

Conwy Education Services

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

5 December, 2017

Conwy Welsh in Education Strategic Plan 2017-2020

1. This is the vision, aims and objectives of the Local Authority for Welsh medium education for the next three years.

Vision

Conwy County Borough Council has a vision to ensure that all pupils in the county are fluent and have the language skills to be confident in Welsh and English. We want to ensure that children and young people are given every opportunity to become full members of the bilingual community in which they live so that they are able to use the language with the family, in the community and in the workplace.

As an Authority we are committed to the Welsh Government's aspiration to create a million Welsh speakers by 2050. We will contribute to this vision by increasing the number who receive Welsh medium education together with encouraging children and young people's pride in the Welsh language, its heritage and culture.

We will continue to promote opportunities for receiving Welsh medium education for all children who so desires and to develop local and regional marketing plans to encourage growth. We recognise the importance of Welsh medium pre-school care and how growth in this sector makes a substantial contribution to the increase in the number of those who chose Welsh medium education in Key Stage 2. Therefore we will work closely with Mudiad Meithrin to achieve this vision. We are already implementing a latecomers to Welsh medium education scheme in Key Stage 2, and continuing to offer opportunities for children to attend the Authority's Language Centre remains a priority. As well as creating more Welsh medium places through the Welsh Government's *21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme*, we will update the county's language policy and set a specific timetable for moving schools forward along the linguistic continuum. We will also want to increase the number of pupils who follow Welsh medium education and reach level 3+ at the end of KS2 and continue on the Welsh first language path in KS3.

As stated in Conwy County Borough Council's Welsh Language Strategy for 2017-22, which will be implemented hand in hand with this strategy, we cannot achieve our vision without working with other partners, establishments, schools and individuals. We have already established an Education Forum which will meet once every half term, and will include a broad representation from across the education sector, with the aim of agreeing on an action plan and for monitoring this strategy. The Forum will include a cross section of stakeholders including Social Services, the Youth Service, Life Long Learning, Economic Development, Leisure and Planning, councillors and school governors, Welsh agencies such as the Young Farmers, the Urdd, Menter Iaith. (see appendix 1)

To ensure that this strategy is owned and implemented internally by the Authority; we will report on the action plan at the Education and Skills Overview and Scrutiny Committee, annually, as well as holding regular meetings with officers from across education departments every term (EMT) and monthly with the Head of Education.

This strategy also reflects the policies and strategies of the Welsh Government, i.e. Welsh 2050, Rewriting the Future, Successful Futures and Future Generations.

By fulfilling the objectives of this strategy, we hope that there will be a positive development not only in Welsh education and Welsh medium education in the county, but also the total education of pupils in Conwy. Conwy's Cabinet is supportive of the Authority's Welsh Language Strategy and is actively supporting it.

Objectives:

- Promote the advantages of Welsh medium education to parents and conduct a series of community campaigns and events for families in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin, the Authority's family support services, Flying Start, Menter Iaith, and the Urdd. These events would be planned to run concurrently with the Authority's intention of conducting an assessment of the demand for Welsh medium education in the county.
- In co-operation with the Early Years Advisory Teachers who support the settings regularly in their daily practice, Mudiad Meithrin, Flying Start and PPA, identify pre-school needs to include tracking pupil progress and to respond as necessary, offer opportunities for staff to up skill and continue to support the Croesi'r Bont, Clebran and Cymraeg i Bawb schemes.
- Continue to offer opportunities for primary pupils to attend the Language Centre for a term to include support before and after attending. The Centre will also offer further language improvement sessions as necessary for pupils and support for their teachers. Continue to support the Creuddyn immersion scheme and co-operate with the school to further market and promote the scheme amongst the parents of prospective pupils.
- Review the options for expanding Welsh medium education in the Abergele / Kinnel Bay, Towyn / Llanddulas and Llanfairfechan areas. We will work closely with both schools at Llanfairfechan during this strategy so as to move them from category 4 to category 3.
- Co-operate with all the Authority's secondary schools to increase the percentage who are assessed through the medium of Welsh in Yr. 9 and offer additional support to English medium schools who offer Welsh first language lessons in KS3, to enable more pupils to gain a Welsh first language GCSE qualification.

2. Local authorities have a statutory duty under section 10 of the Learner Travel (Wales) Measure 2008 for promoting access to Welsh medium education and training. Give a statement regarding accessibility to Welsh medium provision in your authority in relation to home to school transport.

The Authority's Home to School Policy commits the Authority to providing free home to school transport for pupils of compulsory school age who meet the statutory distance criteria to the nearest Welsh medium school (i.e. schools in categories 1 or 2).

Pupils who attend the Language Centre will receive free home to school transport if they meet the statutory distance criteria.

If the nearest Welsh medium provision is outside the county of Conwy, the Authority will follow the same policy and provide free transport to the nearest Welsh school if

they meet the statutory distance criteria. However, the transport policy might have to be reconsidered regarding transporting pupils over the county's borders due to the loss to Conwy's Welsh schools. The County's legal department are currently looking into this matter.

Conwy has a duty to comply with parents' wishes when a school's admission numbers hasn't been reached.

3.

Outcome 1: More 7 year old children being educated through the medium of Welsh

State your current position regarding the number of 7 year old pupils who are educated through the medium of Welsh and your targets for the next 3 years.

Current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
273/ 1178	272/1166	317/1149	289/1090
23.2%	23.3%	27.6%	26.5%

The County's present demographic profile shows a fall in the number of pupils by 2019/2020, however the % still shows an improving trend. 20.6% in 2012/2013 to 26.5% in 2019/2020.

Objectives:

- Conduct a full review to measure the demand for Welsh medium education by February 2018.
- Increase non statutory nursery provision by creating 30 additional Welsh medium nursery places in the county as well as supporting Mudiad Meithrin with establishing 2 new groups by 2020
- Extend the temporary capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa, Abergele to meet the increasing demand for Welsh medium education in the area by offering 30 additional places by September 2017. Through the Welsh Government's *21st Century Schools and Education Capital Programme*, we will identify how we will increase the number of Welsh school places in the Abergele / Kinmel Bay / Towyn, Llanddulas and Llanfairfechan areas during the Band B (2019-2024) period
- Look at the possibility of incorporating the above nursery groups in a school system rather than working independently. This would possibly strengthen Welsh provision and protect against the obvious staffing difficulties in the county.
- Investigate the possibility of extending Ysgol Bod Alaw to ensure that the Colwyn Bay nursery group is on the school's grounds, and will feed into the school.

- Co-operate with at least 5 of the category 4 schools so that they move to category 3 in the next 5 years and ensure that all the Authority's schools move along the language continuum by 2025. The schools will be named in the development plan which will run alongside this strategic plan, and a timetable will be put in place.

Supportive statement:

The county has a very variable demography with the number of the older pupils increasing, a forecasted reduction in the birth rate and a combination of coastal, rural and urban areas.

Conwy County Borough Council has 55 primary schools, 7 secondary schools and 1 special school. The variable linguistic nature of the county together with diversity in the areas where there is a demand for Welsh medium education has meant that Conwy has schools in all 5 language categories.

According to the definition of category 1 schools, they are as follows;

- Bod Alaw
- Glan Morfa
- Morfa Rhianedd
- Betws y Coed
- Betws yn Rhos
- Bro Aled
- Bro Cernyw
- Bro Gwydir
- Capel Garmon
- Cerrigydrudion
- Dolgarrog
- Dolwyddelan
- Eglwysbach
- Llanddoged
- Llangelynnin
- Llanefydd
- Penmachno
- Pentrefoelas
- Tal y Bont
- Ysbyty Ifan

Ysgol Pencae is defined at present as a 'transitional school' but an additional year of Welsh medium education is being offered this year (2017) which means that all the pupils will be following Welsh medium education by September 2018.

Ysgol Awel y Mynydd is defined as a 'dual stream' school, but the Nursery and Reception classes are wholly taught through the medium of Welsh. Ysgol y Creuddyn is the designated Welsh medium secondary school with Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy offering bilingual provision.

We intend to hold a review to measure the demand for Welsh medium education in the county by February 2018 to set the current baseline for where the demand is to be found. As well as the usual questionnaires, in association with the Forum's stakeholders, we will conduct a series of specific campaigns to raise awareness of what is Welsh education. Not only will these campaigns/sessions promote the

advantages of Welsh education, but also provide an opportunity to discuss the concerns some parents/carers may have about Welsh education. (work with e.g. menter/ Mudiad etc.)

We have already identified the need to expand the capacity of Ysgol Glan Morfa due to an increase in demand which will have been implemented by September 2022. Ysgol Glan Gele has an excess of 4%, Sant Elfod, 3%, Llanddulas 9%. Ysgol y Foryd has only 3.3% empty places and Ysgol Glan Morfa 11.6% empty places. All of these are category 5 schools except Ysgol Glan Morfa. The Authority will encourage parents to send their children to the local Welsh school. Hand in hand with conducting an assessment of the demand, we will continue to review the admission numbers of our schools to ensure that there are sufficient places available

Conwy County Borough Council's Welsh Language Strategy for 2017-22 states that we wish to see an increase of 2% in the numbers who can speak Welsh in the county by 2022. Without a doubt, one of the priorities for achieving this objective is to increase the number of pupils in Welsh medium reception classes. One way of achieving this is to work with pre-school child care providers. In partnership with Forum stakeholders we will develop ways of supporting and working with child care providers. We will also work with the Welsh Government on the proposal to offer 30 hours of free childcare. Increasing the number of nursery groups across the county is crucial to feeding school nursery / reception classes. We will work with Mudiad Meithrin to support the 19 which are already active in the county, together with contributing to the Welsh Government's aims to increase the number of nursery groups by supporting the opening of 2 new groups by 2020.

Due to the regular immigration and migration factor, population forecasts suggest a decline in the numbers of children of school age over the coming years, so it is essential that we plan not only for expanding the Welsh-medium capacity but also moving our existing schools along the language continuum. We will work with the Welsh Government to agree County priorities within the *21st Century schools and Education Capital programme*. In line with Welsh Government guidance on school reorganization, we will review options for expanding Welsh-medium education in the Abergele / Kinmel Bay, Towyn / Llanddulas and Llanfairfechan areas. We will also work with the specific schools so that they move at least one category along the language continuum by 2022.

We are currently planning an oral immersion scheme 'Camau Cyntaf', which will promote the raising of standards and develop early language skills, and will provide a guide to schools on how to move pupils along the linguistic continuum and increase Welsh medium provision. The scheme concentrates on pupils' oral skills and provides examples of appropriate activities to meet the needs of the Foundation Phase framework. We intend to pilot the scheme with a cross section of Category 1-5 schools, to ensure the effectiveness/appropriateness of the scheme and change/adapt the scheme as needed, before presenting it to all the Authority's schools. The pilot is already in action at Ysgol Glan Morfa, 2016-2018 and the remaining target category schools will commence the project in 2017-2018. The scheme offers flexibility for the Authority to be able to target specific schools as needed with the eventual intention of seeing more pupils transferring to Welsh streams. To ensure the success of the scheme, the schools in question will be supported by a team of advisory teachers who will train and support staff.

Outcome 2: More pupils continue to improve their Welsh skills when transferring from a primary to a secondary school

Our current situation and targets for the next 3 years, relating to the number of Yr. 9 pupils who are assessed in Welsh (first language)

Current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
227/1069	231/1074	244/1105	257/1109
21.2%	21.5%	22.1%	23.2%

Once schools have moved forward along the continuum, it's expected that there will be a positive change in these percentages.

Objectives:

- Collaborate annually, on the 'Croesi'r Bont' scheme with 6/7 cylchoedd meithrin, targeting 300 children by 2020, together with implementing the '# Cychwyn Gorau Mudiad Meithrin' project in 4 schools / locations by 2020 with a view to increasing the number of pupils who transfer from non-maintained Welsh nursery education to funded nursery education / Foundation Phase, to 98%. Work collaboratively also with a number of schools to facilitate the process of changing the school's category.
- Develop an action plan with Ysgol y Creuddyn to prevent the loss of pupils in the catchment area and aim to increase the number who transfer to 10% by 2020. At present 96/1118 of the County's Year 7 pupils attend the school. (8.5%)
- Raise standards to increase the percentage of pupils assessed in Welsh first language in the county at the end of Year 9 by 2025.
- Ysgol y Creuddyn's present targets for KS3 2019-2020: 79%-76/96 pupils. Hopefully this number will exceed 90+% being assessed through Welsh by 2020.

Ysgol y Creuddyn's immersion programme:

- 2018-2019: target of 30 learners
- 2019-2020: target of 35 learners
- 2020-2021: target of 40 learners

- Continue to target the numbers that transfer to Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy Welsh Medium Education. 2017-80 / 2018, 2019, 2020- 100 annually. There will be an increase in the number assessed in first language Welsh- in 2017- 77 pupils, 2018- 97 pupils, 2019-100 pupils, however due to the area's demography, in 2020, the cohort will be fewer -80 pupils

Supportive Statement:

The Authority has appointed an 'implementation officer' who will work with the pre-school team / Mudiad Meithrin / Forum, to ensure the success of the 'Croesi'r Bont' scheme which concentrates on developing the Welsh oral skills of Cylchoedd

Meithrin. The scheme is also a means of bridging linguistically between Mudiad Meithrin groups and nursery classes in Welsh medium schools. We will also continue to implement the '#cychwyn gorau Mudiad Meithrin' scheme to increase and encourage the continuation of Welsh medium childcare settings for Welsh medium nursery / reception classes. In settings where this scheme is not being used, county officers will support and promote the development of Welsh during their support / monitoring visits.

The Authority's Welsh advisory teachers will continue to work with primary and secondary schools to ensure progress from one KS to the next and promote and support the development of Welsh in schools. As part of the intention to support 55 of the Authority's primary schools to move along the continuum, we will offer training e.g. presenting Welsh in the Foundation Phase / the methodology of teaching language / promote and input into the sabbatical scheme / subsequent support in schools in order to up skill staff. The schools having succeeded to move along the continuum, we will continue to develop schemes to support pupils to ensure that they have the skills to transfer to Welsh medium secondary education.

We will also review and update our language policy to ensure that all schools in the county are implementing it, and we will also conduct training sessions for councillors / school governors on the content of the policy and the content of this strategy. As the work on moving schools along the continuum progresses, we will ensure that regular communication and support is being offered not only to schools and pupils, but to governors and parents.

There will be further developmental work to ensure that the rate of Welsh medium pupils who transfer from primary to secondary by raising standards in the Foundation Phase and KS 2 (Level 3-5) will continue to be a priority. There has been an increase in the percentage of pupils who are assessed in Welsh over the past four years and the gap between those who are assessed in Yr. 6 and Yr. 9 is closing. This year's figures are as follows: Yr. 6 (22.1%) and Yr. 9 (20.1%). This reflects the good work that has been done in schools and their efforts to support the development of Welsh medium education. However, in the face of our challenges regarding the decrease in the population of young children, we must continue to target the provision to ensure that there isn't a reduction in the number in Year 6 at present, and that there is a regular increase in the Welsh sector in the future.

The Authority intends to incorporate the ethos of the Language Charter in secondary schools by 2019 so that there is progression in Foundation Phase / KS2 schemes, regarding the increase in the use of the language outside the classroom. We will continue to work with the County's key stakeholders as stated in Outcome 5.

The Authority's transport policy states that if the nearest Welsh medium provision is outside the county's boundaries, the Authority will continue the same policy and provide free transport to that school. However, this means that the county is losing pupils from Welsh medium schools to secondary schools that are over the border. We will conduct a review of this policy during the lifetime of this strategy. We will also look again at the KS2 immersion scheme and the transport policy of Dyffryn Conwy feeder schools to ensure their effectiveness so that more pupils bridge into Welsh medium education.

In response to the challenge of the county's pupils being educated in Denbighshire secondary schools, we will work with, and support Ysgol y Creuddyn with

developing specific schemes to target the Welsh medium pupils of the area and their parents so as to increase the number of pupils who transfer to the school. We will agree on the steps to be taken by Christmas 2017 with plans being implemented early in 2018. We will work with the school to extend the immersion scheme and increase the number who take advantage of it.

The school will look to expand on the activities and collaboration with the LA and the catchment primary schools in order to convince pupils of the benefits of Welsh-medium education within Conwy. Similarly, a plan to convince parents of the qualities of Welsh-medium education will be key to ensuring that Welsh-medium secondary education in Conwy is an option for them.

The school will work with the LA to target second language learners through a series of interactive activities within the Primary and Secondary School. Similarly, opportunities will be offered for pupils and their parents to visit the school to learn more about the immersion course. Information is being developed for parents which promotes the benefits of bilingual education for their children.

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

Outcome 4: More 14-19 year old students study subjects through the medium of Welsh at schools, colleges, and work based learning.

Our current situation and targets relating to the % of pupils who register to study Welsh GCSE (1st language) and registered for a further 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

Current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
<p><u>Dyffryn Conwy</u> 105 – first language 98 - follow Welsh 1st language and at least 2 other qualifications in Welsh. (7 have changed to first language but haven't changed medium in KS3 - 4). (Current Yr. 11)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u></p>	<p><u>Dyffryn Conwy</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 90/100 follow Welsh 1st language. 83 Welsh 1st language + 2 GCSE+ in Welsh. (7 have bridged mother language in KS CA3-4 but haven't changed medium. (Current Yr. 10)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 105 in the year, all following first language.</p>	<p><u>Dyffryn Conwy</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 76/86 follow Welsh 1st language. We foresee that they will all register for at least 2 further Welsh medium qualifications (Current Yr. 9)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 90 in the year, all following first language.</p>	<p><u>Dyffryn Conwy</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 91/104 follow Welsh 1st language. We foresee that they will all register for at least 2 further Welsh medium qualifications (Current Yr. 8) <u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 88 in the year, all following first language.</p>

99 in the year, all following first language.			
---	--	--	--

Our current situation and targets relating to the % of pupils who register to study Welsh GCSE (1st language) and registered for at least 5 further qualifications at level 1 or 2 through the medium of Welsh.

Current situation	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
<p><u>Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy:</u> 105 – first language 98 – follow Welsh 1st language and at least 2 other qualifications in Welsh. (7 have changed to first language but haven't changed medium in KS3 - 4) (Current Yr. 11)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 99 in the year, all following first language.</p>	<p><u>Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy:</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 90/100 follow Welsh 1st language, 83 Welsh 1st language + 2 GCSE+ in Welsh. (7 have bridged mother language in KS CA3-4 but haven't changed medium. (Current Yr. 10)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 105 in the year, all following first language.</p>	<p><u>Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy:</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 76/86 follow Welsh 1st language. We aim for all of them to have an opportunity to register for at least 5 qualifications through the medium of Welsh (Current Yr. 9)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 90 in the year, all following first language.</p>	<p><u>Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy:</u> No pupils registered to follow GCSE to date. 91/104 follow Welsh 1st language. We aim for all of them to have an opportunity to register for at least 5 qualifications through the medium of Welsh (Current Yr. 8)</p> <p><u>Ysgol y Creuddyn:</u> 88 in the year, all following first language.</p>

Aims:

- Increase the % of Yr. 11 pupils who study 5 GCSE subjects through the medium of Welsh by 2023.

Ysgol y Creuddyn:

- Increase the % of Yr. 11 pupils who study 5 GCSE subjects through the medium of Welsh by 20% by 2023- 2024.

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy:

- 2018- 89/102 (87%); 2019- 77/92 (84%); 2020- 97/107 (91%)(depending on the cohort numbers/ demography).
- Ensure that single sciences are taught through the medium of Welsh in Conwy by 2020 KS4 & KS5 – (Creuddyn & Dyffryn Conwy only)
- Monitor the language study medium of KS 4 & 5 pupils to identify patterns and trends and to respond as required.

Supportive statement:

Ysgol y Creuddyn is the only designated Welsh school in the county, with 573 pupils attending at present (Sept 2017). These pupils come from Conwy's coastal schools.

Welsh-medium GCSE Courses offered at Ysgol y Creuddyn

24 subjects

1. Welsh Language
2. Welsh Literature
3. Mathematics
4. Mathematics - Numeracy
5. Additional Mathematics
6. Double Science
7. Triple Science
8. Intermediate and Foundation Welsh Baccalaureate
9. Physical Education
10. Business Studies
11. Religious Studies
12. Music
13. Drama
14. Art and Design
15. Graphics
16. Design and Technology
17. Textiles
18. Food and Nutrition
19. Child Development
20. Information Technology
21. French
22. Spanish
23. History
24. Geography

Welsh medium A Level Courses Ysgol y Creuddyn

20 subjects

1. Welsh
2. Mathematics
3. Further Mathematics
4. Biology - English medium at present (see comments)
5. Current English medium chemistry (see comments)
6. English medium physics at present (see comments)
7. Higher Welsh Baccalaureate
8. Physical Education
9. Business Studies
10. Religious Studies
11. Music
12. Drama
13. Art and Design
14. Design and Technology
15. Health and Care
16. Information Technology
17. French

18. Spanish
19. History
20. Geography

The school offers an immersion scheme for pupils from English-medium primary schools who want to transfer to the secondary school. About 25 take advantage of the scheme on average every year. The plan is self-evaluated annually as part of the school's processes. Immersion Learner results are consistently better than the main indicators of the school at the end of KS4. This includes in the Welsh First Language subject.

We will work with the school to further promote the immersion scheme with the aim of increasing numbers by 2025.

One Linc course is currently being provided through the College in Welsh (French by YYC- bilingual) but Llandrillo Menai is in the process of revisiting this. There is a local agreement between YDC and YYC to deliver some courses.

The language medium of the Single Sciences courses is based on the pupils' opinions at the beginning of the course. English is the choice of students in recent years. Governors have decided to move towards provision through the medium of Welsh over a timetable to be decided by the Headteacher.

The School works with Coleg Llandrillo Menai on Linc courses through the 14-19 Partnership. However, no course is currently being offered through the medium of Welsh, however some are bilingual and the College is currently planning how the provision can be further expanded. We will continue to work with CLIM and include specific targets in the CSGA operational plan to increase the provision by 2020.

Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy

There are 14 feeder schools for Ysgol Dyffryn Conwy (13 from 2018 due to the merger of Dolgarrog and Tal y Bont schools)

All subjects are available in Welsh but are taught bilingually, depending on the medium the pupils followed in KS3. When latecomers arrive in years 9/10, the school support the pupils to develop their Welsh skills so that they can immerse themselves in the Welsh society and so as to preserve the Welsh medium education.

The percentages of teaching in Welsh / English are dependent on the year. Current Year 7- 83% / current Year 8- 85% / current Year 9- 90% / current Year 10 -85%.

These have followed Welsh mainly, but in Year 7 mathematics and Year 9 science, a bilingual medium is followed. In the current Year 11 -87% mainly followed Welsh medium but in mathematics and science, a bilingual medium was followed.

From the point of view of the single Sciences, there is one English-medium group and 3/4 Welsh-medium classes in Years 7 and 8 (Dependent on the cohort) There are 5 bilingual groups currently in years 9/10/11. In the 6th form, teaching is mainly through English but bilingual learning takes place as a continuum to KS4.

Due to the changes to the language streams a few years ago, the potential for increasing numbers studying 5 or more GCSEs through the medium of Welsh is reached within the numbers. This will improve again once numbers in the cohort are consistently over 100. (from September 2018)

Collaboration exists between the school and Llandrillo Menai / Creuddyn college through 'Linc Conwy'. Vocational courses - agriculture, small animal care / hairdressing and beauty and construction are provided bilingually at KS4.

The Llandrillo Menai group currently provides 40% of their collaborative courses through the medium of Welsh or bilingually (4/10), however by 2019 they have targeted that 100% of these courses will be present bilingually / Welsh.

We will continue to work with all secondary schools in the Authority to increase the percentage of pupils who are assessed through the medium of Welsh in Year 9 and additional support is given to three English medium secondary schools who offer Welsh first language lessons at KS 3, to enable more pupils to gain Welsh first language GCSE qualifications. Those assessed in Welsh at the end of KS 3 have made good progress: 13/14-17%, 14/15- 19.4%, 15/16-20.1%. This is an increase of 3.1%. This again reflects the good work that has been done by schools and their efforts to develop Welsh medium education.

During the lifetime of this strategy, we will try to ensure that all pupils who reach a sound level 3 at the end of KS2 follow Welsh (1st language) study programmes. Also, need to ensure that all pupils study Welsh as a subject until the end of Yr. 11 and sit the appropriate external tests and exams at the end of KS 3 and 4.

We will ensure that promoting the development of bilingual education is one of the 14-19 Network's strategic priorities, monitoring the appropriate linguistic continuity of our pupils as a core part of its remit. The Network will monitor the courses being delivered bilingually. Currently, 28% of courses (5/18) are offered in Welsh / Bilingual, however the college has targeted through their action plan, 83% (15/18) will be introduced through the medium of Welsh / bilingual by 2022

We will also encourage the 14-19 Network to identify alternative ways of offering provision, for example, by encouraging further collaboration between the schools and Coleg Llandrillo Menai.

In the future:

Linc Conwy

- Plan extending existing provision and create a 5 year plan eg provision of Music between the two schools (YYC / YDC)
- Organize a full review of Linc Conwy, in order to further develop the Welsh language. It will look further at the 'weak' subjects to work together to protect the subjects through the medium of Welsh.
- Further develop the bilingual / Welsh language provision in terms of the subjects.
- Look at the sharing of staff who are Welsh speakers, across county and senior staffing.
- Re-examine recruitment practices taking into account the needs of bilingualism.
- Develop more collaboration across Conwy.

Coleg Llandrillo Menai

Present:

- Students have the right to have a personal tutor in Welsh and to present their work through the medium of Welsh in each subject if this is their wish.
- Students who have achieved 'C' in their GCSEs are encouraged to follow at least part of their course in Welsh.
- 'Seren Iaith' is already in place at the college, and students' awareness of the importance of Welsh is developed in everyday and work life. Requirements will be targeted from the original data by revisiting the end of year process to monitor development / target setting needs.
- A language awareness week is held annually.
- The college is in discussions with S4C in order to develop a pilot project, 'First Broadcast', which will promote the uptake of Welsh language television programs by young people.
- E learning:

The college is in discussions to reduce the cost of eLearning so as to enable schools to use the resource. It is hoped that the cost will be per head to the school rather than one general payment that at present hinders the use of the resource.

- A 'Sgîl iaith' unit, is available at the college, which supports the development of staff bilingualism across the further education sector. Extensive use is made of this resource.

In the future:

- Look to upskill the workforce and make use of the Sabbatical scheme.
- Further extend the Module 'MA Teaching bilingually' which is already under way.
- Appoint a 'Seren Iaith' officer, to further promote this work.
- Put more emphasis on securing the appointment of bilingual staff.
- Promote the use of regional staff to ensure bilingual teaching and to expand the subjects that can be followed bilingually.
- The college intends to prepare a 'Welcome Package' for non-Welsh speaking staff and students, which will raise awareness of the importance of bilingualism, and offer support.
- College representation will be part of the county's Language Forum.

We will also ensure that we work with the National Welsh College to promote opportunities for young people to continue their Welsh medium education at university. This will also be led by the 14-19 Partnership so as to map the need for post 16 Welsh medium courses, and to provide according to demand.

Outcome 5: More pupils have higher skills in Welsh

1 st Language	Current situation		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020	
Foundation Phase D.5/ D6	D5	D6	D5	D6	D5	D6	D5	D6
	84.5	33.7	86%		88%		89%	
KS2 L4/L5	L4	L5	L4	L5	L4	L5	L4	L5
	87.3	38.1	89%		90%		91%	
KS3 L5/L6	L5	L6	L5	L6	L5	L6	L5	L6
	93.5	57.9	94.8	72.5	95	73	95.5	74
KS4 Grades A*-C	79		83		85		87	

2 nd language	Current situation		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020	
KS2 L4/L5	L4	L5	L4	L5	L4	L5	L4	L5
	75.7%	21.2%	76%	22%	76.5%	22.5%	77%	23%
KS3 L5/L6	L5	L6	L5	L6	L5	L6	L5	L6
	82.3%	40.7%	83%	41%	83.5%	41.5%	84%	42%
	Full course		Full course		Full course		Full course	
CA4 Grades A*-C	79.5%		80%		80.5%		81%	

Aims:

Increase Welsh 1st language achievement by 2020:

- 89% of Foundation Phase pupils achieve outcome 5.
- 91% of Key Stage 2 pupils achieve Level 4 +
- 95.5% of Key Stage 3 pupils achieve Level 5 +
- 87% of Key Stage 4 pupils achieve A* - C.
- Increase Welsh 2nd language achievement to 81% A* - C by 2020.
- Terminate the Welsh 2nd language short course by 2020.
- Increase opportunities for children and young people to use the language in formal and informal situations by mapping needs with Youth Services and key stakeholders to increase opportunities.

Supportive statement:

The object of GwE's Literacy and Numeracy Strategy is to ensure that all pupils in all schools in the region have the language skills that they need to succeed in their journey through school, and gain qualifications that will enable them to play their full part at work and in society. Since September 2015 GwE has been implementing a revised method of supporting and challenging schools. A procedure for green category support schools (and the most sound of the yellow category schools) has been established on the basis of giving greater independence to the best schools and promoting the implementation of peer evaluation. The model is a partnership between colleagues where there is an opportunity for high performing schools, in association with GwE, to challenge and support other high performing schools in order to share excellence. As a result, the regional service has the ability to offer intense support for those schools in the amber or red category.

The Authority has a team of Welsh advisors who are responsible for supporting schools with implementing the 2015 Curriculum and the 2008 second language curriculum according to the action plan and the training programme which targets according to specific requirements. The team works closely with CYDAG. It's intended that all schools will join CYDAG by 2019 in order for them to receive current information, share good practice and upskill the workforce.

At present 6% of the county's pupils follow the Welsh 2nd language short course and 4% achieved grades A* to C. Following the Welsh Government's announcement to bring the course to an end, the Authority will work with schools to bring this course to an end so as to enable all pupils to follow the GCSE 2nd language full course by 2020.

We will promote a scheme to 'increase the use of Welsh by children and young people' in the Authority's secondary schools, in association with school councils, the Urdd / Menter Iaith, prioritising the use of informal language within the education system, prepare opportunities to increase the use of Welsh outside the education system, raise awareness of the importance of Welsh.

We will continue to maintain and extend the language charter to Category 1 and some category 4 schools, and introduce the Cymraeg Campus initiative to category 4 and 5 schools.

As already stated in this strategy, co-operation with Forum partners is key to the success of our strategy. We will further strengthen our relationship with community organisations which promote Welsh amongst young people i.e. the Urdd, Menter Iaith, Young Farmers, youth clubs, school councils.

We will work with the above organisations to target Welsh medium activities outside school hours in areas identified by the language charter's data. We will target extra-curricular activities in English medium schools to increase the amount of Welsh used as part of the school curriculum.

All County stakeholders will contribute to this Strategic plan's development plan.

Outcome 6: Welsh Medium Additional Learning Needs (ALN) provision
Objectives:

- Conduct an Additional Development Needs assessment in the county and evaluate Welsh medium provision by 2020.
- Ensure specialist Welsh medium provision along the ALN continuum.
- Develop specialist staffs' language skills across the Authority and develop an appropriate CPD programme for staff who work directly with ALN pupils in schools.
- Facilitate social and learning opportunities by developing provision for Welsh speaking pupils at Ysgol y Gogarth.

Supportive statement:

Conwy CBC is committed to ensuring that children and young people with ALN receive appropriate Welsh medium support. The capacity of the current service will be assessed annually and we will get to task with any gaps identified in the provision e.g. when there is a vacant post we will continue to advertise for staff who are able to communicate and support through the medium of Welsh to ensure appropriate bilingual support centrally, in schools and in various units.

Welsh provision is available in the County for pupils and parents and the further development of Welsh is one of the aims of the ALN department's development plan.

We are also committed to ensuring that pupils in Welsh medium mainstream provision receive equal support to that provided in English medium mainstream provision. To achieve this, we will ensure access to the sabbatical course for staff together with plans to support parents.

The Authority has appropriate bilingual provision to support a broad range of AEN needs and we will invite a member of the county AEN team and a representative from Ysgol y Gogarth to become members of the Welsh Strategy Forum to ensure that we respond to needs / share information.

The Welsh advisory team is already supporting Ysgol y Gogarth and AEN units regarding developing bilingualism and we will continue to do so and respond to any further needs which arise from the survey on the special needs of pupils in the county which will be held according to the WG's timetable.. We will also continue to support the pre-school referral scheme to fulfil the needs of children and parents in non-maintained settings and ensure early intervention.

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and continuous professional development (CPD)

Objectives:

Ensure that schools and governors follow the Authority's policies when recruiting staff to increase the Authority's bilingual workforce, by conducting awareness raising sessions with heads, governors and councillors on the importance and advantages of bilingualism together with language awareness sessions by February 2018

Develop / up skill the Welsh skills of the workforce from 2017 and onwards, by encouraging and supporting staff to attend up-skilling courses and offering after care in order to promote continuous development. Promote the use of the sabbatical scheme in schools, to promote language development and increase the numbers who take advantage of the scheme to 10 annually. An after care service will be available as above.

Provision for school assistants and support /administrative staff is key to enabling the school to move forward with Welsh. We will work with Coleg Llandrillo Menai to offer provision for trainers so that they have the skills to offer bilingual training by 2023. Close co-operation with Bangor University so that staff are able to attend neighbouring sabbatical courses.

Supportive statement:


We will work with schools to incorporate the development of staff skills in all school development plans.

In January 2018, we will conduct a survey of Welsh language skills to identify gaps in current skills and where there are likely to be gaps in the future. As we adapt the language policy and strengthen expectations regarding staffs' ability to communicate in Welsh, we will respond to the survey and ensure that we communicate with schools to target specific areas / subjects where there is a shortage of bilingual skills at present.

The amount of Welsh being taught in English medium schools will influence the language skill needs of staff and the linguistic support that will be needed from GwE and the Authority. We will work with GwE and through our Welsh advisory teachers we will offer support to these schools and target specific schools to take advantage of the sabbatical Welsh scheme in accordance with the priority areas stated in outcome 1 - 6 of this strategic plan. Welsh advisory teachers will also support school staff with up skilling so that they are able to use Welsh in the class, in administration, socially at the school and beyond.

We will continue to work with the Welsh Medium Network and the Welsh Government and build cross authority capacity to influence practices / the linguistic needs of the county, and to push forward the latest strategies / plans and the expectations of the Welsh Government.

During our training sessions for governors on the strategy, we will raise an awareness of the need for bilingual skills and that monitoring the progress of their staffs' skills is key. We will encourage the governors of all schools to include a report on the Welsh language in their annual report to parents.

Signed: 

Date:

Dr Lowri Brown
Head of Education Services (Chief Education Officer)