

Monmouthshire County Council Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP)



2017-2020

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Section 1

1. Monmouthshire's Vision for Welsh in Education 2017-2020

- 1.1 Our new Welsh in Education Strategic Plan for 2017-2020 comes at a very opportune time for the Welsh language in our county. In 2016, Monmouthshire hosted the National Eisteddfod for the first time in over 100 years. The enthusiasm with which the county, its people and businesses seized the opportunity to promote and embrace this unique festival has provided us with the ideal momentum to build a legacy by playing our part in achieving the Welsh Government's vision of seeing one million Welsh speakers across the country, by 2050
- 1.2 Twenty-five years ago the proportion of people speaking Welsh in the country was at an all-time low and there was precious little to indicate that the fortunes of the language would ever revive in the area. However, in the years following, the language has revived remarkably and in that time we have seen a four-fold increase with the 2011 census showing that 8,780 Monmouthshire residents are fluent Welsh speakers with many thousands of others having some level of language skill.
- 1.3 2016 saw the introduction of The Well-being of Future Generations Act with a clear goal for public bodies to work towards a Wales of thriving culture and vibrant Welsh language. We also have our own set of Welsh Language Standards brought about by the Welsh Language (Wales) Measure 2011. One of the Standards requires us to draw up a 5 Year Welsh Language Strategy, to demonstrate how we will as a Council promote the language and increase the numbers of Welsh speakers within the County. Added to this is the "More than Words Strategy 2012" which promotes the use of the Welsh language in social care settings by the adoption of the "Active Offer" of language choice in the provision of care services.
- 1.4 We believe that this new legislation and the enthusiasm of the people of Monmouthshire towards the language means we are ideally positioned, to take all necessary steps to ensure a lasting legacy in the county to benefit current and future residents and visitors to this special corner of Wales.
- 1.5 The vision for our county is to build sustainable and resilient bilingual communities across the county. We will do this by ensuring that we work towards achieving the following overarching goals
 1. Ensuring that the Welsh Language is alive, dynamic and valued across the county
 2. Providing the infrastructure so that people can interact with the Council through the medium of Welsh
 3. Ensuring people have more opportunities to engage in activities and receive services through the medium of Welsh

4. Educating more of our children and young people through the medium of Welsh
 5. Providing wider opportunities to learn and use the Welsh language with confidence and as a normal part of everyday life.
- 1.6 In order to achieve our vision and goals, we recognise that our education system is a fundamental building block towards creating new Welsh speakers and in doing so; they in turn can transmit the language to future generations. This means that as a county, we will need to make wide-ranging changes to the way we plan, deliver and promote Welsh-medium education over the coming years so that in the future, an education through the medium of Welsh is a realistic and accessible choice for parents and pupils. The opening of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed has provided pupils who reside in the south of our county with locally accessible Welsh-medium secondary education. This new provision is a significant step towards securing the necessary capacity we need in the short term and will over time, stimulate increasing demand for Welsh-medium education at all levels across our county.
- 1.7 So that we achieve our goals, we need to develop our work with key partners across the South East Wales region. This will ensure that all of our schools and education providers are fully equipped with the necessary skills and capacity to improve standards in Welsh within schools, families, across communities and in the workplace. Similarly, we will need to work closely with wider partners such as the Urdd and Menter Iaith to extend the opportunities for children, young people and their families to both learn and use the Welsh language in everyday life.
- 1.8 In order to increase Welsh-medium education across Monmouthshire and realise our vision, we will take the following steps over the next three years:
1. Ensure that our WESP is a strategic priority for Monmouthshire
 2. Introduce more effective ways to promote the advantages of Welsh-medium education to pupils and parents to stimulate greater demand in our primary schools through the provision of better information and easier access to schools and services using the medium of Welsh
 3. Implement robust and reliable systems to measure and plan future provision and a suitably skilled workforce to meet the increasing demand for Welsh-medium education
 4. Ensure that our 21st Century Schools Band B programme aligns with our WESP to facilitate the anticipated growth in demand by 2020 and supports future demand identified during the life of this plan.
 5. Increase the percentage of Monmouthshire children and young people educated through the medium of Welsh in line with parental demand surveys equating to 15% by 2020.
 6. Increase the rate of transition between key stage 2 and 3 to 95% by 2020
 7. Increase the percentage of young people in Monmouthshire leaving school with bilingual skills that can be used in the workplace to 10% (1,100 pupils) by 2020

8. Ensure that there are no gaps in our Welsh-medium ALN and inclusion provision so that we can achieve the highest possible outcomes for all of our learners
9. Review the membership and role of our Welsh in Education Forum to reflect recommendations from Welsh Government in full
10. Support our education workforce to develop the skills needed to deliver the new curriculum through the medium of Welsh
11. Work closely with our regional partners, including Coleg Gwent, to facilitate and develop opportunities to enable more learners to study a wider range of subjects through the medium of Welsh.
12. Ensure that access to all information about Welsh medium education is easily accessible to parents through our website, Family Information Service and all other Monmouthshire communication streams.
13. Work in partnership with regional partners to support learners who are latecomers to Welsh medium education across all phases
14. Review our WESP regularly so that the information we gain from our on-going surveys and evaluations informs amendments to our plan appropriately to meet our changing needs.

1.9 Our WESP aligns closely with our requirement under the Welsh Language (Wales) measure 2011, to write a 5 year Welsh Language Strategy for Monmouthshire County Council 2017 -2022. In addition, our WESP feeds into and supports the Welsh Government ambition to have one million Welsh speakers in Wales by 2050.

1.10 All consultees as listed in Annex 1 receive a draft version of our WESP. We will follow the timetable and framework for consultation and implementation as outlined in Annex 2. Consultees receive a copy of the final version following approval from Welsh Government.

1.11 Welsh Education Forum
Our current Welsh Education Forum has been in place since 2014 and meets termly.

The partners that attend are:

Senior level representatives from Welsh Medium Primary and secondary schools, MCC Children and Young People Officers, MCC Welsh Language Officer, Menter Iaith Blaenau Gwent Torfaen Mynwy (MBGTM), Rhieni Dros Addysg Gymraeg (RHAG) the Urdd and Mudiad Meithrin.

The main objectives of the Forum are as follows:

- To ensure that Welsh Medium Education **is available to all**, with effective transition between ages and phases;
- To demonstrate that Welsh Medium Education **is inclusive**, overcomes barriers and the ability of any young person to achieve a good level of education:

- **To celebrate** and promote the Welsh language, through high quality teaching and challenging children’s learning abilities;
- To utilise **partnership working** to promote and increase the numbers of children and young people being educated through the medium of Welsh.

Section 2

2. - Transport

- 2.1 Monmouthshire complies with the requirements of the Learner Travel Measure (Wales) 2008 by providing home to school transport to Welsh-medium schools in line with our local transport policy. This means that primary pupils living in Monmouthshire are entitled to apply for free school transport if they live more than :
- 1.5 miles away from their nearest Welsh-medium primary school, or;
 - 2 miles walking distance away from their nearest Welsh-medium secondary school
- 2.2 Post-16 learners in Monmouthshire are not eligible to apply for free home to school transport. Learners with Additional Learning Needs can apply for concessionary transport.
- 2.3 The authority will review our School Transport Policy across the county within the next academic year 2017/18 as part of our wider review of services. All concerns raised through our WESP consultation process will form part of this review and inform the new policy.

Section 3

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

The current position relating to the number of seven year olds taught through the medium of Welsh and our targets for the next three years are:

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The percentage of seven-year-old children currently taught through the medium of Welsh is 6% (54 pupils)	5.5% (55 pupils)	6.8% (61 pupils)	6.8% (60 pupils)

3.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are to:

- Work in partnership with Mudiad Meithrin Officers to establish a Cylch Meithrin in the south of the county by September 2018;
- Increase transition rates of all Monmouthshire pupils attending Cylch Meithrin to Welsh-medium primary schools to 100% by September 2020.
- Address short-term pressures in Welsh-medium education in the north of the county
- Develop provision for Welsh-medium primary education in the county within Band B of the 21st Century Schools programme 2019 -2023 to accommodate future demand beyond 2022.
- Revise the contents of our ‘Starting School Booklet’ to include the benefits of a Welsh-medium education. This will include signposting parents to marketing and promotional information provided by Welsh Government to raise awareness of the availability of free transport for Welsh-medium education. We plan for this to be available for parents in time for the next admissions round in 2018.
- Work in partnership with the South East Wales consortia to establish an annual regional parent demand survey for Welsh-medium education by December 2018.
- Conduct annual parental demand surveys in targeted areas of the county from 2017/18 to increase the responses, particularly in identified areas.
- Develop processes for setting longer-term targets for more seven-year-old children taught through the medium of Welsh to stimulate demand greater than current provision.

- 3.2 At present, Monmouthshire maintains two Welsh-medium primary schools, one in the north and one in the south of the county, with a combined capacity of 415. Both Welsh Medium Primary Schools have had a dedicated catchment area since September 2016. Monmouthshire pupils access Welsh-medium secondary education in either Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw or, since September 2016, in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed. At January 2016 PLASC, 4.8% of Monmouthshire primary aged children are educated through the medium of Welsh.
- 3.3 Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin in Caldicot has a current capacity of 180 pupils and a planned capacity of 210. The Local Authority maintains its commitment to the community to increase the capacity of the school to 210 as pupil numbers reach this level. At present, the school has 143 pupils on roll and this means that the school has 37 (20.5%) surplus places. The school has a morning Local Authority funded nursery on site. There is the capacity to run a Meithrin in the afternoon however difficulties in recruiting suitably qualified childcare staff has delayed opening. Monmouthshire continues to work closely with the school and key partners such as the Mudiad Meithrin to establish this provision, as soon as possible and certainly, over the duration of this plan.
- 3.4 Current learner projections suggest that provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Y Ffin is sufficient for the next 4 years, projecting an average of 134 children to be on roll during this time. However, we will review our learner projections annually to ensure that we understand increases in demand well in advance and plan to meet them in a timely manner. We anticipate that there will be an increasing demand in this area following the establishment of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed, particularly when it relocates to its permanent site in September 2018.
- 3.5 We expect to see significant changes in the south of the county driven by the removal of bridge tolls on the Severn crossings including an expansion in housing development, an increase in house prices and an increasing demand on school places. The impact of this change on the demand for Welsh-medium places and the availability of suitably qualified staff to deliver education through the medium of Welsh, will take three to five years to crystallise. Any implications arising from this change will be included in our 21st Century Schools programme over the next ten years. This will enable the authority to take informed decisions to ensure the demand for Welsh medium places and the availability aligns. In the meantime, the Local Authority will develop an agreed protocol for defining any new schools according to Welsh medium provision.

- 3.6 Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni in Abergavenny has a capacity of 235 pupils. The current school caters for 210 pupil places. The current number on roll at the school stands at 221 this means that at present there are 14 (5.9%) surplus places. In April 2016, the Local Authority established a 30 place maintained Meithrin on the site of the school, operating for afternoon sessions.
- 3.7 Current indications suggest that from September 2017, the Ysgol Gymraeg Y Fenni will reach full capacity and some year groups will be over-subscribed. In anticipation of this pressure, the Local Authority has released additional space for the school to increase its capacity to accommodate this increase in the short term. From September 2017, the Cylch Methrin will relocate to an adjacent building and release additional space to the school. This move will enable the Cylch Methrin to expand its Welsh-medium wrap-around childcare and Flying Start provision.
- 3.8 Monmouthshire plan to increase the capacity of Welsh-medium places in recognition of the rise in demand for places overall. Our plans for Band B 21st Century Schools investment (2019-2023) programme will support this through the proposed development of a new dual language 3 – 19 years school in Abergavenny to enable Monmouthshire pupils to continue their secondary education through the medium of Welsh within the county. In addition, the proposal includes the relocation of Ysgol Y Fenni onto the current site of Deri View to increase the number of Welsh medium primary places in line with projected demand.
- 3.9 The rate of transfer from Monmouthshire Welsh medium Early Years Education settings into Welsh medium Reception classes in the county varies between 85% and 95% from year to year. This variation includes children from out of our county who take up Welsh medium Early Years Education in Monmouthshire and then transfer into their local Welsh medium school for Reception and those who transfer to other local English medium schools within the county. In 2016 for example, 39 out of 46 of children (85%) transferred from a Welsh medium Early Education (LA and non-maintained settings) into a Welsh medium Reception class in the county. All seven children who did not transfer into a Welsh medium Reception class in 2016 accepted a place in another local English medium school.
- 3.10 Current projections strongly suggest that demand will continue to grow in the north of the county. The county will consider a range of models and options to address this pressure and support the growth of Welsh medium education. The authority are currently reviewing their investment programme for Band B 21st Century schools bid for implementation in 2019-2023.

- 3.11 The targets contained within our WESP are limited to the three years of the plan and therefore have limited our ability to be as ambitious as we would wish to be. However, we will develop processes to set aspirational targets over a longer period (5 to 10 years) to reflect the increase in demand we expect to see and the additional demand we will endeavour to create through the implementation of this WESP.
- 3.12 Monmouthshire, in collaboration with Newport, has successfully established a new Welsh-medium secondary school for pupils residing in the south of the county in Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed in Newport. Twelve Monmouthshire pupils started Gwent Iscoed in September 2016 and a further twelve plan to transfer there in September 2017. The delivery of provision in the north of the county continues through our well-established collaboration arrangement with Torfaen County Council. These arrangements ensure that secondary provision is secure for our 11-19 school learners over the next 5 years.
- 3.13 The Authority will continue to ensure it secures a sufficient number of places at both secondary schools to meet the expected increase in demand from the county in the shorter term. Monmouthshire recognises the need to plan and prepare with its partners to meet further increases in secondary provision beyond 2022 and the expectation is that this will fall within the 21st Century schools Strategic Outline Programme (SOP).
- 3.14 Monmouthshire will continue to work in partnership with key stakeholders in Torfaen and Newport to support collaboration between Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw to deliver post 16 provision through the medium of Welsh. Monmouthshire will strengthen links with Coleg Gwent to develop wider access to a range of vocational courses delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- 3.15 Information from our Childcare Sufficiency Assessment 2017 is included in our three year Childcare Action Plan. The feedback from the survey indicates an increasing demand for Welsh-medium childcare and language provision, particularly in the south of the county, over the next three years. At the same time, we anticipate an increase in demand for Welsh medium childcare following the implementation of the 30-hour childcare offer for working parents across the county.
- 3.16 The Cylch Meithrin in Abergavenny currently offers up to eight Welsh-medium places for children within the local Flying Start area. The move to new premises in September 2017 will provide additional space for the Cylch

Methrin to increase capacity to meet and stimulate a growth in demand over the next five years. This is currently the only Welsh-medium Flying Start provision we have across the county.

- 3.17 Our ‘Starting School Booklet’ contains information about applying for a place in one of our Welsh-medium schools within the county. From 2017, the booklet contains specific information on the benefits of a bilingual education and signposts parents to additional promotional material published by the Welsh Government. Parents receive our ‘Starting School Booklet’ at the same time as school application forms. Both are accessible on the Monmouthshire County Council website. Parents are able to access additional information about Welsh-medium provision through MonFIS, our Family Information Service. We continue to review how we facilitate access to information about our Welsh medium schools across all sources; including our website and MonFIS to ensure there is equity between Welsh and English medium provision.
- 3.18 We have not provided support for latecomers to Welsh-medium education in the past because there has been no demand for this service within the county. However, we are seeing a very small increase in the county as the numbers of learners accessing Welsh-medium education in both the primary and secondary phase grows. As the demand for school places in the south of the county increases because of the removal of the toll on the Severn Bridge, we anticipate that the numbers of latecomers to Welsh will increase, particularly in this area. In order to meet this anticipated need, Monmouthshire will work with regional partners to develop and secure effective and appropriate provision for learners late to Welsh during the life of this WESP.

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

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
The current percentage of learners in Year 9 who are assessed in Welsh (first language) is 4.5% (37 pupils)	100% (27 pupils)	100% (36 pupils)	100% (38 pupils)
Year 6 comparison with the percentage of learners assessed in Welsh (First Language) three years earlier is 4.6% (42 pupils)	85.6% (36/42 pupils)	100% (43/43 pupils)	100% (38/38 pupils)

- 4.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are:
- To work with Mudiad Meithrin Officers to establish a second Cylch Meithrin in the south of the county by 2020.
 - To increase transition rates of all Monmouthshire pupils attending Cylch Meithrin to 100% by September 2020.
 - To increase the levels of transition rates from Welsh-medium primary to Welsh-medium secondary provision to 95% by 2020.
 - To work in partnership with the consortia to establish appropriate provision for pupils joining Welsh-medium education later than Reception as the demand increases.
- 4.2 Until very recently, access to Welsh-medium secondary provision for Monmouthshire pupils had been limited to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Pontypool. Whilst access to this provision will secure continuing education through the medium of Welsh for pupils transferring to secondary school, the uptake from both Monmouthshire primary schools varied. There were two main factors contributing to this pattern. The first being that children in the south of the county had to travel much further and as a result, the time taken to travel to school significantly extended the school day. Secondly, the lack of accessible provision deterred parents from choosing Welsh-medium education for the start because they were unsure if their child could or would continue learning through the medium of Welsh. Our current projections are based on the current numbers and an assumption that all will transfer onto a Welsh medium secondary school. However, we will review this regularly to ensure that our WESP reflects any changes during the next three years.
- 4.3 The opening of Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed in Newport, in September 2016 now provides pupils in the south of Monmouthshire the opportunity to continue to access education locally and through the medium of Welsh as they transfer from Key Stage 2 into Key Stage 3.
- 4.4 As a result, the expectation is that there will be an increase in the number of pupils transferring from Ysgol Y Ffin to Ysgol Gwent Iscoed from September 2017, and this will increase the overall proportion of all Monmouthshire pupils making the transition to Welsh medium secondary provision.
- 4.5 As a consequence, we also expect to see an increase in demand for Welsh medium education in our Early Years settings and Reception classes because most parents make this choice for when their child first starts school. It is also possible that we will see an increased demand for older siblings wanting to transfer into Welsh-medium education throughout the primary phase.

- 4.6 Should this anticipated demand become significant as numbers of first-time learners accessing Welsh-medium education increases, we will work with regional partners to develop appropriate provision as outlined in 3.13 above.
- 4.7 Transportation time for pupils and related costs remain an area of concern identified through the consultation process for all school phases. As indicated above, Monmouthshire will review transport to Welsh medium schools within its wider review of transport for all pupils and raise awareness of parents regarding the availability of free transport for Welsh-medium education.

5. 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.

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 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
All Monmouthshire pupils in Welsh-medium education (100%) attend Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	100%	100%	100% Including pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed from 2020-2021

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

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
All Monmouthshire pupils in Welsh-medium education (100%) attend Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw	100%	100%	100%

- 5.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are to:
- Maintain the current percentage of pupils entering GCSE Welsh (first language) and at least two further Level 1 or Level 2 qualifications through the medium of Welsh for the next three years.
 - Ensure that there will be capacity within the new Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed to meet the increasing demand for places from Monmouthshire pupils by September 2020.
 - Work in partnership with Newport CC to ensure that provision for 14-16 year-old learners at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed complies with the Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) 2009
 - Maintain 14-19 provision at the level of 14-19 grant provision activities by September 2019.
 - Work through 14-19 Networks and 14-19 Regional Forums to sustain and improve Welsh-medium provision over the next three years.
- 5.2 At present, almost all Monmouthshire pupils in Welsh-medium primary education transfer to Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw in Torfaen. However, from September 2016 Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed in Newport will be fully open, providing a more geographically accessible Welsh-medium secondary education for learners in the south of the county. The partnership between both schools is strong even at this early stage because a number of key staff have transferred from Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed.
- 5.3 The LA will continue to work closely with Newport CC and the EAS to ensure that this new facility complies in full with the Learning and Skills Measure (Wales) 2009 and that it delivers the key objective of improving outcomes and attainment of 14-19 learners.
- 5.4 All Monmouthshire pupils (100%) who currently attend Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw enter two mathematics, two science and three optional GCSEs, in addition to the Welsh Baccalaureate. The school delivers all of these qualifications through the medium of Welsh and in addition to Welsh (First Language)/ Welsh Literature. We expect to maintain this 100% trend in entry at the end of Key Stage 4 over the next three years.
- 5.5 Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw works effectively in 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 availability of courses to Monmouthshire pupils currently attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw.
- 5.6 Currently, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw offers 25 courses for 14 -16 learners delivered through the medium of Welsh and 30 courses for 16 -19 learners. There is a constant pressure to secure viable numbers to fund the same number and range of courses. Given the potential volatility, both schools will consider lowering the number of post 16 courses that they offer, particularly as local provision is not readily available.

- 5.7 Transportation costs place an added stress on the viability and availability of courses and will need to be resolved at a regional level.
- 5.8 Until this point, both Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni and Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw have been creative in developing arrangements for staff to travel to teach alternative or low take-up courses. However, following the withdrawal of the grant, and due to low numbers, this is no longer financially viable.
- 5.9 In order to maximise resources, the schools will analyse the data to identify successful and high achieving courses that meet the needs of learners so that support can continue for these courses.
- 5.10 Historically, Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhymni have jointly analysed and used data for 14-19 Welsh-medium provision to plan for post-16 Welsh-medium provision. This partnership will now include Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed.
- 5.11 Whilst the 14-19 Forums have officially ended, CYDAG SE Wales continues to meet to explore continuing practices such as arranging conferences and staff collaboration meetings that were in place to March 2016. This will present a level of creativity and commitment between members to enable continuity in the future.

6. Outcome 5: More students with advanced skills in Welsh

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
The percentage of learners attending Welsh-medium education achieving the expected level in Welsh first language at the end of each key stage in Monmouthshire is:			
Foundation Phase Outcome 5+	93.8%	94%	95%
Key Stage 2 Level 4+	95.1%	84%	96%
Key Stage 3 Level 5+	NA	NA	NA
Key Stage 4 A*-C	NA	NA	NA
The percentage of learners attending English-medium education achieving the expected level in Welsh second language at the end of each key stage in Monmouthshire is:			
Key Stage 2 level 4+	87.5%	90%	92%
Key Stage 3 Level 5+	89.9%	93%	94%
Key Stage 4 A* - C Full course	48%	63%	77%
Key Stage 4 A – C Short Course	Awaiting data		86%

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying GCSE Welsh Second Language Full course in 2016 is: 49.6%	76%	85%	94%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying Key Stage 5 AS Welsh Second Language in 2016 is: 3.7%	5%	7%	15%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying Key Stage 5 A Level Welsh Second Language in 2016 is: 6.1%	3.5%	4%	10%

6.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are:

- Review Post-16 arrangements in 2017/18 to support collaboration across schools in Monmouthshire and in doing so, to increase the total AS/A Welsh Second Language entries as a proportion of all entries.
- Ensure that there are appropriate arrangements to support KS4 pupils from Monmouthshire to progress to Welsh-medium education at KS5 by 2020.
- Encourage all Monmouthshire schools to develop greater Welsh language capacity through participation in Welsh Government strategies such as the Sabbatical Welsh Language Scheme and the Classroom Assistants programme which can be tailored to meet need,
- 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 from 59.2% (2015 baseline) and that both languages are widely used as mediums of communication
- Set robust targets with English-medium secondary schools to increase entry for GCSE Welsh Full Course when the current Short Course is withdrawn in 2018 from 32.2% (2015) to 80% by 2020.
- Develop regional provision for first-time learners accessing Welsh-medium as outlined in 3.13 above.

6.2 Performance in Welsh First Language in Monmouthshire is strong in both the Foundation Phase and KS2, with performance in 2016 above the all Wales average at the expected level at the end of both phases.

6.3 Both Monmouthshire schools will have access to a range of Welsh literacy programmes and CPD through their involvement with the South East Wales

regional literacy network and direct support from a Welsh literacy advisor. This will enable them to build on current achievements and continue to improve. The 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'. This will ensure commonality of approach to the teaching and learning of skills when pupils transfer to either of our two secondary providers.

- 6.4 As well as a rigorous approach to assessment for and of learning, including in-house and cluster moderation, the adoption of the Siarter Iaith initiative from September 2016, will support schools in improving pupil confidence and competence in using the Welsh language both inside and outside the classroom. All primary schools are aiming to achieve the Siarter gold standard by July 2019.
- 6.5 Going forward, securing progression for pupils at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw and Ysgol Gwent Iscoed through KS4 into KS5 will be vital to ensure that high number of students from Monmouthshire progress to KS5.
- 6.6 Urdd Gobaith Cymru offers students the opportunity to engage in a variety of activities through the medium of Welsh, in an informal environment outside of the classroom. Students can take part in sporting events, Urdd National Eisteddfod, Residential trips, lunchtime clubs, informal chatting sessions and more. These opportunities are available to all Welsh and English Schools in Monmouthshire
- 6.7 Performance in Welsh as a Second Language at KS2 and KS3 is strong with performance significantly above Wales Provision at KS3 and 4 and GCSE uptake will be monitored and reported to Challenge Advisors and the LA annually.
- 6.8 All 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. This will support schools in meeting the requirements of the new curriculum to ensure transactional competence at the end of KS4 for all pupils in all aspects of school life.
- 6.9 From 2018, the Welsh Full Course will be the only GCSE on offer following the withdrawal of the Welsh Short Course. This will provide a more solid basis for the progression to AS and A Level. However, 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 them to sit an external examination in Welsh. This will continue to be a major barrier to the growth of

the study of Welsh Second Language to A Level, particularly in a border county.

- 6.10 Coleg Gwent have Welsh Second Language courses at the Crosskeys and Blaenau Gwent Learning Zone Campuses. Learners on priority bilingual programmes e.g. child-care can access Welsh courses through the Gwent Welsh for Adults Centre. The College has set a target of increasing the number 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. The College enjoys a very good working relationship with Menter Iaith together with numerous activities organised in conjunction with the Urdd.
- 6.12 We will need to consider and plan for the potential changes we expect to see following the removal of the toll on the Severn crossings and the roll out of the City Deal, particularly in the south of the county. Future developments could result in far greater levels of inward investment from national and international companies with a need to secure a local workforce with suitable skills and the ability to conduct business in Welsh. The Local Authority have begun to identify probable changes in the labour market and the skills required to support demand in the future. This information will be shared with schools and key stakeholders so that they can begin to understand the need for change and become key partners in workforce planning and skills development.

7. Outcome 6: Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN)

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
Targets will be aligned with outcomes from the regional review of provision.			

- 7.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are:
- Ensure that we have the capacity to deliver all of our ALN training for school staff through the medium of Welsh by September 2018.

- To develop a professional list of practitioners who are able to deliver a range of ALN provision through the medium of Welsh by April 2017.
 - To formalise commissioning arrangements across the region for Welsh-medium ALN assessment, specialist support and outreach support by September 2017.
 - Provide all ALN resources and programmes to support learning bilingually by September 2018.
- 7.2 Our most recent assessment of Welsh medium ALN provision, summer 2017, shows that all primary pupils with additional learning needs (22/22) currently access education through the medium of Welsh have their needs met within mainstream settings. Where appropriate, the Local Authority provide additional funding to the school to support individual pupils. All schools are DDA compliant and have the capacity to meet needs of physically disabled pupils. Both schools attend ALN training and work effectively with the LA to develop skills to meet a range of additional needs.
- 7.3 All of our secondary aged pupils with additional learning needs (15/15) are currently accessing education through the medium of Welsh have their needs met at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw. The Local Authority provide additional funding to the school to support individual pupils where appropriate. The Local Authority meet regularly with the school to review progress and the level and nature of support required to meet on-going needs. Expertise across a range of specialists through the medium of Welsh is available across the region should it be required. No Monmouthshire pupils are accessing independent specialist provision at this time.
- 7.4 All pupils have access to SpLD advice and support through the medium of Welsh. There are sub-regional arrangements in place to provide specialist support, such as Educational Psychology, as required. We always advertise posts within the ALN department with Welsh as a desirable skill to build the Welsh language capacity of the team.
- 7.5 The range of ALN resources and assessments in the medium of Welsh is limited. We have begun to develop new ASD resources in Welsh with partners across the region.
- 7.6 All ALN written information for parents is bilingual. SpLD training is delivered bilingually to school staff. We intend to provide all of our ALN training bilingually by September 2018.
- 7.7 The SEWC ALN sub group are working in collaboration across the region to look at and improve ALN provision in both Welsh and English medium

schools. As part of their work plan, the sub-group is in the process of auditing the current provision across the region and key areas from this audit will be included in the WESP.

7.8 Monmouthshire provides outreach support to enhance the capacity of schools to support pupils with challenging behaviour. At present, we are not able to deliver this provision through the medium of Welsh. However, we are working with colleagues across the region to assess the level of need in this area and explore collaborative arrangements as required.

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

Current Position	2017/2018 target	2018/2019 target	2019/2020 target
No data available at present			

8.1 Our objectives for achieving this outcome are:

- Introduce an annual Audit of practitioners' Welsh language skills (teachers and Teaching Assistants) Welsh and English-medium schools and Cylch Meithrin to assess capacity and identify future training needs by February 2018.
- Agree and implement a three-year strategic plan, in collaboration with schools and clusters, for the release of staff to participate in the WG Sabbatical Scheme training by September 2017 which aims to increase Welsh language skills and increase the number of education professionals able to teach through the medium of Welsh..
- Work in partnership with identified schools to prioritise the use of the Education Improvement Grant (EIG) to improve practitioners' linguistic skills, through working with Welsh in Education Officers in English-medium schools and settings, by April 2017.
- Systematically build the capacity of all schools to improve practitioners' methodological teaching skills in partnership with Welsh in Education Officers and through bespoke school-to-school initiatives beginning in September 2018.

8.2 Improving staff language skills, particularly in English-medium schools in Monmouthshire will be vital in implementing the Welsh Governments 'Successful Futures' vision and moving forward with the 2015 Million Speakers' agenda. We know that the current uptake within the county and across the South East Wales region for the WG Sabbatical Scheme training is low in English-medium schools. The authority will need to work with its schools to identify our Welsh language training needs and plan strategically to address them through a systematic programme. This may include the planned release

of staff to attend WG Sabbatical Scheme training, school to school work, bespoke programmes provided by the EAS or a combination of providers.

- 8.3 English-medium primary schools have access to a wide and diverse programme of professional development 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 across the county.
- 8.4 There is healthy collaboration between our Welsh-medium schools in the LA and across the wider region. There is a growing programme of Welsh-medium CPD literacy programme available to Welsh-medium schools from the EAS. This includes a programme of lead Welsh-medium schools sharing good practice within a centrally organised joint programme of advisory and school based support. A regional school-to-school programme Anelu at Ragoriaeth' is in place to support teachers in aiming for excellence in Welsh-medium schools.
- 8.5 Both Monmouthshire Welsh-medium primary 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.
- 8.6 Whilst we do not have a Welsh-medium secondary school within the county, we do work in strong partnership across the South East Wales region Welsh-medium secondary schools work to discuss the provision of suitable courses for our pupils delivered through the medium of Welsh.
- 8.7 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 free of charge and during work hours for all Coleg Gwent staff. Currently, 31 staff have enrolled on courses that started in September 2016.
- 8.8 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. childcare will be Welsh essential or

a commitment to learn Welsh to an intermediate level within 2 years. This will support the authority to expand Welsh medium childcare and early education across the county.

Annex 1

List of Statutory Consultees

A Local Authority must consult the following on the Plan in draft format and the period of consultation will last for 8 weeks.

The timescales for the process of consultation and submission to Welsh Government follow in Appendix 5.

Section 84 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013:

- neighbouring local authorities
- the head teacher of each school maintained by it
- the governing body of each school maintained by it
- each institution within the further education sector in its area
- in relation to any foundation or voluntary school in its area –
- the person who appoints the foundation governors
- if the school has a religious character, the appropriate religious body

“Other prescribed persons” as listed in Regulation 9:

- the Welsh Language Commissioner
- the Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership
- school councils
- Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Education and Training in Wales
- Local Welsh Medium Forum
- Urdd
- Menter Iaith
- Other such organisations providing services to children and young people in the Local Authority

Annex 2

Timetable and framework for WESP 2017-2020

2016	
19 October	Local Authorities to launch eight week consultation
Mid November	Welsh Government to send Mudiad Meithrin data to Local Authorities.
14 December	Consultation period ends
20 December	Local Authorities submit their WESPs to Welsh Government.
2017	
31 January	Welsh Government to notify Local Authorities of Minister's decision.
14 February	Submission deadline for modifications by the local authorities.
28 February	Welsh Government to approve the modified WESPs.
1 April	Local Authorities to start implementing the WESPs
1 June	Local Authorities to publish the WESPs.
28 September	Local Authority to resubmit WESPs
4th October	WESP submitted to Cabinet for consideration

Annex 3

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

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The percentage of seven-year-old children currently taught through the medium of Welsh is 6% (54 pupils)	5.5% (54 pupils)	6.8% (61 pupils)	6.8% (60 pupils)

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

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

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The current percentage of Monmouthshire learners in Year 9 who are assessed in Welsh (First language) is (4.5 %) 37 pupils	100% (27 pupils)	100% (36 pupils)	100% (38 pupils)
A comparison with the percentage of learners in Year 6 who were assessed in Welsh (First language) three years earlier is 4.6% (42 pupils)	95.1% (39/41 pupils)	100% (41/41 pupils)	100% (38/38 pupils)
Effective transition and linguistic continuity across provision in Monmouthshire between:	90%	90%	95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-maintained Welsh-medium settings for children under 3 and maintained Welsh-medium schools delivering the Foundation Phase is 82.3% 			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> non-maintained Welsh-medium childcare settings for children under 3 and funded non-maintained Welsh medium settings delivering the Foundation Phase is 85% 	90%	95%	95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded non-maintained Welsh-medium settings and maintained Welsh-medium schools is 86% 	90%	90%	95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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 schools is 86% 	90%	90%	95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation Phase and Key Stage 2 is 93.9% (62 pupils) 	100%	100%	100%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 2 and Key Stage 3 is 83% 	85%	90%	95%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 is 100% 	100%	100%	100%

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

All pupils attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw study at least five or more subjects through the medium of Welsh, in addition to Welsh (first language). In addition to Welsh/Welsh Literature, 100% of Year 11 Monmouthshire pupils attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw, sit two mathematics GCSEs, two science GCSEs, three optional GCSEs and the Welsh Baccaulaureate studied through the medium of Welsh.

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils currently attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw who study five or more subjects through the medium of Welsh is 100%	100%	100%	100%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils currently attending Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed who study five or more subjects through the medium of Welsh from 2020/21 will be 100%	100%	100%	100%

Outcome 4: More Learners aged 16-19 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.

All Monmouthshire pupils (100%) accessing post 16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw study two or more subjects through the medium of Welsh.

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils accessing Post-16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwynllyw who study two or more subjects through the medium of Welsh is 100%	100%	100%	100%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils accessing Post-16 education at Ysgol Gyfun Gwent Iscoed who study two or more subjects through the medium of Welsh from 2022/23 will be 100%	100%	100%	100%

Outcome 5: More learners with higher skills in Welsh

Improving provision and standards in Welsh First Language

Current Position		2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
The percentage of learners attending Welsh-medium education achieving the expected level in Welsh first language at the end of each key stage in Monmouthshire is:				
Foundation Phase Outcome 5+	93.8%	94%	95%	95%
Key Stage 2 Level 4+	95.1%	84%	96%	89%
Key Stage 3 Level 5+	NA	NA	NA	NA
Key Stage 4 A*-C				
The percentage of learners attending English-medium education achieving the expected level in Welsh second language at the end of each key stage in Monmouthshire is:				
Key Stage 2 level 4+	87.5%	90%	92%	91%
Key Stage 3 Level 5+	89.9%	93%	94%	92%
Key Stage 4 A*- C Full course	48%	63%	77%	86%
Key Stage 4 A – C Short Course				
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying GCSE Welsh Second Language Full course in 2016 is:49.6%				
		76%	85%	94%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying Key Stage 5 AS Welsh Second Language in 2016 is: 3.7%				
		5%	7%	15%
The percentage of Monmouthshire pupils in English-medium schools studying Key Stage 5 A Level Welsh Second Language in 2016 is:6.9%				
		3.5%	4%	10%

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

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
No data at present			

Outcome 7: Workforce planning and Continuous Professional Development

Current Position	2017/18 target	2018/19 target	2019/20 target
No data at present			

Annex 4

Welsh Medium Education Survey 2016

Final Summary of pre-school survey 01/09/2014 to 31/08/2015

Summary

Monmouthshire County Council continues to engage with its community to assess the demand for Welsh Medium Education and ensure that an appropriate range of Welsh Medium places is available for the children within its County. Surveys have previously been undertaken in 2007, 2010 and 2015.

Methodology

The 2016 survey the Local Authority targeted Monmouthshire parents with babies born between the periods of 1st September 2014 and 31st August 2015. The data used has been supplied by Aneurin Bevan Health Board.

On 14th October 2016, Monmouthshire County Council distributed a mailshot to the target audience containing a covering letter, survey containing the statutory questions, as well as information material supplied by various agencies highlighting the benefits of Welsh Medium Education. The material was distributed in English and Welsh, with an online version of the survey accessible via the Monmouthshire County Council website.

The Local Authority adopted various marketing techniques including publication of the survey via social media websites, family information website and articles in the Local Press. Officers also undertook a proactive approach of targeting parents of children within the target cohort during the 2016 National Eisteddfod, hosted in Abergavenny, Monmouthshire.

The closing date for the survey was set as being Friday 25th November 2016, a total of 6 weeks from distribution. The deadline was extended by a further week to accommodate a short period of technical difficulties (2 days) with the online survey.

Responses

Total Number of Surveys issued	809
Total Number of Surveys returned	92
Response rate	11.3%

Geographical split of responses

Area	Number of responses	%
North	48	52.1
South	31	33.7
Central	9	9.7
Out of County	4	4.3

1. Are you a Welsh Speaking Family?

Response	Number of Responses	%
Yes	12	13
No	80	87

Of those responding yes to Welsh speaking, 9 out of 12 were residing in the Abergavenny area (North Monmouthshire) with 1 residing in Usk (central Monmouthshire) and another residing outside of Monmouthshire.

2. Do you feel that your child would benefit from Welsh Medium Education?

Response	Number of Responses	%
Yes	46	50
No	32	34.7
Not Sure	14	15.3

46 families (50% of those responding) felt that their children would benefit from Welsh Medium Education:

- 29 families (63% of those responding yes) reside within the North of Monmouthshire, of which 24 families (83%) reside in Abergavenny and 5 families (17%) residing within Monmouth.
- 10 families (21.7% of those responding yes) from the South of the County felt that their children would benefit from Welsh Medium Education.
- 4 families (8.7% of those responding yes) residing within central Monmouthshire (Usk) felt their children would benefit from Welsh Medium Education.

3. What is the likelihood of sending your child to a Welsh Medium Primary school if it is situated more than 2 miles from your home address?

Preference	Total Responses	Percentage	North	South	Central	Out of County
Very Likely	20	21.7%	9	5	3	3
Quite Likely	7	7.6%	6	0	1	0
Likely	10	10.8%	6	4	0	0
Quite Unlikely	8	8.7%	6	2	0	0
Unlikely	18	19.5%	11	6	1	
Very Unlikely	29	31.5%	10	14	4	1
Total	92	100	48	31	9	4

It is apparent from the table above that 55 of the families responding (59.7%) would be unlikely to send their children to a Welsh Medium Primary School if it were to be situated in excess of 2 miles from the home address.

The remaining 37 families (40.3%) responding would be at least likely to send their child to a Welsh Medium Primary School even if the nearest school was in excess of 2 miles from the home address.

4. What is the likelihood of sending your child to a Welsh Medium Primary school if it is situated within 2 miles from your home address?

Preference	Total Responses	Percentage	North	South	Central	Out of County
Very Likely	37	40.2%	22	8	4	3
Quite Likely	5	5.4%	5	0	0	0
Likely	11	11.9%	6	4	1	0
Quite Unlikely	7	7.6%	5	2	0	0
Unlikely	12	13%	3	8	1	0
Very Unlikely	20	21.7	7	9	3	1
Total	92	100	48	31	9	4

Distance from home address to the Welsh Medium Primary School is clearly a key factor, with 53 of the families responding (57.6%) now at least quite likely to send their child to a Welsh Medium Primary School if it was within 2 miles of their home address. This is an increase of 17.3% on those likely to send their child to a Welsh Medium Primary School if it was situated more than 2 miles from the home address.

It would appear that, for those residing within central Monmouthshire, there is very little impact on the distance of the nearest Welsh Medium primary to their home address compared to the likelihood of choosing a Welsh Medium primary School. 5 families were at least likely to send their child to a Welsh Medium Primary School if it was within 2 miles compared to 4 families if it was in excess of 2 miles.

However, distance does appear to be a significant factor for those residing within the North of the county. 33 families responding from the North would be at least quite likely to send their child the Welsh Medium Primary School if it was within 2 miles of their home address, with only 21 families at least likely if in excess of 2 miles. This is a difference of 36.3%. The significant difference seems to relate to 11 families responding from the Monmouth area who would be in favour of sending their child to a Welsh Medium Primary if it was within 2 miles of their home, with only 4 families from Monmouth in favour if the Welsh Medium primary school was in excess of 2 miles.

5. What do you feel is an acceptable journey time to a Welsh Medium School?

Preference	Total Responses	Percentage	North	South	Central	Out of County
Less than 10 minutes	24	27.1%	15	5	2	2
10 to 20 minutes	41	44.5%	21	15	4	1
20 to 30 minutes	14	15.2%	9	5	0	0
30 to 45 minutes	7	7.6%	1	2	3	1

45 to 60 minutes	2	2.2%	0	2	0	0
Over 60 minutes	4	4.3%	2	2	0	0
Total	92	100	48	31	9	4

44.5% of families responding to the survey consider a 10 to 20 minute journey time to a Welsh Medium school to be an acceptable journey time. Only 14.1% of the families responding felt that a journey time in excess of 30 minutes is an acceptable travel time for their child.

6. **Would you be more likely to choose a Welsh Medium Primary School if there was a Welsh Medium Secondary School within an acceptable journey time for you?**

Response	Number of Responses	%
Yes	49	53.2
No	29	31.5
Not Sure	14	15.2

You will see from the above that 53.2% of the families responding to this survey feel that the distance to a Welsh Medium Primary School has an impact on their decision as to whether they send their child to a Welsh Medium Primary School. The 53.2% of families felt that they would be more likely to select a Welsh Medium Primary School if the Welsh Medium Secondary School was within an acceptable journey time.