

DEPARTMENT FOR EDUCATION & CHILDREN

CONSULTATION REPORT

For the proposal to change the nature of provision at

Ysgol Y Ddwylan, Ysgol Griffith Jones, Ysgol

Llangynnwr and Ysgol Llys Hywel

Our Vision.....Carmarthenshire is a community where children are safe and nurtured and learners of all ages are supported to achieve their full educational potential

September 2019

Gareth Morgans

Director of Education and Children's Services



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School Modernisation Section

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1. Introduction

Following approval from the Executive Board on 13th May 2019, Carmarthenshire County Council on 20th May 2019 published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at:

- Ysgol y Ddwylan;
- Ysgol Griffith Jones;
- Ysgol Llangynnwr; and
- Ysgol Llys Hywel.

The consultation period closed on 30th June 2019 and this report summarises: the responses received during the consultation period; Carmarthenshire County Council's response to those observations; Estyn's response to the proposal and the pupils' response.

It must be noted that whilst this report summarises the responses for all proposals, the four proposals should be considered **separately**.

2. Executive Summary- Ysgol Y Ddwylan

The Consultation Period

On the 20th May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Y Ddwylan, within the community of Newcastle Emlyn. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20th May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30th June 2019 with a total of 61 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Email	Total
59	2	61

It must be noted that of the 61 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

Responses Received

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Y Ddwylan along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

Supportive

- Theme 1 - Bilingualism
- Theme 2 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language

- Theme 3 – The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies
- Theme 4 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector
- Theme 5 – Immersion
- Theme 6 – No reason

Concerns

- Theme 1- Removal of Choice
- Theme 2 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 3 - Consultation Process/Misrepresentation of Data
- Theme 4 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 5 - Forcing the Welsh Language
- Theme 6 – Additional Learning Needs (ALN)
- Theme 7 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 8- The Community
- Theme 9 – Coping with the Welsh Language
- Theme 10 – Parents won't be able to help support their child
- Theme 11- Transport and Travel to Other Schools
- Theme 12 – Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money
- Theme 13 – Inside and Outside Catchment Pupils
- Theme 14 – Transfer to English Medium Schools
- Theme 15 - No Reason

Of the 61 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (39)
- Staff Member (5)
- School Governor (3)
- Grandparent (4)
- Other (10)

Overall Summary

Supportive	41%	Not Supportive	59%
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Workshops

Following the closure consultation period on the 30th June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

Consultation Event

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Y Ddwylan on 5th June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 10 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Y Ddwylan Staff	2
Secondary School Head Teacher	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parents	4
Councillor (Town and Local)	1

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

2.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments Raised				
1.	<p><u>Bilingualism</u></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example,</p>	2	3%

		<p>all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	2	3%
3.	<p><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></p> <p>In line with the Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a</p>	2	3%

	<p>Government's "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" the proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p>	<p>responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
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4.	<p><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25th June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires all schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide; • Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County; • Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education; 	2	3%
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and • Work in partnership with all providers to improve the standard of Welsh within the learning environment. 		
5.	<p><u>Immersion</u></p> <p>It is clear that learning Welsh as a second language is ineffective in creating bilingual individuals. The best way to create bilingual young people who are confident in reading, writing and speaking in both Welsh and English languages is through immersion.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges the international evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirming that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that for children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	1	2%
6.	<p><u>No Reason</u></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		0.5	1%

Concerns Raised				
1.	<p><u>Removal of Choice</u></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p>	13	21%

		<p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority’s proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been</p>		
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		identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
2.	<p><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example,</p>	12	20%

		<p>all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
3.	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p><u>Consultation</u> Some respondents felt that the consultation had not been widely enough publicised and should have been more accessible.</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018 and all required stakeholders have been notified and consulted with.</p> <p>Prior to formal consultation, an informal drop in session was held at the school and</p>	9	15%

	<p><u>Misrepresentation of Data</u> Some respondents felt that the data and information contained within the Consultation Document was incorrect and a deliberate misrepresentation to mislead stakeholders.</p>	<p>during the consultation period a further drop in session was held for stakeholders to discuss the proposal. It must be noted that this practice is not a statutory requirement of the School Organisation Code but considered good practise by CCC.</p> <p>The consultation period was held from 20th May until 30th June 2019 and was widely publicised via Carmarthenshire County Council's website and social media and was reported by local media. Consultees were able to respond to the consultation via the online survey, e-mail or letter.</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). Information regarding the current linguistic arrangements at the school was provided in the document and all data was represented accurately with regards to the proposal. All data contained within the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code 2018.</p>		
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4.	<p><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was</p>	8	13%
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		<p>adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
5.	<p><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of</p>	6	10%

	<p>medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual</p>		
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		<p>children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>		
6.	<p><u>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</u> Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>For this proposal, the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, all future pupils will receive support which is individually tailored to their needs.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and</p>	6	10%

		<p>monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.</p> <p>Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and complex additional needs this is not always possible</p>		
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		<p>and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.</p> <p>In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable. It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council</p>		
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		does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.		
7.	<p><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities</p>	4	7%

		<p>who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>		
8.	<p><u>The Community</u></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and will not cater for the needs of the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the area to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in a negative impact on the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that some children attending the school come from non-Welsh/English backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that</p>	4	7%

		<p>they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities' changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p>		
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		<p>It is hard to estimate the effect the proposal will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that they will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p>		
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9.	<p><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school the proposal be implemented.</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils in accordance with the needs of each individual. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school. Welsh Language Immersion Centres will also be available for those pupils who may need extra input linguistically.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of individual families.</p> <p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have also offered their</p>	4	7%

		help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.		
10.	<p><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>	4	7%
11.	<p><u>Transport and Travel to Other Schools</u></p> <p>It is unfair to expect parents to transport pupils to other schools to receive English medium education. This will have time and financial impact on families.</p>	<p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their local school.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part</p>	3	5%

		of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.		
12.	<p><u>Welsh Governemnt/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money</u></p> <p>Some respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP is a good enough reason to approve and implement the proposal as it will have no long term benefit. It is felt that these policies have no purpose or justification and are just pushing the Welsh language agenda and wasting money.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p>	3	5%

		<p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development.		
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		Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.		
13.	<p><u>Inside and Outside Catchment Pupils</u></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the number of pupils travelling from outside of the area/catchment to access education at the school. If the proposal is implemented, the pupils' access to preferred education provision will be limited.</p>	The movement of pupils between school catchment areas is a common circumstance across the country in both urban and rural areas. Children living within catchment areas receive preference to attend their catchment schools before children living outside the catchment area. However, parents can state a preference for a school, which is not the designated catchment area school and they do this for a number of reasons, e.g. access to extended family for working parents, ease of transporting children, proximity of the home to schools, reputation, provision, faith character, etc. When parents elect to place their children in a particular school they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the nature of provision.	3	5%

		<p>However, it is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p>		
14.	<p><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u> It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their catchment. In addition, it is felt that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school. Sufficient support</p>	1	2%

		<p>will be provided for all future pupils in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Please see point 9 which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see point 6 which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
15.	<p><u>No Reason</u> Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		0.5	1%

2.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Y Ddwylan.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to:

- **change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Y Ddwylan.**

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'.

As a result, the proposer notes clearly that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol y Ddwylan changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will

strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream Foundation Phase at Ysgol Y Ddwylan is considerably lower than those attending the Welsh stream Foundation Phase.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. The proposer does identify important concerns such as the current decline in pupil number intake in both Ysgol y Ddwylan and Ysgol Gyfun Emlyn due to the influx of pupils selecting the neighbouring 3-19, Welsh medium school. However, the proposer states clearly that strengthening the Welsh medium provision in the foundation Phase at Y Ddwylan would support the developing Welsh medium culture at Ysgol Emlyn, in line with the aims of the WESP.

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

Educational Aspects of the proposal:

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be adequate at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System which is currently in the 'amber' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that increasing the number of children and young people who become fluent in both Welsh and English would ensure

that they have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

2.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

Estyn is of the opinion that this proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standard of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

2.4 Consultation with the Pupils

School: Ysgol Y Ddwylan

Date: 27th June 2019

Consultation undertaken by: Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

Interviewed: Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

Pupils' Feedback

All pupils felt that learning Welsh in the Foundation Phase was a lot easier than learning Welsh at a later stage in their education. At this stage in education they felt that children absorb the language and are 'used to it', rather than having to 'learn' it.

The pupils felt that there are many advantages in learning Welsh as it is the language of the country in which we live. It was discussed that we are fortunate to have our own language and that other than England all other countries have their own language.

They felt that all schools should give pupils an opportunity to become fluent in both English and Welsh and realised that the best way to make pupils bilingual is to teach Welsh 'all the time' at school.

They felt that people living in Wales should ...make the effort'' to speak the language of the country and to be proud that they can speak it.

They discussed the advantages of being able to speak Welsh when looking for a job in Wales and that being bilingual can improve your confidence generally.

Homework was discussed and they felt that parents perceive it to be a problem because they cannot speak Welsh. As pupils however said that they

were able to ask questions in English and do the work in Welsh if they needed any help. They can also refer to the teachers for help if needed also.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

3. Executive Summary- Ysgol Griffith Jones

The Consultation Period

On the 20th May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Griffith Jones, within the community of St Clears. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20th May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30th June 2019 with a total of 9 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Letter	Total
8	1	9

It must be noted that of the 9 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

Responses Received

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Griffiths Jones along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

Supportive

- Theme 1 – Bilingualism

- Theme 2 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector

Concerns

- Theme 1 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 2 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 3 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 4 – Issues with Other Schools
- Theme 5 – Parents won't be able to help support their child

Of the 9 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (6)
- Grandparent (1)
- Other (2)

Overall Summary

Supportive	67%	Not Supportive	33%
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Workshops

Following the closure consultation period on the 30th June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

Consultation Event

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Griffith Jones on 6th June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 7 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Griffith Jones Staff	2
Secondary School Head Teacher	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parent	2

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

3.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments Raised				
1.	<p><u>Bilingualism</u></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p>	1	11%

		<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25th June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires all schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving 	1	11%

		<p>school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County;• Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education;• Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and• Work in partnership with all providers to improve the		
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		standard of Welsh within the learning environment.		
Concerns Raised				
1.	<p><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p>	2	22%

In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.

The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh

		<p>Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
2.	<p><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of</p>	2	22%

	<p>for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils’ understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals’ cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services.</p> <p>Possessing Welsh language skills will</p>		
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		<p>increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
3.	<p><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p>	1	11%

		<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Issues with Other Schools</u> No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal. There are</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's preference that children attend their local school and believes that the school</p>	1	11%

	<p>concerns regarding capacity and/or standards at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools.</p>	<p>will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the authority's desire that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposal, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. As a result, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools.</p> <p>The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated"</p>		
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		<p>school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p>		
5.	<p><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u> Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing</p>	1	11%

		<p>increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>		
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3.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Griffith Jones.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council. The proposal is to:

- **Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Griffith Jones.**

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol Griffith Jones changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will

strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream Foundation Phase at Ysgol Griffiths Jones is significantly lower than those attending the Welsh stream Foundation Phase.

It notes that in comparison with whole school pupil numbers (305 pupils), the number of children attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase in January 2018 equate to 5% of the whole school population.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. .

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

Educational Aspects of the proposal:

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement were judged to be good at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'yellow' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal will ensure that all pupils at the school will be able to access Welsh-medium education and ensure inclusion in terms of linguistic opportunities for pupils.

3.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

3.4 Consultation with the Pupils

School: Ysgol Griffith Jones

Date: 21st June 2019

Consultation undertaken by: Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

Interviewed: Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and the Welsh streams.

Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

Pupils' Feedback

It was easier to learn another language when young as this is the time when we aren't aware of learning languages. The older you become the harder it is to learn Welsh.

They would have a better chance of getting a job in the future if they wanted to live in Wales – when asked if any of them thought that they may live in Wales in the future they all replied ' Yes'.

They would have more friends by speaking both English and Welsh.

English does not suffer as you can speak that everywhere and it is all around you all the time.

Learning Welsh by immersion to the end of the Foundation Phase would allow pupils to be in a better position to decide which stream they would like to go into.

We hear a lot of Welsh in our school as all our teachers are able to speak Welsh.

This is good opportunity for those children who do not come from Welsh speaking homes to learn the language at an early age and then they can decide themselves whether or not to continue in the Welsh stream. We don't have many pupils in the English stream now.

It's a shame that we have to decide which secondary school to go as it can split up friends however it is also an opportunity to make new friends.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

4. Executive Summary- Ysgol Llangynnwr

The Consultation Period

On the 20th May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Llangynnwr, within the community of Llangunnor. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20th May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30th June 2019 with a total of 44 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Email	Total
28	16	44

It must be noted that of the 44 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

Responses Received

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Llangynnwr along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

Supportive

- Theme 1 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and help preserve the Welsh Language
- Theme 2 - Bilingualism

- Theme 3 – The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies
- Theme 4 – No Reason
- Theme 5 – Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector

Concerns

- Theme 1 – Forcing the Welsh Language
- Theme 2 – Removal of Choice
- Theme 3 – Staffing
- Theme 4 – Opportunities for Parents
- Theme 5 – No Reason
- Theme 6 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 7 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 8 – Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money
- Theme 9 – Separation of Siblings
- Theme 10 – Parents won't be able to help support their child

Of the 44 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (15)
- School Governor (1)
- Grandparent (1)
- Other (27)

Overall Summary

Supportive	86%	Not Supportive	14%
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Workshops

Following the closure consultation period on the 30th June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

Consultation Event

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Llangynnwr on 7th June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 8 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Llangynnwr Staff	4
Governor	1
Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Prospective Parents	1

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

4.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments Raised				
1.	<p><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	14	32%
2.	<p><u>Bilingualism</u></p> <p>The proposal will provide all pupils with the opportunity to become bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills development, such as: cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced</p>	13	30%

	<p>speak fluently in both Welsh and English languages. This will also help develop bilingualism within the community.</p> <p>Bilingualism offers many advantages to all pupils and learning through the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. All pupils should be provided with the opportunity to benefit from the many advantages of being bilingual.</p>	<p>powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a bilingual education.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
3.	<p><u>The proposal adheres to Council and Welsh Government policies</u></p> <p>In line with the Local Authority's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and Welsh Government's "Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh Speakers" the proposal ensures that the Local Authority is adhering to Council and Welsh</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the</p>	5	11%

	<p>Government policies with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh. The proposal ensures that the Local Authority meet their aim of increasing the provision of Welsh medium education in Carmarthenshire and ensure linguistic continuity from the nursery sector along the key stages to the secondary sector so that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p>	<p>explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service. All relevant recommendations and actions from the strategy have been incorporated within Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan which seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; 		
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>		
4.	<p><u>No reason</u></p> <p>Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		3	7%
5.	<p><u>Consider further linguistic development along the Education Sector</u></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal moves the school along the language continuum, however consideration needs to be given to further linguistic development along all areas of the education sector.</p>	<p>On the 25th June 2018, in accordance with Welsh Government Strategic Plan, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire’s Welsh in Education Strategic plan with its vision for a bilingual Carmarthenshire.</p> <p>The Plan requires all schools within the county to move along the language continuum and notes the following objectives:</p>	1	2%

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that every pupil is completely bilingual (and multilingual) when leaving school so that they have the skills to operate as bilingual citizens in their communities, the workplace and beyond/worldwide; • Provide services that will ensure high quality learning opportunities for all Carmarthenshire's children, young people and adults, and thereby enabling them to achieve their full potential as lifetime learners in the context of the unique bilingual of the County; • Ensure progression from pre-school Welsh medium provision to bilingual primary and secondary education; • Ensure linguistic progression across curricular areas when transferring from Key Stage 2 to Key Stage 3, from Key Stage 3 to Key Stage 4 and promote linguistic progression from Key Stage 4 to lifelong learning; and • Work in partnership with all providers to improve the standard of Welsh within the learning environment. 		
Concerns Raised				

1.	<p><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect. Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>	4	9%
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2.	<p><u>Removal of Choice</u></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory</p>	2	5%

		<p>requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh;• Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school;• Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh;• Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and• Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority’s proposal to</p>		
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		develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
3.	<u>Staffing</u> Implementing the proposal will restrict opportunities to staff who do not speak the Welsh language and will restrict employment opportunities. In addition, concerns were raised on whether there are enough Welsh speaking staff employed at the school for the change to be effective.	The schools have been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum. Rather than restrict opportunities for staff who do not speak the Welsh language, this proposal will help staff to improve their Welsh language skills. "Athrawon Bro" will provide training to staff members who are less confident in using their Welsh language skills and the Local Authority will also provide training support for any staff members wishing to develop their Welsh language skills. Support will also be given through the National Sabbatical courses as well as Welsh for Adults. Courses have been designed specifically to meet the needs of staff at all linguistic levels. Subject specific, classroom and incidental language courses are now available.	2	5%
4.	<u>Opportunities for Parents</u> Some respondents felt that further support was required for	Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.	2	5%

	<p>parents to develop their linguistic skills, in order to help support their children.</p>	<p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go! http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently. • Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language. • Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf 		
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		<p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website: https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</p>		
5.	<p><u>No reason</u> Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		2	5%
6.	<p><u>Status Quo is Successful</u> The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School</p>	1	2%

		<p>Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p>		
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		<p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire’s WESP.</p> <p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been</p>		
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		identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.		
7.	<p><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>	1	2%

8.	<p><u>Welsh Government/ Carmarthenshire County Council Policies/ Saving Money</u></p> <p>Some respondents do not feel that following County Council and Government policies such as WESP is a good enough reason to approve and implement the proposal as it will have no long term benefit. It is felt that these policies have no purpose or justification and are just pushing the Welsh language agenda and wasting money.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is promoting the current proposal for primary education in the area as it firmly believes that this is in the best interests of the children's education. However, the Local Authority also has a responsibility to follow its own policies along with Welsh Government policies.</p> <p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>Every local authority in Wales, including Carmarthenshire County Council has a responsibility to respond to the Act and the Welsh Government's Welsh Medium Education Strategy and is accountable individually to the Welsh Government. Carmarthenshire County Council's WESP has been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; 	1	2%
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>Should the Local Authority not seek to achieve the specific outcomes as detailed in WESP, then it would not meet its aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh as recommended by the Welsh Government.</p>		
9.	<p><u>Separation of Siblings</u></p> <p>If implemented, the proposal may separate some siblings who may not be able to attend the same school due to the desire for English medium education.</p>	<p>The Local Authority is not proposing alternative schools for the proposal.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school</p>	1	2%

		<p>where sufficient support will be provided in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Should parents elect to place siblings in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the separation of siblings and any transport implications. If parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.</p>		
10.	<p><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u></p> <p>Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>	1	2%

4.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llangynnwr.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council.

The proposal is to:

- **change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llangynnwr.**

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training in Carmarthenshire and states that the need to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly it's intention that from 1st September 2020 the nature of Foundation Phase provision of Ysgol Llangynnwr changes to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that

the number of pupils attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase at Ysgol Llangynnwr has generally been declining since 2014 and stand at 12 pupils in January 2018, in contrast with the number of pupils attending the Welsh stream.

It notes that in comparison with whole school pupil numbers (310 pupils), the number of children attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase in January 2018 equate to 4% of the whole school population.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2. In addition, it emphasises that these pupils would have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal.

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

Educational Aspects of the proposal:

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that all inspection areas were judged to be good at the time of the core inspection. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'green' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

4.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language. Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2.

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

4.4 Consultation with the Pupils

School: Ysgol Llangynnwr

Date: 14th June 2019

Consultation undertaken by: Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

Interviewed: Cross section of 14 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

Pupils' Feedback

Llangunnor school pupils understood a number of factors in terms of Welsh medium education and Welsh Government's vision of a million speakers by 2050.

They were adamant that this is a very important time for them as they will become part of those Welsh speakers for the future.

They were in no doubt that the extension of the opportunity to learn Welsh to the end of the Foundation Phase was a positive thing and an opportunity to gain a greater grasp of Welsh from an early age. They felt that it was easier to learn a language at an early age and also gave the pupils more power, being older, to choose which language of education they wanted in the future as opposed to their parents making that choice. They felt that by the end of year 2 all pupils will have gained a far better grounding in Welsh therefore allowing them to be part of that conversation with their parents.

They discussed the ease of learning any language at an early age and that it may be difficult for non- Welsh speakers to appreciate this.

Discussion followed on to the next stage in their education where they felt that continuing learning through the medium of Welsh would be more beneficial than continuing through the medium of English. They were very aware of the added opportunities that they would be able to have in the

workplace stating that they would not be able to get a job in Wales without being bilingual.

They also discussed speaking Welsh outside of Wales whilst on holiday when they would feel able to strike up a conversation with other Welsh speakers.

Also being able to speak more than one language meant that they were able to have more friends.

In addition, many of them had pride in the language and felt that it was important for them to use the language outside the classroom and that the Siarter Iaith was important in this.

Many of the pupils discussed the advantages linguistically of being bilingual in helping them to learn other languages.

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.

5. Executive Summary- Ysgol Llys Hywel

The Consultation Period

On the 20th May 2019 Carmarthenshire County Council published proposals to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at Ysgol Llys Hywel, within the community of Whitland. The County Council's proposal is to:

- Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium.

The consultation period commenced on the 20th May 2019 in line with the publication of the proposals and closed on 30th June 2019 with a total of 25 responses received (excluding the responses received from Estyn and the pupils' consultation) in response to the formal consultation.

Responses Received		
Online Survey	Letter	Total
24	1	25

It must be noted that of the 25 responses received, all were received prior to the end of the consultation period.

Responses Received

This proposal has been prepared in response to Carmarthenshire County Council's Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and the Welsh Medium Education Strategy in line with Welsh Government Policies. The proposal to move Ysgol Llys Hywel along the Welsh language continuum will help the authority achieve their vision of a bilingual Carmarthenshire and support the Welsh Government's aim of achieving a million Welsh speakers by 2050.

For completeness, these responses have also been included within this report and the themes of all comments received are as follows:

Supportive

- Theme 1 – Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language

- Theme 2 – Opportunities for Parents
- Theme 3 – No Reason

Concerns

- Theme 1 – Parents won't be able to help support their child
- Theme 2 – Status Quo is Successful
- Theme 3 – Discrimination and Exclusion
- Theme 4 – Transfer to English Medium Schools
- Theme 5 – Removal of Choice
- Theme 6 – Transport and Travel to Other Schools
- Theme 7 – The Community
- Theme 8 – The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities
- Theme 9 – Issues with Other Schools
- Theme 10 – Coping with the Welsh Language
- Theme 11 – Forcing the Welsh Language

Of the 25 respondents, they are categorised as follows:

- Parent (19)
- School Governor (1)
- Other (5)

Overall Summary

Supportive	44%	Not Supportive	56%
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Workshops

Following the closure consultation period on the 30th June 2019 workshops were held to analyse the responses received.

Consultation Event

A consultation drop in session was held at Ysgol Llys Hywel on 4th June 2019 between 5pm and 7pm to offer an opportunity for staff, parents and stakeholders to ask questions and discuss the proposal.

The consultation drop in session was attended by 6 stakeholders categorised as follows:

Category	No
Ysgol Llys Hywel Staff	1
Secondary School Head Teacher	1

Menter Gorllewin Sir Gar	2
Parent	2

Next Steps

The Consultation Report will be presented to the Education & Children's Scrutiny Committee for comments and a recommendation and then ultimately to the Executive Board for determination on whether or not to proceed with the proposal and publish a statutory notice. Should the Executive Board decide to proceed to the next stage, a Statutory Notice will be published during the Autumn Term 2019.

5.1 Summary of Observations received and Local Authority Responses

Point Number	Point Raised	Local Authority Response	Number of responses raising this point	% of responses raising this point
Supportive Comments Raised				
1.	<p><u>Increases the number of Welsh speakers and helps preserve the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The proposal will increase the number of Welsh speakers within the community and Carmarthenshire, in line with the Welsh Government's aim of reaching 1 million Welsh speakers by 2050.</p>	<p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p> <p>The support was noted.</p>	1	4%
2.	<p><u>Opportunities for Parents</u></p> <p>It was recognised that the proposal provides parents and the community with the opportunity to develop their</p>	<p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p>	1	4%

	<p>Welsh language skills and consultees would be interested in any support available.</p>	<p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go! http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently. • Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career, health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language. • Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf 		
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		<p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:</p> <p>https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</p>		
3.	<p><u>No reason</u> Some respondents did not provide a reason for their support.</p>		1	4%
Concerns Raised				
1.	<p><u>Parents won't be able to help support their child</u> Concerns were raised that parents will no longer be able to play an active role in their child's education.</p>	<p>Welsh schools set homework instruction in Welsh and in English so there will be no problem in understanding what children are being asked to do at home. Work set will be appropriate to the pupil's age and ability level and therefore should be within reach. Developing increasingly as independent learners, parents may find</p>	8	32%

		<p>that children are happy to progress without extra parental guidance as they get older.</p> <p>The school currently offers a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of families.</p>		
2.	<p><u>Status Quo is Successful</u></p> <p>The current linguistic arrangements at the school are working well and there is no need for change.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledge that the school is performing well and is successful. This proposal seeks to improve even further the opportunity for children attending the school to secure continually improving outcomes. Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, from improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p>	5	20%

		<p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018, the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>The plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p>		
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		<p>It is important to note that the WESP requires all primary schools in Carmarthenshire, including English medium schools, to move along the language continuum, progressively expanding the proportion of education that is delivered through the medium of Welsh, with a view to ensuring that in time all children leaving primary school are fully bilingual.</p> <p>The pace at which schools will be able to expand bilingualism and Welsh medium education will depend upon local circumstances but the expectation for progress applies to all schools. The school has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
3.	<p><u>Discrimination and Exclusion</u></p> <p>It is believed that the proposal is discriminatory and segregates non-Welsh/English speaking families who desire English medium education. Should the proposal be implemented, pupils could be forced to seek English medium education elsewhere, thus further excluding them from their local community.</p>	<p>This proposal does not seek to discriminate against non-Welsh/English families or to exclude any community members from their own local community in any way. On the contrary, this proposal seeks to provide all children with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to be able to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time that they leave primary school.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language. It is important to note that there will be no change for current pupils attending the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's</p>	4	16%

		<p>desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school. This proposal seeks to provide all pupils/parents and community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills.</p>		
4.	<p><u>Transfer to English Medium schools</u></p> <p>It is unfair for pupils who desire/require an English medium education to have to transfer to another school outside of their catchment. In addition, it is felt that pupils who struggle with the Welsh language will also have to transfer to another school.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school. Sufficient support will be provided for all future pupils in accordance with each individual's needs.</p> <p>Please see point 10 which refers to the help and support which is currently and will continue to be</p>	4	16%

		<p>provided to all pupils and parents with regards to the Welsh language.</p> <p>Please see point 12 which refers to pupils with additional learning needs, special educational needs and the help and support which is and will continue to be provided to these pupils.</p>		
5.	<p><u>Removal of Choice</u></p> <p>There are concerns regarding the removal of choice of English medium education at the school. It is believed that parents should have the choice of which language their children should be educated through.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council has a statutory responsibility under Part 4 of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 to prepare a Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for its area with the explicit aim of improving planning of the provision of education through the medium of Welsh, for improving the standards of that education and of the teaching of Welsh.</p> <p>In April 2014 the County Council formally adopted a comprehensive strategy for the development of the Welsh language in Carmarthenshire, endorsing the recommendations of a politically balanced group of elected members that had examined in depth the status of the Welsh language in the county in the wake of the 2011 census of the population. The strategy required action on 73 points, 21 of which applied to the education service.</p> <p>The language strategy received cross-party support from elected members when it was adopted at a meeting of the full County Council. On 25th June 2018,</p>	3	12%

		<p>the Local Authority launched Carmarthenshire's most recent Welsh in Education Strategic Plan. The WESP has been subject to public consultation during its preparation and subsequent review. Its contents have, therefore, been subject to a test of public opinion in line with statutory requirements. It has also been approved by the Welsh Government in accordance with the requirements of the Act.</p> <p>he plan seeks to achieve the following outcomes relevant to the proposal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 1 - More seven year old children being taught through the medium of Welsh; • Outcome 2 - More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school; • Outcome 5 – More students who have higher language skills in Welsh; • Outcome 6 – Welsh medium provision for learner with additional learning needs (ALN); and • Outcome 7 – Workforce planning and continuing professional development. <p>The proposal is adhering to the recommendations as set out in Carmarthenshire's WESP.</p> <p>Choice is an important issue in the consideration of this proposal, with the most important aspect of choice being that which is available to children as they</p>		
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		<p>progress through their education and early lives. This proposal provides all pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual with the skills to read, write and speak in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school. The Local Authority's proposal to develop bilingual children by the time they leave primary school gives children a choice as they move along the education sector. The most effective way of developing bilingual children in the primary sector is to immerse them in Welsh medium education. It is generally accepted in the education profession that studying Welsh as a second language does not develop truly bilingual young people and the schools has been identified as having the potential to move quickly along the language continuum.</p>		
6.	<p><u>Transport and Travel to Other Schools</u> It is unfair to expect parents to transport pupils to other schools to receive English medium education. This will have time and financial impact on families.</p>	<p>As there will be no change for current pupils attending the schools, there is consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that all future pupils will attend their local school.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including transport implications. If any parents elect to place their children in alternative schools that are neither the designated nor nearest</p>	3	12%

		school, these parents will assume full responsibility for transporting their children to school.		
7.	<p><u>The Community</u></p> <p>The proposal is inconsistent with the make-up of community and will not cater for the needs of the whole community.</p> <p>It is felt that this proposal will have a negative effect on the community due to families moving out of the area to seek English medium education elsewhere. In addition, only providing Welsh medium education may result in less people moving to the area due to unsuitable education provision. This will result in a negative impact on the economy within the local area.</p>	<p>The Local Authority acknowledges that some members of the community are unable to speak the Welsh language and that some children attending the school come from non-Welsh/English backgrounds. It is, therefore important for the Local Authority to increase the provision of Welsh medium education in order to promote bilingualism in the area and to ensure that every pupil becomes fluent and confident in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>There is a national priority in Wales, shared by Carmarthenshire County Council, to increase the number of people in our communities who are able to speak Welsh and use it in their everyday lives. Schools are regarded to be a critically important component in developing children so that they are fully bilingual by the time they leave primary school.</p> <p>The Local Authority acknowledges that the nature of communities' changes over time and that social mobility continues to increase. The Local Authority considers that this point reinforces the need to embed Welsh medium education in as many communities as possible in order to bolster the language and provide as many children as possible with the opportunity to develop as truly bilingual citizens and to benefit from the personal advantages that bilingualism brings.</p>	2	8%

		<p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is hard to estimate the effect the proposal will have on the number of families moving into the area. However, the Local Authority are hopeful that they will understand the benefits of a Welsh medium education and the opportunities and advantages that it can provide. This proposal will provide all future pupils with the opportunity to become fully bilingual in both Welsh and English languages by the time they leave primary school and benefit from these advantages throughout their lives.</p> <p>The Local Authority is also hopeful that this proposal will have a positive effect on the local economy by providing community members with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills. Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject</p>		
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		to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.		
8.	<p><u>The Pupils' Education and Later Life Opportunities</u></p> <p>It is believed that learning through the medium of Welsh will have a detrimental effect on the pupils' education and English language skills, and will disadvantage children from entering further or higher education and later on in life when applying for job vacancies etc. It is believed that not all pupils will be able to reach their full potential by learning through the medium of Welsh. It must also be noted that the most common language used in day to day life, working life and the business world is English – therefore pupils' understanding of the English language must be secure in order to ensure maximum success within the real world.</p>	<p>It is the belief of the Local Authority, based upon international evidence and research and local experience, that children benefit from a truly bilingual education, which provides wider skills developments, such as cognitive ability, task understanding and flexibility, enhanced powers of concentration, etc. and that all children should receive these opportunities. Being bilingual or multilingual also broadens individuals' cultural experiences and can enhance career prospects. Evidence demonstrates that true bilingualism can only be achieved in the local context through children receiving a Welsh medium education.</p> <p>The Local Authority notes that on average, bilingual children achieve higher grades in the English language. It should also be noted that on average, about 80% of Carmarthenshire pupils who receive Welsh medium education receive an A*-C grades in both Welsh and English languages.</p> <p>Bilingualism will increasingly over time become an employment skill. For example, all public organisations in Wales are subject to new statutory Welsh language standards and progressively over time will need to</p>	2	8%

		<p>recruit increasing numbers of Welsh speakers to deliver services. Possessing Welsh language skills will increasingly over time give individuals a competitive advantage when seeking employment.</p> <p>Schools prepare young people with the skills to attend universities around the world and the Welsh language should not be seen as a disadvantage. Rather than being an impediment, possessing skills in the Welsh language is seen by many universities, inside and outside Wales, as an additional skill, which can offer benefits when a young person is competing for a place to study.</p>		
9.	<p><u>Issues with Other Schools</u> No alternative English medium schools are provided as part of the proposal. There are concerns regarding capacity and/or standards at other English medium schools, should parents want to send their children to other schools.</p>	<p>It is the Local Authority's preference that children attend their local school and believes that the school will continue to offer high standards of education to children. It is the authority's desire that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposal, will not, therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. As a result, the Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools.</p> <p>The County Council is obliged to facilitate parental preference only where this is consistent with the</p>	2	8%

		<p>effective delivery of education and the efficient use of resources. No parent has a right to demand a place at any particular school for their child or children. School places are allocated on the basis of the Council's published admissions criteria, which favour children attending their local or "designated" school. Children are admitted to a school other than their designated school upon application by parents when places are available and subject to the over-subscription criteria set out in the published admissions policy. It is the County Council's preference that children attend their local school and it is upon this principle that school places are planned.</p> <p>The Local Authority are not proposing alternative English medium schools as part of the proposal. Should parents elect to place their children in alternative schools they will do so in full consideration of all the factors that apply, including the standards at the alternative schools.</p>		
10.	<p><u>Coping with the Welsh Language</u> Concerns were raised that not all children will be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh, especially pupils from non-Welsh backgrounds. In addition, there are concerns that non-Welsh speaking parents may</p>	<p>The school will continue to provide support for current pupils through the medium of which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be implemented, sufficient support will be provided to all new pupils in accordance with the needs of each individual. It is also important to note that staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments when required to meet the needs of every pupil. "Athrawon Bro" who provide</p>	1	4%

	<p>find it hard to support and help their children with their school work and home work should the school the proposal be implemented.</p>	<p>support to the schools around the county will also be supporting the school. Welsh Language Immersion Centres will also be available for those pupils who may need extra input linguistically.</p> <p>The schools currently offer a range of support to pupils and parents from non-Welsh speaking families and are committed to increasing provision as necessary to meet the future needs of individual families.</p> <p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have also offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p>		
11.	<p><u>Forcing the Welsh Language</u></p> <p>The community should have a choice of whether to learn through the medium of Welsh or English and the Welsh language should not be forced on anyone. It is important to learn the Welsh language and some pupils may want to use the language in their day to day life however; not all pupils will want to receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Forcing the Welsh language will not create more Welsh speakers, in fact it will have the opposite effect.</p>	<p>The proposal is consistent with national policy to expand Welsh medium education in order to develop increasing numbers of fully bilingual young people and to enable more children to benefit from the advantages of bilingualism, gathered through international research.</p> <p>It is the Local Authority's intention that all current pupils remain at the school and continue to receive their education through the current language arrangements. The proposals will not therefore, affect current pupils. The school will continue to provide sufficient support for all current pupils through the medium in which they currently receive their education so there is, consequently, no need for any child to be moved from the school. Similarly, it is the Local</p>	1	4%

	<p>Implementing the proposal will force pupils to seek English medium education at other English medium schools which will deny pupils exposure to the Welsh language.</p>	<p>Authority's desire that in the future local children attend their local school.</p> <p>It is important to remember that the teaching and the development of the English language still occurs in Welsh medium schools to the highest of standards, as a statutory part of the curriculum.</p> <p>International evidence, cited by the Welsh Government, confirms that the most effective way of developing bilingual children is to immerse them in the less common language whilst also developing their skills in the more common language. The Welsh Government also promotes that children who are from non-Welsh speaking families that immersion in Welsh in school is particularly important in embedding the language.</p>		
12.	<p><u>Additional Learning Needs (ALN)</u> Children with special education needs or additional learning needs may not be able to cope with learning through the medium of Welsh and may require English medium education. It is unfair to assume that all children with SEN/ALN will be able to learn through the medium of Welsh.</p>	<p>Carmarthenshire County Council's policy is that all its schools should be inclusive, with children with additional learning needs being educated in a mainstream setting alongside their peers wherever possible.</p> <p>For this proposal, the support provided to children currently in the schools with additional needs will continue through the medium in which they currently receive their education. Should the proposal be</p>	1	4%

		<p>implemented, all future pupils will receive support which is individually tailored to their needs.</p> <p>All pupils with additional learning needs have specific individual plans based on their circumstances and a tailored support programme is provided according to need. Generally, an additional learning need is not a barrier to learning two languages. It is important to assess and monitor progress in each or all of the languages that a child is using or learning, including sign and visually supported communication systems required for some pupils, particularly as the stronger developed language can be used to support and build learning through a lesser developed language medium. Staff are required to differentiate the curriculum and make reasonable adjustments to the language of instruction and response in order to accommodate additional needs and ensure access to the curriculum and learning progress. At times it may be appropriate to target additional support in one language for a period to consolidate and accelerate learning, e.g. in literacy. There will be rare instances, however, where a child may be diagnosed with a condition that is not conducive to a fully bilingual education. In these circumstances a package of support is identified by professional practitioners and discussed with parents.</p> <p>Whilst the system is designed to meet the needs of learners through an universal and inclusive approach, for a small number of children with significant and</p>		
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		<p>complex additional needs this is not always possible and specialised provision offers a more appropriate learning setting.</p> <p>In order to make sure that the needs of all learners are met the schools system in Carmarthenshire includes a range of provision for children with additional needs. A specialised school or unit offer education to children with the most profound or complex needs where a mainstream setting is either not suitable for the children's needs or where parents prefer an alternative setting. Selected secondary and primary schools across the county include specialised units for children with particular needs, such as autism, sensory impairment or speech and language delay. The Department for Education and Children provides specific additional support in schools wherever practicable so that as many children as possible remain in their local school. Whilst the Council's preference is to meet the needs of all children in a mainstream setting wherever possible, this is not always practicable.</p> <p>It is this Council's experience that the vast majority of pupils with a wide range of additional learning needs and abilities are successful in our schools irrespective of the language of instruction but the Council does acknowledge that there will be a very few children whose needs cannot be met other than through provision at a specialist unit.</p>		
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13.	<p><u>Consultation Process</u></p> <p><u>Consultation</u> Some respondents felt that the consultation had not been widely enough publicised and should have been more accessible.</p> <p><u>Misrepresentation of Data</u> Some respondents felt that the data and information contained within the Consultation Document was incorrect and a deliberate misrepresentation to mislead stakeholders.</p>	<p>The consultation process has been conducted in compliance with the statutory School Organisation Code 2018 and all required stakeholders have been notified and consulted with.</p> <p>Prior to formal consultation, an informal drop in session was held at the school and during the consultation period a further drop in session was held for stakeholders to discuss the proposal. It must be noted that this practice is not a statutory requirement of the School Organisation Code but considered good practise by CCC.</p> <p>The consultation period was held from 20th May until 30th June 2019 and was widely publicised via Carmarthenshire County Council's website and social media and was reported by local media. Consultees were able to respond to the consultation via the online survey, e-mail or letter.</p> <p>All data and information contained within the Consultation Document is accurate and is based upon the Pupil Level Annual School Census Data (PLASC). Information regarding the current linguistic arrangements at the school was provided in the document and all data was represented accurately with regards to the proposal. All data contained within</p>	1	4%
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		the Consultation Document is stipulated as a requirement within the School Organisation Code 2018.		
14.	<p>Opportunities for Parents</p> <p>Some respondents felt that further support was required for parents to develop their linguistic skills, in order to help support their children.</p>	<p>Several organisations who attended the formal drop in session during the consultation period have offered their help and support to the community with the development of the Welsh language.</p> <p>Further support and guidance can be found by accessing the following links as noted in the Consultation Document:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cymraeg gyda'r plant / Welsh with your kids- give it a go! <p>http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.uk/media/1214148/gd4808-taflencymraegiplant4-002.pdf</p> <p>Within this booklet you will find a number of useful Welsh words and phrases which can be used to practise the Welsh language with young children. This will help them to speak naturally and confidently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bod yn Ddwylieithog... yn Sir Gâr / Being Bilingual... in Carmarthenshire <p>https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216432/being-bilingual.pdf</p> <p>This booklet details what it means to be bilingual whilst highlighting the advantages that can be achieved from being bilingual in areas such as education, career,</p>	1	4%

		<p>health and life. In addition, within this booklet you will find the answers to many common parental concerns regarding the Welsh language.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcome to Wales Welcome to Carmarthenshire Welcome to Welsh <p>http://newsroom.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/media/1216436/welcome-pack.pdf</p> <p>This booklet has been prepared by Carmarthenshire County Council to welcome newcomers to its bilingual County. Within the booklet you will find information on how the Welsh language is used in Carmarthenshire along with details on where you can find Welsh language support and useful websites to visit to develop your Welsh language skills.</p> <p>Information by parents and pupils from non-Welsh speaking families is also available to watch on the County council website:</p> <p>https://www.carmarthenshire.gov.wales/home/council-services/education-schools/bilingual-education/#.XR9DGOaovIU</p>		
15.	<p>No reason Some respondents did not provide a reason for their objection.</p>		1	4%

5.2 Estyn's Observations regarding the Proposal

Estyn response to the proposal by Carmarthenshire County Council's consultation on changing the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llys Hywel.

This report has been prepared by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education and Training in Wales.

Under the terms of the School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013 and its associated Code, proposers are required to send consultation documents to Estyn. However, Estyn is not a body which is required to act in accordance with the Code and the Act places no statutory requirements on Estyn in respect of school organisation matters. Therefore as a body being consulted, Estyn will provide their opinion only on the overall merits of school organisation proposals.

Estyn has considered the educational aspects of the proposal and has produced the following response to the information provided by the proposer.

Introduction

This is a consultation proposal from Carmarthenshire County Council. The proposal is to:

- **Change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium at Ysgol Llys Hywel.**

Summary/Conclusion

The proposal focuses on ensuring significant growth in Welsh-medium education and training to increase the number of people of all ages to become fluent in both Welsh and English and have the ability to use their languages confidently with their families, in their communities and in the workplace. The proposer also notes that this is in accordance with the Welsh Government policy of 'Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers'. As a result, the proposer notes clearly that it's intention from from 1st September 2020 is to change the nature of provision in the Foundation Phase of Ysgol Llys Hywel to Welsh medium education.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

Description and benefits

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm

foundation for future linguistic development. The proposer states validly that the number of pupils attending the English stream within the Foundation Phase at Ysgol Llys Hywel has been lower than those attending the Welsh stream. It notes that when considering the number of pupils attending the Foundation Phase as a whole, 80% attend the Welsh stream whilst only 20% attend the English stream (January 2018).

The proposer notes appropriately additional advantages of the proposal. These include the opportunity for pupils to gain early immersion in the Welsh language from a young age, which allows pupils to gain a firm foundation in the Welsh language.

Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2. The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

The proposer has identified suitably the disadvantages of the current proposal, which focuses on potential local community resistance to the proposal as well as the statutory process required to implement the proposal. .

The proposer confirms that there will be no change to the current transfer arrangements for pupils in respect of Secondary education and no change to the current school catchment area.

Educational Aspects of the proposal:

The proposer makes appropriate reference to the outcomes of the schools' most recent Estyn inspection. It identifies correctly that current performance and prospects for improvement at the school were judged adequate at the time of the core inspection. However, it also notes that the school has been removed from schools requiring Estyn monitoring. The proposer also refers briefly to the schools' categorisation within the National School Categorisation System, which is currently in the 'green' support category.

It concludes reasonably that it does not anticipate any negative impacts on the quality of standards of education and wellbeing of pupils in the school. The proposer asserts strongly that the proposal of the implementation of the Welsh Medium Foundation phase will ensure that the community of Whitland continues to thrive as a bilingual one and that all pupils joining the school will be provided with the opportunity to develop their Welsh language skills from an earlier age.

5.3 Local Authority Response to Estyn's Observations

As can be seen from Estyn's observations they are of the opinion that the proposal is at least likely to maintain the current standard of education. Their observations include supporting statements as noted below.

Statements of support for this proposal by Estyn

The council has given appropriate consideration to three options and has chosen the above proposal.

In Estyn's opinion, the proposal is likely to at least maintain the current standards of education and provision in the area.

The proposer has given a clear rationale for the proposed expected benefits that changing to Welsh medium education at Foundation Phase will strengthen pupils' bilingual skills from an early age providing them with a firm foundation for future linguistic development.

Furthermore, the proposer notes clearly that Welsh medium provision will provide pupils with enhanced linguistic skills for further development in Key Stage 2

The proposer further conveys that a change in the nature of provision at Foundation Phase from dual stream to Welsh medium will ensure that the school is moving along the local authority's WESP continuum plan.

5.4 Consultation with the Pupils

School: Ysgol Llys Hywel

Date: 28th June 2019

Consultation undertaken by: Mrs Catrin Griffiths – Welsh Language Development Manager

Interviewed: Cross section of 13 pupils from years 2 to 6 from both the English and Welsh streams.

Summary

An informative discussion was held with pupils, regarding the proposal to change the nature of Foundation Phase provision at the school and the advantages and disadvantages of the proposal. A summary of this discussion can be found below.

Pupils' Feedback

Pupils from Ysgol Llys Hywel had taken onboard the opportunity to look at both the advantages and disadvantages of immersing all children in the Foundation Phase in Welsh education in order to be able to respond to the consultation.

The advantages were:

It was easier to learn another language when young.

Playing games and singing songs is an easier way to learn Welsh which is done a lot more in the Foundation Phase.

The older you become the harder it is to learn Welsh or any language.

They would be able to gain more friends by speaking both English and Welsh.

They would have a better chance of getting a job in the future.

English does not suffer as you can speak that everywhere.

Learning Welsh by immersion to the end of the Foundation Phase would allow pupils to be in a better position to decide which stream they would like to go into.

Would be able to help English speaking families.

The disadvantages were:

Not all teachers are able to speak Welsh fluently.

Easier to speak in English at home.

More pupils speak only English in Dyffryn Taf.

Would like to stay in Whitland for secondary education.

Would be difficult to change from the English stream into the Welsh stream.
(Clarification was needed here as there is no proposal to move pupils from English medium within the school. The proposal only affects the pupils from September 2020 onwards in the Foundation Phase.)

Parents feel that they cannot help with homework. ('But we can do it')

All pupils were in agreement that the proposal should be implemented.