to supporting schools with projects within school, Menter Iaith Caerffili have been engaging with schools and families in order to promote the opportunities within the community to use the Welsh language in addition to responding to particular needs within individual schools.

A key project which has supported the Siarter Iaith during the year has been our video games clubs and workshops within primary schools, Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni (YGCRh) and during the holidays within local communities. This project has responded to the interest of children and young people and provided a Welsh medium on-line platform to link with other Welsh speaking children and young people across the borough. This work also responds to the

lack of Welsh medium digital content for children and young people and encourages the development of local digital, Welsh medium networks and develops digital skills amongst Welsh speaking young people.

For Secondary schools there is a Welsh Language Youth Officer working in the area based in YGCRh funded jointly through Urdd, Menter Iaith Caerffili and Caerphilly CBC. They support the weekly clubs in YGCRh as well as sporting events across Welsh and English medium schools. Along with the National Urdd Eisteddfod and residential trips there have been trips abroad with YGCRh pupils to Disneyland, Paris and Spain and a Welsh Language Youth Forum. There are a variety of day trips planned across Welsh and English medium schools as well as volunteering opportunities and accreditation to support young people to use and practice their Welsh outside of the classroom. In addition the Youth Officer supports a weekly club at The Hangar, Aberbargoed and consultation work.

Menter Iaith Caerffili provides a range of opportunities for children and young people to use the Welsh language outside school within a number of workshops and clubs during term time and school holidays. This provision includes the following opportunities delivered by Menter Iaith:

- Termly Sgwad Sgwennu (Writing Squad)
- Art and craft, cooking workshops during all school holidays
- Ffiifest – an annual festival at Caerphilly Castle which celebrates the Welsh language and local heritage. Over 5000 attended the event in 2019.
- Miri Meithrin sessions during all school holidays – play sessions with a range of activities and information stalls for parents and children.
- Outdoor activities within local parks
- Weekly digital clubs for children and young people
- Monthly digital club for young people
- Weekly Dawns Di-ri Dance Club

Since April 2020, Menter Iaith Caerffili's provision has transferred to digital platforms and has continued to provide valuable opportunities for children, young people and their families to use the Welsh language, engage with other Welsh speakers and learners locally. This provision has been provided through Facebook and Zoom and has included a range of activity sessions for both children, young people and their families.

This provision and partnership work is on-going and the programme continues to develop. Funding for these opportunities is limited however and is dependent on Menter Iaith Caerffili securing funding sources. Menter Iaith Caerffili will continue to seek further funding sources to maintain provision.

Transition from childcare settings to school nursery:

In addition to the above 12 Cylch Meithrin who are members of Mudiad Meithrin, there are other Welsh medium and bilingual childcare settings:

- 1 Dechrau'n Deg registered childcare setting running adjacent to YGG Caerffili
- A Welsh medium childminder in the Bargoed area is in the process of registering
- 1 bilingual preschool childcare setting registered in the Caerphilly basin area
- 1 bilingual day nursery in the Pengam area
- 17 Menter Iaith sessional settings
- Dewi Sant become bilingual during 2019/20 and is no longer a member of Mudiad Meithrin

The numbers are not collated for transition from the settings listed as they are not members of Mudiad Meithrin

There needs to be more work to explore reasons for lower transition rates in some of the Cylchoedd Meithrin. Some are based within the Welsh medium school but choose to move to English medium provision. Some settings have high Flying Start numbers which may link to proximity of school nursery, but others without funded 2-year-old places may also have poor transition rates. The development of provision under the Childcare capital Welsh medium grant has enabled Welsh medium childcare settings to be further developed on or nearer to school sites. This includes the possible move of Cylch Meithrin Coed Duon nearer to YG Trelyn which would support an improvement in transition rates. This area needs further work to understand why parents may choose Welsh medium childcare with or without funding and then not transition to Welsh medium school nursery.

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

291 (14.9%) pupils 14-16years were studying Welsh medium qualifications in 2019/20 according to the PLASC return which is an increase from 12.9% in 2018/19

There was a decrease from 628 learners attaining Welsh-medium Customer Care units in 2018-19 to 542 in 2019-20 due to sudden early closure because of COVID.

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhywni will continue to work across the two sites and in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd and Partneriaeth 6, to develop a broad offer for students through the medium of Welsh

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhywni update:

Throughout the Lockdown period in March 2020 YGCRh adapted to providing lessons to all pupils via a variety of different forms i.e. streaming lessons, providing pre-recorded videos and tasks uploaded to the Google Classroom platform. The school also ensured provision was continued with our more vulnerable pupils via regular contact with our Wellbeing team. Naturally everything was undertaken through the Welsh language. The school was in regular communication via a whole host of different channels to pupils and also parents via regular videos, emails, Twitter messages, ParentMail communication, etc. These were in abundance from the teaching departments, Wellbeing departments and Senior Leadership of the school. These communication channels were alongside a daily timetable of lessons that were provided for the children throughout the Lockdown period.

Since returning to school in September the school has refined the provision offered to children and has invested financially in digital technology in order to enhance and improve the above provision, especially for the ever-rising groups of classes and pupils who have been self-isolating due to the virus.

Coleg y Cymoedd update:

In 2019-20, Iaith ar Waith (Welsh-medium Customer Care) units were delivered in Childcare, Health and Social Care, Catering, Business, Travel and Tourism, The Creative Industries, Engineering, Construction, Hairdressing, Beauty, Public Services and Sport courses. Despite early closure due to COVID, 542 learners attained a WJEC accredited unit qualification at Entry Level 3, Level 1 or Level 2 in these courses. Delivery is scheduled for the above plus Automotive Engineering courses in '20-21.

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

79 (24.6%) pupils 16-19year olds were studying Welsh medium qualifications in 2019/20 which is an increase from 22.6% in 2018/19

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni will continue to work across the two sites and in partnership with Coleg y Cymoedd and Partneriaeth 6, to develop a broad offer for students through the medium of Welsh

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni update:

Throughout the Lockdown period in March 2020 YGCRh adapted to providing lessons to all pupils via a variety of different forms i.e. streaming lessons, providing pre-recorded videos and tasks uploaded to the Google Classroom platform. The school also ensured provision was continued with our more vulnerable pupils via regular contact with our Wellbeing team. Naturally everything was undertaken through the Welsh language. The school was in regular communication via a whole host of different channels to pupils and also parents via regular videos, emails, Twitter messages, ParentMail communication, etc. These were in abundance from the teaching departments, Wellbeing departments and Senior Leadership of the school. These communication channels were alongside a daily timetable of lessons that were provided for the children throughout the Lockdown period.

Since returning to school in September the school has refined the provision offered to children and has invested financially in digital technology in order to enhance and improve the above provision, especially for the ever-rising groups of classes and pupils who have been self-isolating due to the virus.

CCBC's Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation Team has been working with Careers Wales to deliver sessions to students and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni to emphasise the importance of Welsh language skills when seeking further/higher education or employment opportunities. Sessions were scheduled to be delivered at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and St Martins School however have been postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. The team were also going to be involved in the Careers Day at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Plans are in the pipeline that these will go ahead in 2021 via virtual sessions.

Coleg y Cymoedd update:

In 2019-20, Welsh-medium delivery of the Welsh Baccalaureate lessons provided at both AS and A2 levels in the 'A' Level Centre) leading to Bilingual qualification overall). Welsh-medium GCSE Mathematics re-sit class ran in 2019-20 too. The College has recently advertised for Welsh-medium staff in Childcare, Health and Social Care and Public Services and will process application forms in January 2021. This development work will be supported by the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru update:

Urdd Gobaith Cymru offer children and young people a variety of opportunities through the medium of Welsh in the community and further afield. During 2019-2020, several children and young people from Caerffili took part in our activities, which included sporting tournaments, youth forum, residential trips and weekly clubs. In March 2020, as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, all our planned community activities for the rest of 2020 were postponed. However, some national digital sessions were facilitated, and it is hoped that these can be rolled out on a local level shortly to compliment community work. We will also be offering all schools in the area a package of activities that can be tailored to individual schools.

Urdd Gobaith Cymru continue to work in partnership with Menter Iaith Caerffili and the Caerffili Youth Service on the Welsh language youth provision in the area. This work has continued throughout the pandemic, with the Youth Officer working on a special project with the Youth Service.

Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh

KEY ANNUAL DATA

N/A

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Schools will work with Education Achievement Service to deliver the new curriculum for Welsh language and continuing innovation through online learning provision developed in response to the Covid pandemic.

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni update:

Throughout the Lockdown period in March 2020 YGCRh adapted to providing lessons to all pupils via a variety of different forms i.e. streaming lessons, providing pre-recorded videos and tasks uploaded to the Google Classroom platform. The school also ensured provision was continued with our more vulnerable pupils via regular contact with our Wellbeing team. Naturally everything was undertaken through the Welsh language. The school was in regular communication via a whole host of different channels to pupils and also parents via regular videos, emails, Twitter messages, ParentMail communication, etc. These were in abundance from the teaching departments, Wellbeing departments and Senior Leadership of the school. These communication channels were alongside a daily timetable of lessons that were provided for the children throughout the Lockdown period.

Since returning to school in September the school has refined the provision offered to children and has invested financially in digital technology in order to enhance and improve the above provision, especially for the ever-rising groups of classes and pupils who have been self-isolating due to the virus.

During March to June 2020, YGCRh worked alongside many other school teams providing a daily hub for children of key workers with a whole host of YGCRh feeder Welsh medium primary schools and other non-Welsh medium primary schools. The partnership worked extremely well and pupils from both language settings benefitted from the additional opportunities to practise their Welsh language skills during this difficult time. YGCRh during this time changed from 11-18 to catering for children aged 3years upwards enabling family groups to be kept together and easing the challenges for parents.

Coleg y Cymoedd update:

During the Covid response many activities for learners moved to online provision. This enabled wider access for those from across the 4 campuses to come together in Welsh language activities more easily than if they were travelling to a particular location.

Coleg y Cymoedd hosted a Bilingual Music Festival featuring Mr Phormula in September 2019 and supported with grant money from Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. 650 students attended gigs on all 4 campuses & 55 attended bilingual beatboxing workshops. Other activities were cancelled due to COVID restrictions, but 'LLUN LLES' (Well-being Monday) event will now be rolled over to '20 – 21 (restrictions permitting).

There will also be a series of online Q & A sessions with famous Welsh people from the valleys will take place in '20-21, again funded by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol. The first online session took place on 04.11.'20 with Sion Tomos Owen.

A booklet (on-line and in hard copy) is provided for learners at Coleg y Cymoedd, entitled Cymraeg yn y Coleg. It was published in 2019-20 in hard copy (online for 2020-21). This includes information Welsh speakers need on curriculum choices, their rights under the Welsh Language Standards, help and support available to them and information about Welsh-themed activities throughout the year including 2 on-line Welsh Clubs (1 for Welsh speakers and 1 for Welsh learners).

The Welsh-medium Customer Care units studied at Coleg y Cymoedd have an element of language awareness built in to them where language transmission is discussed among many other aspects such as the benefit of being able to speak Welsh in the workplace and the advantages this brings in terms of potential employability.

The College also uses its Welsh Ambassadors (funded by Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol) to encourage prospective students to view the College as a place where their Welsh language skills will be welcomed and supported.

Education Achievement Service update:

All Welsh medium primary schools in the EAS region, have achieved silver in the Welsh Language Charter and in the last year have been supported by Ysgol Penalltau and their Criw Cymraeg on twitter.

EAS have developed promotional material for parents to support their children's learning and links to various support organisations and resources

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/jukWji7b3NMHa/> (English medium version)

<https://spark.adobe.com/page/HsK8VRP1o2Mwk/> (Welsh medium version)

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

762 (13.3%) pupils aged 3-19 were identified with Additional Learning Needs in 2019/20 according to the PLASC return which is an increase from 12.9% in 2018/19

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Cluster ALN Act readiness tool to be implemented and action plans work towards implementation in 2021 to ensure children are supported in appropriate provision

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Schools have all completed the ALN readiness tool and ALNCOs are working collaboratively to ensure the schools are able to offer suitable provision for all Welsh medium learners. The Specialist Resource Base in Ysgol Gynradd Cwm Derwen and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymini Gelli Haf site are working to support the cluster to identify those children and young people whose needs are best met in their main school and those who need more specialist provision.

ALNCOs are delivering training to staff regarding ALN Act implementation and requirements.

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

KEY ANNUAL DATA

N/A

PLANNED ACTIVITIES

Education Achievement Service to continue delivery of Welsh language support to school staff across the region

Menter Iaith Caerffili continue to support English medium childcare settings to develop Welsh language skills

Coleg y Cymoedd continue to support its staff team to enhance their Welsh language skills

PROGRESS / UPDATE / PRESSURES

Menter Iaith Caerffili has been commissioned (2018-22) to audit and then further support the development of Welsh language resources and Welsh language skills across the childcare sector. In the current contract there is emphasis on the development of the Road to Bilingualism, which will identify the level of Welsh, support needs and develop an action plan to improve Welsh across all settings. Current contract arrangements are in place until March 31st 2021. Since April 2020, this support has been largely provided through remote and digital, however, some visits to settings have been possible since September 2020.

At Coleg y Cymoedd, staff can attend the CYMRAEG GWAITH Scheme (4 hours a week) or the normal CPD sessions at a variety of levels (2 hours a week) in addition to the 2 online courses offered through the National Centre for Learning Welsh.

Coleg y Cymoedd undertakes a Staff Skills Survey every 2 years to update our database. The next Survey is due January 2021

CCBC's Equalities, Welsh Language and Consultation Team has been working with Careers Wales to deliver sessions to students and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni to emphasise the importance of Welsh language skills when seeking further/higher education or employment opportunities. Sessions were scheduled to be delivered at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and St Martins School however have been postponed due to the ongoing Covid-19 Pandemic. The team were also going to be involved in the Careers Day at Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni. Plans are in the pipeline that these will go ahead in 2021 via virtual sessions.

27 members of staff are learning Welsh. Courses vary and include online 30 week courses ranging from Mynediad to Hyfedredd and Say Something in Welsh (6 month intensive course)

During the lockdown period over 500 of the 10 Hour Cymraeg Gwaith Courses have been completed, predominantly by school staff and teachers. Data is continuously being updated and hopefully by the next update we will be able to provide figures as to how many teachers and support staff have completed these courses.

FOREWARD LOOK MILESTONES

Priority 1: move forward in the capital development programme to expand Welsh medium Education provision

Priority 2: further explore reasons for the three lowest transition rates between the Cylchoedd Meithrin and Welsh medium school nurseries to understand the impact of coronavirus

Priority 3: develop and implement the new curriculum for Welsh Language

Priority 4: implementation of the ALN Act for Welsh medium learners

Priority 5: develop the new Welsh Education Strategic Plan and appropriate datasets in readiness for implementation by September 2022

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