

Welsh Language Advisory Panel

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**11 December 2025 at 2pm
Multi-Venue Meeting**

MINUTES AND ACTION POINTS

Present:

Cllr. Peter Hughes Griffiths	PHG	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Carys Jones (Chair)	CJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Sue Allen	SA	Independent
Cllr. Andrew Teilo	AT	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Meinir Jones	MJ	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Jean Lewis	JL	Plaid Cymru
Cllr. Edward Skinner	ES	Labour
Cllr. Tina Higgins	TH	Labour
Officers		
Gwyneth Ayres	GA	Policy, Partnership and Performance Manager
Christopher Newcombe	ChN	Welsh Language Development Manager
Llinos Evans	PLACE	Policy and Content Manager
Sioned Raymond	SR	Policy and Partnership Officer
Aled Eynon	AE	Translator

Numbering	Text and action points	Responsible
1.	Welcome and Apologies Apologies were received from Councillor Glynog Davies.	
2.	ARFOR Update Anwen Davies was welcomed to the meeting, as Arfor Programme Manager (within Gwynedd Council). Anwen explained the context in relation to the Arfor programme, and the transition work underway as the Arfor 2 period comes to an end. Strategic Priorities: Focus on funding co-ordination roles, implement key interventions on youth and migration, and transfer lessons learned to mainstream programmes Monitoring and Engagement: Emphasis on monitoring claims, sharing best practices, and strategic engagement through network clubs	

	ARFOR 3 - Local Success Initiatives: The Llwyddo'n Lleol campaign led by Menter Môn and Mentera includes marketing, content creation, and impact measurement activities planned until the end of 2025 Marketing Strategy: Lafan is leading the launch and stakeholder collaboration with a focus on social media campaigns and strengthening brand identity in 2025 Economy and Language Work: Wavehill manages project planning, stakeholder mapping, evaluation research, and development of an action plan to support economic and language goals. Cllr PHG noted positive feedback from a local company, which has been able to stay in Carmarthen following receiving funding through Arfor. An enquiry was made by Cllr. SA if some areas were more successful in terms of the program. Anwen explained that Llwyddo'n Lleol was established in Gwynedd and Anglesey before the Arfor period, with Ceredigion and Carmarthenshire joining later. Nevertheless, Carmarthenshire has performed well in attracting funding. The Llwyddo'n Lleol programme tends to focus on small businesses but there are also larger businesses that have gained through the scheme. Cllr JL asked if it would be possible to obtain information about the businesses/projects that have received funding from Arfor, so that we can focus on evaluation and support? Anwen noted that an annual report has been created and a copy can be shared with the members of the Panel. Anwen explained that timetable remains a challenge, and a more long-term budget is needed in order to look at Economia a'r laith and hopefully this will come through clearly following Wavehill's evaluation work. The careers element of the programme has been hugely successful and has been a golden opportunity for young people to gain skills, learn more about the world of work and identify areas of interest to them in the future. Around 40,000 young people were supported across the region. An enquiry was made by Cllr. MJ in terms of publicity and support for businesses. It was noted that as part of the application the businesses needed to work towards the accreditation of the Welsh Language Commissioner, the Welsh Proposal. A Naws am Le booklet has also been published to promote services locally. Cllr CJ explained that we've looked at how to keep in touch with young people, as a county, and that ties in closely with Clwb Arfor. Anwen confirmed that the scheme will explore what is possible in terms of Clwb Arfor up to May, building on the work of the Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol and Rhwydwaith Seren and the networks already in place. Anwen noted that Gwynedd Council had set up a network for young staff, to ensure that the young workforce met fellow officers and gained experience. Anwen noted that if there is to be an Arfor 3, it will be necessary to look at the geography of the programme and weave in with the recommendations of the Welsh Communities Commission. The programme may not essentially continue, but it will be possible to focus on Economy and the Language as part of wider programmes. Evolution to a scheme similar to a Growth Programme would be very beneficial and ensure sustainability. It was noted that the financial investment of the Arfor Plan was small compared to the Growth Deals, and the administration costs have been considerably lower.	
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3.	Welsh in Education Strategic Plan Chris Newcombe, Welsh Language Manager, Department for Education and Leisure was welcomed to the meeting. Chris outlined the role of leadership on the Welsh in Education Strategic Plan and noted that the momentum has increased considerably over the last 7 months. It was confirmed that the Outcomes Driving Groups had been established, with a definite remit to take the work forward. It was noted that the role of our local partners is key as we move forward. Menna Beaufort-Jones has been appointed on secondment, two days a week, from Ceredigion County Council, to add capacity. Chris outlined the specific outcomes: Outcome 1: More nursery children (3 years old) receiving education through the medium of Welsh. Outcome 2: More children admitted (5 years old) receiving education through the medium of Welsh. Discussion is underway with local schools regarding continuing with the linguistic continuum. The Cymraeg yn y Cartref work was outlined with local families and communities and the support for 5 schools that have already converted foundation provision e.g. Ysgol y Ddwylan. There are 35 families who have started their journey in terms of learning Welsh. There has also been an opportunity to promote Outcome 3: Linguistic progression and development of latecomer provision. A second centre has opened at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, Canolfan Brienne and will officially open in January 2026. The team are also keen to have fairer provision for the whole county, and enquiries are underway in relation to the Carmarthen area. There is also a good working relationship in place with neighbouring Councils, so that pupils from Carmarthenshire can attend local centres. Outcome 4: In terms of marketing and promoting opportunities to raise awareness. Outcome 5: In terms of opportunities to use the Welsh language outside of school. One of the officers within the team, now leads on the Campus Welsh Charter and support is in place for Charter co-ordinators within schools. There will be a coordinators' conference in January and there will also be an invitation for community partners to this conference. Ysgol Maes y Gwendraeth and Ysgol Heol Goffa have recently won the Bronze of the Charter award. Outcome 6: Additional Learning Needs. Work is underway to look at our offer as a Council for pupils and families who need ALN support. This will be followed by a programme of professional development. Outcome 7: The workforce capacity of Education in Welsh. Llinos Jones, Education Consultant is available 0.2 to offer support. For schools there is a positive working relationship with the National Learning Centre and Rhagoriaith in order to upskill our staff and target schools that are changing the medium of Language. A linguistic audition was held at Ysgol Bro Dinefwr, to look at the skills in place and develop professional courses to support staff to upskill.	
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	In terms of the coming months, that will focus on transfer rates from years 6 to 7, Marketing Welsh provision and education, provision at Ysgol y Strade and looking at the capacity of the Improving Welsh and Bilingualism team as we move forward into the future. An enquiry was made by Cllr. MH in terms of monitoring the progress of our pupils. It was noted that the team is building a plan in order to track communication and progress. The team is keen to ensure that pupils continue in Welsh-medium education as they go through the continuum. It was confirmed that the team is working closely with Ceredigion Council to develop immersion resources. It was recognised that resources are available in other counties and that there is an opportunity to tailor for the context of Carmarthenshire. A question was asked by Cllr. CJ in terms of how do pupils get to the immersion service? Chris explained that an evaluation of the service had been carried out and that there had been a presentation to headteachers recently to explain the support available. Priority is given to children who are new to Welsh-medium education, following a discussion with the Headteacher. We're seeing an increase in the number of applications reaching us, and if there comes a point where there is no capacity, we'll need to consider how to prioritise. Asked if it is possible to report back to Governors as part of the Headteacher's Report? It was commented by Councillor AT in relation to housing development in Llangadog and that around 80% of parents living on the site have chosen to send their children to CP School in Llandeilo (possibly to avoid Welsh-medium education). It was noted that the team was aware of specific geographical challenges and that a Welsh language education promotion plan needed to be put in place in order to respond. It was also explained that there is work through the Claremont foundation, which highlights the importance of local voices in promoting Welsh education. It was agreed that Chris will contact in with Councillor Andrew in order to receive local feedback. The team has also embarked on a Welsh Language Progression Policy, in conjunction with Ceredigion Council so that there is a clear process in place in terms of the education pathway. Cllr JL explained it may also be a pattern in the Ysgol Gruffydd Jones area, where children leave rural communities to avoid Welsh-medium education. An enquiry was made in relation to the 11 schools that are still in attendance in terms of the linguistic continuum. It was explained that there is a geographical cross-section with some schools being transitional and others being schools where there are two streams. There is a range of pupil numbers, e.g. the smallest school has about 60 pupils and others with about 300 children. The focus is on the linguistic category and the current situation of the school, together with the potential impact of the schools in relation to other schools and linguistic progression. It was noted that Cllr. JL to get in touch with Chris in terms of support for families and in terms of learning Welsh. To conclude the discussion, it was noted that much of the conversation came down to the guidance of the Headteachers of our local schools and emphasised the fact that each school has a role to play in this. There are elements of compliance in relation to the Welsh	
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	Language and Education Act and the Department for Education and Leisure is keen to ensure that there is support in place for schools to understand this. GA noted that there will be an Eisteddfod y Garreg Las in August 2026 in the Cardigan area but there are primary and secondary schools in the catchment area. Emlyn High School and Dyffryn Taf are part of the development work and there will be an opportunity to ensure a legacy for those schools in terms of the Welsh language.	
4.	Minutes of meeting 11 September 2025 It was agreed that the record was accurate.	
5.	Any other issues Councillor PHG explained that he is now Chair of the Education and Young People's Scrutiny Committee, where reports in relation to the Welsh language used to come. The Welsh language as a subject is now reporting to the Housing, Regeneration and the Welsh Language Scrutiny Committee and Councillor Peter asked if this could be reconsidered, to ensure that the Welsh language is considered hand in hand with the Education area. It was noted that this was aligned in line with the portfolio of Cabinet Members. It was agreed that Councillor Carys and Councillor Peter would work together to ask the question. Councillor PHG explained that he has received the Autumn / Winter programme of Carmarthenshire Theatres, and 5 performances out of the 52 are Welsh-medium. There was no Welsh-medium provision at all at the Miners' Theatre, Ammanford. As for the Spring programme, there are 60 performances – with one in Welsh and three bilingual. Ben Lloyd, Theatre Manager responded to Cllr. Peter and explained that there was a consensus within the unit about the provision. It was agreed to invite (Ian Jones, Jane Davies and Ben Lloyd) to the next meeting of the Panel in order to explain the process of organising the programme and attracting Welsh-medium productions to the programme. The importance of the provision in relation to the Welsh in Education and Outcome Strategic Plan 5 was also underlined.	Policy Team
6.	Dates of next meeting: • 12 March 2026 at 2 pm. • It was agreed to invite a representation from the Leisure Division to discuss Theatres. • It was agreed to have an item in relation to the appointment of a Vice-Chair to the Panel.	