

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2020/2021

CABINET

28TH JANUARY 2021

WELSH IN EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLAN – ANNUAL UPDATE 2020

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND INCLUSION SERVICES

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1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Members with an update on the actions outlined in Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC's) Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (WESP) for the period between 2017 and 2020 as approved by the Welsh Government (WG) on the 15th of March 2018. The previous 2019 to 2020 annual update was due to be the last annual update for this WESP, however, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, this WESP has been extended to cover the period between 2020 to 2021.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 Consider and agree the annual update provided within this report.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on the actions outlined in RCTCBC's WESP for the extended period between 2020 to 2021.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013¹ placed a duty on all Local Authorities in Wales to consult on, produce and review three year plans that provided the strategic direction for the planning and delivery of Welsh medium and Welsh language education in their locality. Since RCTCBC's 2017 to 2020 WESP was initially prepared and submitted to the WG in 2016, there have been significant changes in the Welsh medium education sector at local and national levels. Changes have been mainly influenced by WG legislation, in particular the new Welsh in Education Action Plan – 2017 to 2021 and further implementation of the 21st Century

¹ [The School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#)

Schools and Colleges Programme². The impact of these changes will not be fully evident in the County Borough of Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) until well beyond the duration of this WESP. In addition, the WG has updated the regulations regarding WESP's. The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019³ and The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020⁴ focus on four key proposals, the principal two being:

- Extending the duration of the WESP from its current three year implementation cycle to a ten year implementation cycle (2022 to 2032).
- Removal of the current duty on Local Authorities to plan their provision of Welsh medium education based on demand with the requirement that Local Authorities achieve targets set by the WG, which aim to increase the percentage of year one learners in Welsh medium education over the duration of the WESP.

- 4.2 RCTCBC welcomes these proposals, but it is mindful that in order to deliver on any agreed targets, various influences must be aligned and external challenges addressed.
- 4.3 Notwithstanding the significant changes in the Welsh medium education sector at local and national levels, along with the complexities of the global Covid-19 pandemic, RCTCBC has continued to support the agreed actions as outlined in its current WESP, with the aim of increasing and improving its Welsh medium education provision and speakers.
- 4.4 Integral to achieving these goals is ensuring there are good schools so all children and young people have equitable access to good English and Welsh medium and Welsh language education. RCTCBC will deliver this by supporting children to have the best start in life and be ready for learning through an improved early years' system and childcare offer and by investing in new and significantly improved 21st Century Schools.
- 4.5 RCTCBC remains committed to ensuring the availability of Welsh medium education, from the initial early years through to primary and secondary education then progressing through to higher and further education, for all learners whatever their learning need in line with achieving the vision of one million people in Wales being Welsh speakers by 2050 as set out in Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers⁵ (Cymraeg 2050).
- 4.6 This is evident in RCTCBC's ambitious Band B 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme, which comprises a range of projects to increase Welsh medium capacity in the County Borough of RCT.

5. CURRENT POSITION

² [21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme](#)

³ [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plan \(Wales\) Regulations 2019](#)

⁴ [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#)

⁵ [Cymraeg 2050: A Million Welsh Speakers](#)

5.1 The WESP includes seven outcomes setting out how Local Authorities are expected to improve Welsh medium and Welsh language education in the locality. The priorities are:

- **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 3:** More learners aged 14 to 16 studying for qualifications through the medium of Welsh.
- **Outcome 4:** More learners aged 14 to 19 study subjects through the medium of Welsh, in schools, colleges and work based learning.
- **Outcome 5:** More learners with advanced skills in Welsh.
- **Outcome 6:** Welsh medium provision for learners with additional learning needs (ALN).
- **Outcome 7:** Workforce planning and continuing professional development.

STATUTORY SCHOOL AGED LEARNERS WHO ACCESS THEIR EDUCATION THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH ACROSS THE FIVE LOCAL AUTHORITY AREAS THAT COMPRISE THE CENTRAL SOUTH CONSORTIUM JOINT EDUCATION SERVICE

5.2 The table that follows outlines the total percentage of statutory school aged learners (aged five to fifteen) who access their learning through Welsh medium primary, middle and secondary schools across each of the five Local Authority areas that comprise the Central South Consortium Joint Education Service (CSC JES) for the previous three academic years and is derived from the Pupil Level Annual School Census (PLASC):

Total Percentage of Statutory School Aged Learners who Access their Learning Through Welsh Medium Primary, Middle and Secondary Schools			
Local Authority	Total Percentage of Statutory School Aged Learners		
	2018	2019	2020
Bridgend County Borough Council	7.8%	7.5%	7.4%
Cardiff City Council	14.8%	15.0%	15.3%
Merthyr Tydfil County Borough Council	7.3%	7.6%	7.72%
Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council	18.8%	18.0%	18.8%
Vale of Glamorgan Council	12.4%	12.7%	12.8%
CSC JES	13.9%	14.0%	14.2%

5.3 The data demonstrates stability in the total percentage of statutory school aged learners who access their learning through Welsh medium primary, middle and secondary schools across each of the five Local Authority areas that comprise the CSC JES for the previous three academic years.

- 5.4 RCTCBC has the highest percentage statutory school aged learners who access their learning through Welsh medium primary, middle and secondary schools across each of the five Local Authority areas that comprise the CSC JES for the previous three academic years.

SURPLUS CAPACITY

- 5.5 Each Local Authority in Wales has a statutory responsibility to ensure that there is a sufficient supply of suitable school places to meet statutory requirements for early years, primary, secondary and post 16 provision for parents/carers that choose to educate their children through the medium of English or Welsh. To meet this requirement, RCTCBC has responsibility for the pupil admissions of English medium schools and Welsh medium schools and funds a number of voluntary aided schools that manage their own admissions.
- 5.6 The capacities of all school provision is kept under regular, annual review by RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services using data obtained from PLASC, school forecasts, annual admission requests and live birth information from Cwm Taf University Health Board. Any increase in learner populations, particularly within Welsh medium provision, is closely monitored and, if the increase is sustained and clear within the catchment area of a particular school, consideration is given to making the required increase in capacity, by whatever means is most appropriate and most suited to that particular school.
- 5.7 The majority of the Welsh medium primary schools in the County Borough of RCT currently have surplus places. There is currently 28.1% surplus capacity in Welsh medium primary schools. However, there are a number of primary schools where growth in capacity is needed. As such, action has or is currently being taken to address these issues. For example, RCTCBC:
- Has committed to invest £3.69 million at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar to provide a further 48 places.
 - Has brought together the primary and secondary schools to form the new Ysgol Garth Olwg to become a 3 to 19 all through school, to enable the primary school to expand into the surplus space available in the secondary school.
 - Is currently expanding Dolau Primary School as a result of planned housing development in the area – this new provision will provide 540 Welsh medium primary places.
 - Is increasing the capacity at Penderyn Primary School to become a Welsh medium only primary school – the capacity of the school will increase in September 2021.
 - Committed to invest in building a new Welsh medium primary school in Greater Pontypridd area of RCT on the Heol Y Celyn Primary School site, increasing the number of Welsh medium places available in the area. (It should be noted that at the time the WESP Annual Update was submitted to the WG the decision by the Court of Appeal on this proposal was still pending. However, since this date, the Court of Appeal have

subsequently found in favour of RCTCBC on this and the other proposals that were subject to a Judicial Review).

5.8 Furthermore, RCTCBC has also committed to increasing the quality and availability of early years Welsh medium provision co-located on primary school sites by spending £4 million on:

- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon – Creation and establishment of a new childcare setting into dedicated premises on the school site to expand identified need in the community.
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar – Construction of a four classroom extension to increase capacity, car parking provision and the creation of a dedicated Cylch Meithrin, to expand identified need in the community delivering additional fee paying childcare services for the area.
- Ysgol Llanhari – Location of a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for Flying Start and fee paying childcare services.
- YGG Evan James – Refurbish and remodel the interior layout to create dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen – Location of a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services.
- Ysgol Gynradd Dolau/Dolau Primary School – Creation and establishment of a dedicated childcare facility on the school site to expand identified need in the community.
- Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llantrisant – Location of a modular building on the school site to provide additional capacity for early years and childcare.

5.9 The majority of the Welsh medium secondary schools in the County Borough of RCT have sufficient surplus places. There is currently 23.1% surplus capacity in Welsh medium secondary schools. However, there is one secondary school where growth in capacity is needed. As such, the following action is currently being taken to address this issue:

- RCTCBC's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme has bid for £12.16 million to increase the capacity of Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun from 1,040 learner places to 1,225 learner places. This will be achieved by adding additional teaching accommodation along with a new sports facilities to complement the recently completed 3G sports pitch. These additions will provide state of the art facilities for both Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun and the local community, increasing opportunities for wider participation. It is anticipated that the proposed new teaching accommodation will be completed in readiness for the 2022/2023 academic year.

SPEND ON WELSH MEDIUM EDUCATION IN RECENT YEARS

5.10 RCTCBC continues to deliver and support its long term strategic investment programme of modernisation to create school environments that meet the

needs of our communities and provide the best learning provision and outcomes for children and young people in the County Borough of RCT and the wider community. The programme of capital investment is supported with Local Authority funding, WG 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme Band B Capital Grant, WG Reducing Infant Class Sizes Capital Grant, WG Welsh Medium Capital Grant, WG Early Years Capital Grant, WG Childcare Grant, WG Community Hub Grant and Community Infrastructure Levy funding.

- 5.11 The table that follows outlines the key Welsh medium school projects were included in RCTCBC's Capital Programme for the previous three years and are included in the overall strategic programme and include a combination of refurbishments, remodelling, demolitions and new buildings:

RCTCBC's Capital Programme for the Previous Three Years		
RCTCBC's Capital Programme 2020/2021 to 2022/2021 which was agreed by RCTCBC's Cabinet on 15th February 2018⁶	RCTCBC's Capital Programme 2020/2021 to 2022/2021 which was agreed by RCTCBC's Cabinet on 14th February 2019⁷	RCTCBC's Capital Programme 2020/2021 to 2022/2021 which was agreed by RCTCBC's Cabinet on 20th February 2020⁸
Tonyrefail Primary School – Creation of improved accommodation for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail due for completion in October 2018.		
Llwyncelyn Infants School and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn – Creation of improved and extended facilities to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn due for completion September 2018.		
	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon – Relocation of the existing childcare setting into dedicated premises on the school site.	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon – Creation and establishment of a new childcare setting into dedicated premises on the school site to expand identified need in the community.
	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar – Construction of a four classroom extension to	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar – Construction of a four classroom extension to

⁶ [Cabinet Report – 15th February 2018 – The Council's Capital Programme 2018/2019 to 2020/2021](#)

⁷ [Cabinet Report – 14th February 2019 – The Council's Capital Programme 2019/2020 to 2021/2022](#)

⁸ [Cabinet Report – 20th February 2020 – The Council's Capital Programme 2020/2021 to 2022/2023](#)

	increase capacity to include dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services.	increase capacity, car parking provision and the creation of a dedicated Cylch Meithrin, to expand identified need in the community delivering additional fee paying childcare services for the area.
	Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gymraeg Llantrisant – Construct of a two classroom extension to increase capacity at the school.	Ysgol Gynradd Gymunedol Gymraeg Llantrisant – Construction of a two classroom extension to increase capacity at the school.
	Ysgol Llanhari – Location of a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for Flying Start and fee paying childcare services.	
	YGG Evan James – Refurbish and remodel the interior layout to create dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services	
	Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen – Location of a modular building on the school site to provide dedicated, suitable premises for fee paying childcare services.	
		Ysgol Gynradd Dolau/Dolau Primary School – Creation and establishment of a dedicated childcare facility on the school site to expand identified need in the community.
		Hirwaun Primary School – Construction of a brand new English medium primary school on the existing school site. Increasing the capacity of English medium primary school enabled growth in Penderyn Community Primary School, currently a dual language school, as the

		school will become Welsh medium primary school only in September 2021. Completion of the project, including all external works, will be summer 2021.
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PLANNED MINOR CAPITAL WORKS

5.12 The planned minor capital works programme allocation includes an on-going rolling programme for kitchen refurbishments/remodelling, window and door replacements, essential works, electrical rewiring, fire alarm upgrades, toilet refurbishments, Equalities Act/compliance works, access condition surveys, boiler replacement, roof renewal, improvements to schools, asbestos remediation works, schools investment programme and capitalisation of ICT hardware/software and licences.

5.13 The table that follows outlines the planned programme capital works spend over the previous three years in Welsh medium primary and secondary schools.

RCTCBC's Planned Programme Capital Works Spend			
School	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Welsh Medium Primary Schools	£569,322.94	£293,626.84	£340,616.38
Welsh Medium Secondary Schools	£1,557,210.69	£897,938.48	£1,057,128.72
Total	£2,126,533.63	£1,191,565.32	£1,397,745.72

OUTCOME 1: MORE SEVEN YEAR OLD CHILDREN BEING TAUGHT THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

5.14 RCTCBC has seventeen Welsh medium primary schools located throughout the County Borough. There are two all through schools for 3 to 19 year olds: Ysgol Garth Olwg and Ysgol Llanhari, three dual language primary schools for 3 to 11 year olds: Dolau Primary, Heolycelyn Primary and Penderyn Primary Schools and 12 primary schools for 3 to 11 year olds.

5.15 The table that follows outlines the total number of primary school aged learners attending schools in RCTCBC, split by English medium and Welsh medium for the previous three academic years and is derived from the PLASC:

Total Number of Primary School Aged Learners Attending Schools in RCTCBC Split by English Medium and Welsh Medium						
Category	Year					
	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%

Total Number of Learners Attending English Medium Primary Schools	18,241	80.9%	18,153	80.9%	18,078	81.0%
Total Number of Learners Attending Welsh Medium Primary Schools	4,291	19.0%	4,269	19.0%	4,220	18.9%
Total Number of Learners Attending Primary Schools	22,532		22,422		22,298	

5.16 The data demonstrates stability in the ratio split in primary school aged learners attending English and Welsh medium primary schools in RCTCBC for the previous three academic years.

YEAR TWO LEARNERS

5.17 The table that follows outlines the total number of primary school aged learners attending Welsh medium primary schools in RCTCBC, split by year group and Key Stage for the previous three academic years and is derived from the PLASC:

Total Number of Primary School Aged Learners Attending Welsh Medium Primary Schools in RCTCBC Split by Year Group and Key Stage				
Key Stage	Year Group	Year		
		2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Foundation Phase	Pre Nursery	73	24	27
	Pre Nursery Part Time	0	19	29
	Nursery	519	421	406
	Nursery Part Time	0	140	130
	Reception	554	517	565
	Reception Part Time	0	1	0
	Year One	530	537	506
	Year Two	543	516	534
Foundation Phase Total		2,219	2,219	2,015
Foundation Phase Part Time Total		0	0	160
Key Stage Two	Year Three	512	533	507
	Year Four	532	499	521
	Year Five	539	528	486
	Year Six	489	534	509
Key Stage Two Total		2,072	2,072	2,094
Primary School Total		4,291	4,269	4,220

5.18 The data demonstrates a decrease in the total number of primary school learners between the academic years 2017/2018 (4,291) to 2018/2019

(4,269) of 22 learners and between the academic years 2018/2019 (4,269) to 2019/2020 (4,220) of 49 learners.

- 5.19 The data also shows the number of seven year old (Year Two) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Between the academic years 2017/2018 (543) and 2019/2020 (516), the number of learners decreased by 27 (4.97%). However, between the academic years 2018/2019 (516) and 2019/2020 (534), the number of learners increased by 18 (+3.48%).
- 5.20 This is below the target set in the 2017 to 2020 WESP of 630 seven year old (Year Two) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh for the academic year 2019/2020.

OUTCOME 2: MORE LEARNERS CONTINUING TO IMPROVE THEIR LANGUAGE SKILLS ON TRANSFER FROM PRIMARY TO SECONDARY SCHOOL

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

- 5.21 RCTCBC has four Welsh medium secondary schools located throughout the County Borough to ease access. There are two all through schools for 3 to 19 year olds: Ysgol Garth Olwg and Ysgol Llanhari and two secondary schools for 11 to 19 years olds: Ysgol Gyfun Cwm Rhondda and Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. Learners residing in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil also access Welsh medium secondary school education at Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun. All learners who attend these schools study all of their education through the medium of Welsh.
- 5.22 The table that follows outlines the total number of secondary school aged learners attending schools in RCTCBC, split by English and Welsh medium for the previous three academic years and is derived from the PLASC:

Total Number of Secondary School Aged Learners Attending Schools in RCTCBC Split by English Medium and Welsh Medium						
Category	Year					
	2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020	
	Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Total Number of Learners Attending English Medium Secondary Schools	12,550	80.7%	12,685	80.6%	12,868	80.4%
Total Number of Learners Attending Welsh Medium Secondary Schools	3,010	19.3%	3,058	19.4%	3,141	19.6%
Total Number of Learners Attending Secondary Schools	15,560		15,743		16,009	

5.23 The data demonstrates stability in the ratio split in secondary school aged learners attending English and Welsh medium secondary schools in RCTCBC for the previous three academic years.

YEAR NINE LEARNERS

5.24 The table that follows outlines the total number of secondary school aged learners attending Welsh medium secondary schools in RCTCBC, split by year group and Key Stage for the previous three academic years and is derived from the PLASC:

Total Number of Secondary School Aged Learners Attending Welsh Medium Secondary Schools in RCTCBC Split by Year Group and Key Stage				
Key Stage	Year Group	Year		
		2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Key Stage Three	Year Seven	545	577	588
	Year Eight	533	538	554
	Year Nine	504	527	523
Key Stage Three Total		1,582	1,642	1,665
Key Stage Four	Year Ten	491	496	513
	Year Eleven	434	485	489
Key Stage Three Total		925	981	1,002
Key Stage Five/Sixth Form	Year Twelve	300	241	289
	Year Thirteen	203	213	184
	Year Fourteen	0	1	1
Key Stage Five/Sixth Form Total		503	455	474
Secondary School Total		3,010	3,058	3,141

5.25 The data demonstrates an increase in the total number of secondary school learners between the academic years 2017/2018 (3,010) to 2018/2019 (3,058) of 48 learners and between the academic years 2018/2019 (3,058) to 2019/2020 (3,141) of 83 learners.

5.26 The data also shows the number of fourteen year old (Year Nine) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Between the academic years 2017/2018 (504) and 2018/2019 (527), the number of learners increased by 23 (+4.56%). However, between the academic years 2018/2019 (527) and 2019/2020 (523), the number of learners decreased by 4 (0.75%).

5.27 This is above the target set in the 2017 to 2020 WESP of 520 fourteen year old (Year Nine) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh for the academic year 2019/2020.

TRANSITION RATES

5.28 The table that follows shows the transition rates from each Key Stage for the previous three years academic years in RCTCBC and is derived from the PLASC:

Transition From Each Key Stage for the Previous Three Years in RCTCBC	
Transition	Year

	2017/2018	2018/2019	2019/2020
Foundation Phase to Key Stage Two	97.7%	98.2%	98.3%
Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three	111.7%	113.9%	110.1%
Key Stage Three to Key Stage Four	95.5%	98.4%	97.3%
Key Stag Four to Key Stage Five	62.2%	55.5%	59.6%

- 5.29 An analysis of transition data indicates that transition of learners between Key Stages does not appear to be a significant problem in RCTCBC.
- 5.30 The growth in learners from Key Stage Two to Key Stage Three (primary school to secondary school transition) is due to out of county learners attending Welsh medium secondary schools in the County Borough of RCT. For example, Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun in the Cynon valley area of RCT is the only Welsh medium secondary school option for learners residing in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil due to there being no Welsh medium secondary school located in the County Borough of Merthyr Tydfil.

MOVEMENT OF LEARNERS IN WELSH MEDIUM SCHOOLS

- 5.31 On 18th November 2020, a report was presented to RCTCBC's Children and Young People's Scrutiny Committee⁹ which outlined the movement of learners in Welsh medium schools in the County Borough of RCT.
- 5.32 The 2020 PLASC suggested that 4,220 primary aged learners in the County Borough of RCT were receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.
- 5.33 During the academic year 2019/2020, 873 primary aged learners moved school within the County Borough of RCT. Of this cohort, 83 learners moved into a Welsh medium school (35 learners moved due to house moves) and 72 learners left a Welsh medium school (24 learners moved due to house moves). This equates to a net increase of 11 learners.
- 5.34 The 2020 PLASC suggested that 3,141 secondary aged learners in the County Borough of RCT were receiving their education through the medium of Welsh.
- 5.35 During the academic year 2019/2020, 213 secondary aged learners moved school within in the County Borough of RCT. Of this cohort, 6 learners moved into a Welsh medium school (4 due to house moves) and 15 learners left (4 due to house moves). This equates to a net reduction of 9 learners.

⁹ [Children and Young People's Scrutiny Report – 18th November 2020 – Movement of Pupils in Welsh Medium Schools](#)

- 5.36 RCTCBC continues to monitor the numbers of learners attending Welsh medium schools.

OUTCOME 3: MORE LEARNERS AGED 14 TO 16 STUDYING FOR QUALIFICATIONS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH

- 5.37 Please note that updated data is not provided on Outcome Three as the measures are no longer published by the WG. However, further updates can be seen in Appendix One – Update of Progress – December 2020.

OUTCOME 4: MORE LEARNERS AGED 14 TO 19 STUDY SUBJECTS THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH, IN SCHOOLS, COLLEGES AND WORK BASED LEARNING

- 5.38 Please note that updated data is not provided on Outcome Three as the measures are no longer published by the WG. However, further updates can be seen in Appendix One – Update of Progress – December 2020.

OUTCOME 5: MORE LEARNERS WITH ADVANCED SKILLS IN WELSH

- 5.39 Please note that updated data is not provided on Outcome Three as the measures are no longer published by the WG. However, further updates can be seen in Appendix One – Update of Progress – December 2020.

OUTCOME 6: WELSH MEDIUM PROVISION FOR LEARNERS WITH ADDITIONAL LEARNING NEEDS (ALN)

- 5.40 Considerable changes are planned in Wales in relation to the statutory provision required to meet the needs of learners with Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Additional Learning Needs (ALN). The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal (Wales) Act 2018¹⁰ (The ALNET Act) was introduced in January 2018. The ALNET Act requires Local Authorities to keep the arrangements for supporting learners with SEN and ALN within their locality under review and consider whether these are sufficient. This includes a statutory requirement to take all reasonable steps to create a bilingual system of support for learners with SEN and ALN. The ALNET Act will be supported by new regulations, including secondary legislation and a new statutory ALN Code (The New Code). The Draft ALN Code for Wales – December 2018¹¹ (The Draft Code) is based on the following principles:

- Meeting the needs of learners with SEN and ALN should be part of a whole school approach to school improvement.
- Learners must be supported to participate in mainstream education and in the National Curriculum as fully as possible wherever this is feasible.

- 5.41 Until the anticipated implementation of The New Code in September 2021, Local Authorities are required to comply with the existing SEN Code of Practice for Wales 2002¹² (The 2002 Code) to fulfil their statutory duties towards children and young people with SEN and ALN.

¹⁰ [The Additional Learning Needs and Education Tribunal \(Wales\) Act 2018](#)

¹¹ [The Draft ALN Code for Wales – December 2018](#)

¹² [SEN Code of Practice for Wales 2002](#)

- 5.42 In RCTCBC, a total of £3.4 million Additional Needs Funding (ANF) is available to mainstream primary and secondary schools to ensure statutory mainstream provision for learners is robust and to support mainstream inclusion for learners with severe and persistent needs.
- 5.43 For learners with more significant needs, who experience difficulties with mainstream education, more specialist placements are required. RCTCBC has a range of specialist provisions which includes:
- 44 Learning Support Classes (LSC's).
 - 2 Pupil Referral Units (PRU's).
 - 4 Special Schools.
- 5.44 Placements within these specialist provisions are agreed by RCTCBC's Access and Inclusion Service Panels.
- 5.45 RCTCBC provides an excellent range of LSC provisions attached to mainstream primary and secondary schools. However, in light of the requirements of The ALNET Act, concerns regarding rising exclusions and an increase in requests for social, emotional and behavioural difficulties (SEBD) placements, a report was presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet on 17th December 2019¹³ where it was recommended to enhance the current LSC provision to address the aforementioned issues. Additionally, schools are reporting increasing levels of learners with mental health and social, emotional and behavioural difficulties in mainstream contexts.
- 5.46 An analysis of data within the report (Cabinet – 17th December 2019) confirmed that:
- There is currently insufficient SEBD provision in the secondary sector.
 - There is currently no discreet specialist provision for Welsh medium learners with significant ALN.
- 5.47 RCTCBC currently spends in the region of £4.1 million annually on the provision of LSC's. There are currently approximately 362 learners accessing the 44 LSC provisions within the County Borough of RCT.
- 5.48 Currently Welsh medium learners with significant SEN and ALN who would meet the criteria for LSC provision are supported by a specialist peripatetic team – The Welsh Complex Needs Team. The Welsh Complex Needs Team, which includes a Welsh medium specialist teacher and two Learning Support Assistants, provides support through an inclusive delivery model whereby learners are provided with specialist support within their mainstream settings.

¹³ [Cabinet Report – 17th December 2019 – Review of Learning Support Class Provision for Learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties \(SEBD\) Significant Additional Learning Needs \(ALN\)](#)

- 5.49 During the academic year 2019/2020, The Welsh Complex Needs Team supported 14 learners with an age range between eight (Year Three) and fourteen (Year Nine) of which:
- Eight attended Key Stage Two.
 - Six attended Key Stage Three.
- 5.50 Data analysis suggests that learners accessing support from The Welsh Complex Needs Team are making progress that is comparable to that of their peers in English medium LSC's. An evaluation of the provision was undertaken in the Autumn Term of 2019 and showed that this inclusive model adopted in Welsh medium settings has been very positive.
- 5.51 In response to the aforementioned data analysis contained within the report (Cabinet – 17th December 2019), RCTCBC's Cabinet approved proposals for change and sought to:
- Enhance the continuum of provision that effectively addresses the need for specialist SEBD provision within Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four.
 - Create a specialist LSC provision for Welsh medium Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four learners with significant SEN and ALN.
 - The commencement of a consultation on proposals to enhance LSC provision for Welsh medium Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four learners with SEBD by establishing a LSC at Ysgol Garth Olwg.
- 5.52 Due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic, the proposals to enhance LSC provision for Welsh medium Key Stage Three and Key Stage Four learners with SEBD by establishing a LSC at Ysgol Garth Olwg were lapsed and, as such, on 25th June 2020, RCTCBC's Cabinet¹⁴ agreed to progress with an amended proposal to extend an earlier pilot to fund mainstream secondary schools to establish their own alternative curriculum for learners with significant SEBD. As a result, in September 2020, funding was provided to Ysgol Garth Olwg to establish an in house, school based alternative provision that ensures learners presenting with SEBD can have their needs meet within their local Welsh medium mainstream school.

OUTCOME 7: WORKFORCE PLANNING AND CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- 5.53 The Welsh Language Commissioner's Briefing Note: The Welsh Language and the Statutory Education Workforce in Wales¹⁵ published in August 2020, outlined the importance of ensuring sufficient numbers of Welsh medium teachers in reaching the vision of one million people in Wales being Welsh speakers by 2050 as set out in Cymraeg 2050. As such, the briefing note outlines a number of recommendations.

¹⁴ Cabinet Report – 25th June 2020 – Review of Learning Support Class Provision for Learners with Social, Emotional and Behavioural Difficulties (SEBD) Significant Additional Learning Needs (ALN)

¹⁵ Welsh Language Commissioner – Briefing Note – The Welsh Language and the Statutory Education Workforce in Wales – 6th August 2020

5.54 In order to create more Welsh speakers, our education system is dependent on its workforce and we must work to ensure we create a workforce with robust linguistic skills, able to inspire and motivate learners in Welsh medium education. In the year 2020, RCTCBC employed 12,457 people, of which 5,290 (42.4%) were school based staff. The data in the table that follows illustrates the number and percentage of staff who identified themselves as fluent or fairly fluent in Welsh and was correct as at 17th August 2020:

Number of Staff who Identify Themselves as Fluent or Fairly Fluent in Welsh							
Number of Employees with Welsh Language Skills		Fluent (Welsh Language Level Four and Five)		Fairly Fluent (Welsh Language Level Three)		Total (Welsh Language Level Three, Four and Five)	
		Number	%	Number	%	Number	%
Category	Total Number of Staff						
All Staff	12,457	1,317	10.5%	318	2.5%	1,635	13.1%
School Based Staff	5,290	742	14.0%	175	3.3%	917	17.3%
Non-School Based Staff	7,167	575	8.0%	143	1.9%	718	10.0%

5.55 The table demonstrates that 1,635 (13.1%) of school based staff have fluent or fairly fluent Welsh language skills (Welsh Language Levels Three, Four and Five).

5.56 RCTCBC has demonstrated its commitment to Welsh medium education workforce planning for schools in the County Borough of RCT by working in collaboration with other Local Authorities and the CSC JES. In continuing this commitment, RCTCBC and the CSC JES will continue to:

- Provide clear leadership progression opportunities for the Welsh medium sector through leadership development programmes at various levels including the Aspiring Headteacher Programme with subsequent NPQH assessment.
- Provide Newly Qualified Teachers (NQTs) with Welsh language skills courses at different levels.
- Continue to develop and support secondary school teachers who are not subject specialists.
- Provide Welsh language skills courses at different levels for school learning support workers.
- Provide school learning support workers who have attended the Welsh Language Sabbatical with continued professional learning, networking and opportunities to share of best practice.

- Provide continued professional learning to support learning support workers in the Welsh medium sector in order to meet identified needs.
- Provide Welsh Language Sabbatical Scheme participants with continued professional learning, networking and opportunities to share best practice within and across schools.
- Ensure that professional learning opportunities are in place to take account of the language progression of staff.
- Ensure that the CSC JES Welsh in Education Officers supports school leaders to accurately complete the Welsh language element of the School Workforce Census.

6. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no negative or adverse equality or diversity implications associated with this report.

7. CONSULTATION

7.1 There are no consultation implications aligned to this report.

8. FINANCIAL IMPLICTIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications aligned to this report.

9. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

9.1 The following legislation is aligned to this report:

- The School Standards and Organisation (Wales) Act 2013¹⁶.
- Welsh in Education Strategic Plan (Wales) Regulations 2019¹⁷.
- The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans (Wales) (Amendment) (Coronavirus) Regulations 2020¹⁸.

10. LINKS TO THE COUNCIL'S CORPORATE PLAN/FUTURE GENERATIONS (WALES) ACT 2015

10.1 There are links to RCTCBC's Corporate Plan for the period between 2020 to 2024, specifically the priority:

- Prosperity – Creating the opportunity for people and businesses to be innovative, entrepreneurial and fulfil their potential and prosper.
 - Ensuring we have good schools so all children have access to a great education.

¹⁶ [The School Standards and Organisation \(Wales\) Act 2013](#)

¹⁷ [Welsh in Education Strategic Plan \(Wales\) Regulations 2019](#)

¹⁸ [The Welsh in Education Strategic Plans \(Wales\) \(Amendment\) \(Coronavirus\) Regulations 2020](#)

- 10.2 The delivery of the WESP will contribute to all seven well-being goals within the Future Generation (Wales) Act 2015 and due regard has been made to the Five Ways of Working, as contained within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

11. CONCLUSION

- 11.1 RCTCBC has the highest percentage statutory school aged learners who access their learning through Welsh medium primary, middle and secondary schools across each of the five Local Authority areas that comprise the CSC JES for the previous three academic years.
- 11.2 The majority of the Welsh medium primary and secondary schools in the County Borough of RCT currently have surplus places. However, there are a number of primary and secondary schools where growth in capacity is needed. As such, action has or is currently being taken to address these issues.
- 11.3 Furthermore, RCTCBC has also committed to increasing the quality and availability of early years Welsh medium provision co-located on primary school sites by spending £4 million on a number of projects.
- 11.4 Data demonstrates stability in the ratio split in primary school aged learners attending English and Welsh medium primary schools in RCTCBC for the previous three academic years. The data also shows the number of seven year old (Year Two) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Between the academic years 2017/2018 (543) and 2019/2020 (516), the number of learners decreased by 27 (4.97%). However, between the academic years 2018/2019 (516) and 2019/2020 (534), the number of learners increased by 18 (+3.48%). This is below the target set in the 2017 to 2020 WESP of 630 seven year old (Year Two) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh for the academic year 2019/2020.
- 11.5 Similarly, data demonstrates stability in the ratio split in secondary school aged learners attending English and Welsh medium secondary schools in RCTCBC for the previous three academic years. The data also shows the number of fourteen year old (Year Nine) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh. Between the academic years 2017/2018 (504) and 2018/2019 (527), the number of learners increased by 23 (+4.56%). However, between the academic years 2018/2019 (527) and 2019/2020 (523), the number of learners decreased by 4 (0.75%). This is above the target set in the 2017 to 2020 WESP of 520 fourteen year old (Year Nine) learners who receive their education through the medium of Welsh for the academic year 2019/2020.
- 11.6 Alongside this, an analysis of transition data indicates that transition of learners between Key Stages does not appear to be a significant problem in RCTCBC.

- 11.7 During the academic year 2019/2020, 873 primary aged learners moved school within the County Borough of RCT. Of this cohort, 83 learners moved into a Welsh medium school (35 learners moved due to house moves) and 72 learners left a Welsh medium school (24 learners moved due to house moves). This equates to a net increase of 11 learners.
- 11.8 Similarly, during the academic year 2019/2020, 213 secondary aged learners moved school within in the County Borough of RCT. Of this cohort, 6 learners moved into a Welsh medium school (4 due to house moves) and 15 learners left (4 due to house moves). This equates to a net reduction of 9 learners.
- 11.9 RCTCBC continues to monitor the numbers of learners attending Welsh medium schools.
- 11.10 During the academic year 2019/2020, The Welsh Complex Needs Team supported 14 learners with an age range between eight (Year Three) and fourteen (Year Nine) of which:
- Eight attended Key Stage Two.
 - Six attended Key Stage Three.
- 11.11 Data analysis suggests that learners accessing support from The Welsh Complex Needs Team are making progress that is comparable to that of their peers in English medium LSC's. An evaluation of the provision was undertaken in the Autumn Term of 2019 and showed that this inclusive model adopted in Welsh medium settings has been very positive.
- 11.12 In September 2020, funding was provided to Ysgol Garth Olwg to establish an in house, school based alternative provision that ensures learners presenting with SEBD can have their needs meet within their local Welsh medium mainstream school.
- 11.13 In order to create more Welsh speakers, our education system is dependent on its workforce and we must ensure we create a workforce with robust linguistic skills, able to inspire and motivate learners in Welsh medium and Welsh language education. RCTCBC recognises that our education system is dependent on its workforce and we must work to ensure we create a workforce with robust linguistic skills, able to inspire and motivate learners in Welsh medium education. RCTCBC is committed to Welsh medium and Welsh language education workforce planning for schools in the County Borough of RCT, and has and will continue to work in collaboration with other Local Authorities and the CSC JES in order to create more Welsh speakers.
- 11.14 Looking ahead to the new WESP, which will be consulted upon later this year, in addition to the initiatives, actions, and commitments that will be included to facilitate and support the growth of the Welsh language, there are a number of 21st Century Schools projects that will be delivered in tandem to support the agreed outcomes. These projects include, but are not

limited to, constructing a new school for YGG Llyn Y Forwyn, and continuing to work on the feasibility to provide a new school for YG Cwm Rhondda. Both of these projects were included within the 'Planning for Welsh Medium School Places' report brought before Cabinet in April 2019, and both of these projects continue to be progressed.

- 11.15 RCTCBC remains committed to ensuring the availability of Welsh medium education, from the initial early years through to primary and secondary education then progressing through to higher and further education, for all learners whatever their learning need in line with achieving the vision of one million people in Wales being Welsh speakers by 2050 as set out in Cymraeg 2050.

Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council

Welsh in Education Strategic Plan – 2017 to 2020

Appendix One – Update of Progress – December 2020

School Organisation				
Success Criteria	Milestones/Sub Actions	Progress 2018	Progress 2019	Progress 2020
<p>Outcome 1:</p> <p>More seven year old learners being taught through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Achieve target of 21.0% (550) in the academic year 2016/2017 and achieve target of 23.0% (560) in the academic year 2017/2018.</p> <p>Outcome 2:</p> <p>More learners continuing to improve their language skills on transfer from primary to secondary school.</p>	<p>New and improved school buildings with appropriate capacity levels to fully meet forecasted demand for Welsh medium provision in their catchment areas.</p>	<p>A report was presented to Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's (RCTCBC's) Cabinet on the 20th September 2018 with proposals to enhance Welsh medium provision in the Cynon Valley, Pontypridd area and Taff Ely.</p>	<p>Cabinet approval for the proposal was granted in July 2019.</p> <p>This project will increase the Welsh medium numbers in the Pontypridd area of Rhondda Cynon Taf (RCT) by 93 places and provide learners with facilities that are fit for the 21st Century.</p> <p>The first stage of the Business Case funding procedure has been submitted to the Welsh Government (WG).</p>	<p>These proposals are currently subject to a legal challenge. A further update on this in due course.</p> <p>21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme funding via the WG has been secured for Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar which will see the existing school benefit from a four classroom</p>
	<p>Extend school buildings to meet forecasted demand for Welsh medium provision in their catchment area.</p>	<p>A report was presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet on 20th September 2018 to obtain approval to commence projects to extend Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar</p>	<p>Design work on both projects is underway. The first stage of the funding application process has been approved by the WG.</p>	

		<p>and Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydywaun.</p>		<p>extension incorporating a new on site Cylch Meithrin providing an extra 48 learner places. A contractor will be appointed before the new year and works are expected to commence in the spring of 2021.</p> <p>The Outline Business Case for Ysgol Gymraeg Rhydywaun has been approved by the WG. This project will increase the capacity of the school by 192 learner places. A contractor has been appointed and the detailed designs are nearing completion. RCTCBC are working towards submitting a Full Business Case to the WG in the New Year with an anticipated construction start date of April 2021.</p> <p>Progress of both projects are currently on programme.</p>
	<p>Revisions to catchment areas of some Welsh medium primary schools, to better align supply and demand for Welsh medium</p>	<p>A report was presented to the RCTCBC's Cabinet on 20th September 2018 to obtain approval to commence consultation on proposals</p>	<p>Cabinet approval for these proposals was granted in April 2019.</p>	<p>Excellent progress has been made and the new school building in Hirwaun has been completed.</p>

	<p>school places (to utilise spare capacity that currently exists). As at January 2017, there were a total of 550 spare learner places across all Welsh medium primary schools and 1,146 spare learner places in all Welsh medium secondary schools in RCT. The WG guidance states that we must first utilise spare capacity that exists within a reasonable distance before any new provision can be made.</p>	<p>which include making Penderyn Primary School a full Welsh medium primary school, with alterations to its catchment area.</p>	<p>WG funding was secured and works to build the new English medium school are underway. This will allow the English medium learners to relocate.</p> <p>The project programme is on target to make Penderyn Community Primary School a Welsh only primary school by September 2021.</p>	<p>Following completion of the externals it is expected that this school site will be fully complete by the summer of 2021 to allow the English medium learners currently attending Penderyn Community Primary to relocate in September 2021.</p> <p>Penderyn Community Primary will become Welsh medium in September 2021 and as consulted upon, will have an increased catchment area.</p>
	<p>Consider making dual language primary schools into full Welsh medium primary schools.</p>	<p>Work is progressing under Band B of RCTCBC's 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme.</p> <p>In addition, a report was presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet on the 20th September 2018 to consider a proposal in the south of the County Borough and to enhance available capacity at Dolau Primary School (dual language school).</p>	<p>As reported above, the project programme is on target to make Penderyn Community Primary School a Welsh medium only primary school by September 2021.</p> <p>RCTCBC's Cabinet approval to extend Dolau Primary School with the longer term goal to create two separate Welsh medium and English medium provisions was granted in April 2019. Thus doubling the Welsh medium learner provision.</p>	<p>Information on Penderyn Community Primary school is above.</p> <p>Officers from RCTCBC are in the process of finalising the design of this new extension for Dolau Primary School with the housing developer Persimmon. Panning consent is due to be submitted to RCTCBC's Planning department imminently.</p>

		<p>RCTCBC will continue to work to secure appropriate funding to deliver full Welsh medium schools removing dual language status.</p> <p>Proposals are also under consideration to amend the language category of Penderyn Community Primary School from its current dual language status to a 3 to 11 Welsh medium community primary school with a capacity of 231 learners (plus nursery) all of which will be Welsh medium provision.</p>	<p>Planning for this extension has been submitted and RCTCBC will continue to work with its delivery partners to deliver this project as soon as possible.</p>	<p>As is mentioned above, as well as the plans to make Penderyn Primary School and Dolau Primary School Welsh Medium primary provisions, RCTCBC recently consulted upon opening a new Welsh medium primary school in Pontypridd as part of wider school organisation proposals. These proposals are currently subject to a legal challenge and so we will provide a further update on this in due course.</p>
<p>Relocation of pre-school provision, such as Cylch Meithrin, to school sites whenever opportunities arise.</p> <p>This has recently been successfully achieved, with the relocation of Cylchoedd Meithrin from community venues to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Tonyrefail and Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwynceilyn.</p>	<p>This model of co-location of community facilities on school sites will also be considered as part of RCTCBC's Band B 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme.</p> <p>In addition, Business Cases have been submitted to the WG for funding to provide additional provision in areas where demand has been</p>	<p>The Welsh Medium Capital Grant bid was successful and six projects have had funding approved, the projects are progressing well.</p> <p>In addition, the Childcare Offer Capital Grant bid was successful. Work to enhance the Welsh medium wrap-around provision at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Evan James is complete. An improved and extended</p>	<p>A new childcare facility at Ysgol Llanhari opened in January 2020. This increased capacity from 19 Care Inspectorate Wales (CIW) registered places to 69. The provider has also been able to extend the facility to include after school and holiday care, as well as full day care for children under two years of age.</p>	

	<p>Co-location of this kind of provision on school sites will greatly assist the process of transition into statutory schooling.</p>	<p>recognised by the Child Care Sufficiency Assessment.</p> <p>RCTCBC has been successful in securing £3.5 million of Welsh Medium Capital Grant funding for six projects aimed at enhancing pre-school provision on various school sites in the County Borough of RCT.</p> <p>A bid has also been submitted to access the Childcare Offer Capital Grant. This includes bids to enhance Welsh medium wrap-around care for nursery aged children in three settings.</p>	<p>Meithrin and wrap around provision at Ysgol Gymraeg Llanhari will be open in January 2020.</p> <p>Design development is ongoing on the other projects.</p>	<p>A new childcare facility next to Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Ynyswen opened in September 2020. This has increased CIW registered places from 24 to 30. The provider plans to extend their facility to offer an afternoon session and holiday care, thus increasing the number of Welsh medium places available further.</p> <p>Plans are progressing for new Welsh medium childcare facilities on the sites of Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon, Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Aberdar and Dolau Primary School. It is hoped the new facilities at Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Abercynon and Dolau Primary School will be completed by September 2021, with the facility at Ysgol Gymraeg Aberdar being completed by September 2022.</p> <p>All projects will greatly assist the process of transition into</p>
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				statutory schooling and ensure a language continuum for children.
	<p>Appropriate business cases prepared with evidence to support bids for monies to provide additional school capacity from housing developers where opportunities arise.</p>	<p>A report was presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet on 20th September 2018 to obtain approval to commence consultation on a proposal to create a new school provision, with 540 places in total for the new Llanilid housing development in Llanharan. This consultation phase will end on 31st December 2018.</p> <p>This provision will open, in the first instance, as an extension to Dolau Primary School, which is a dual language primary school. This will enable the new provision to be established as part of a recognised, successful school and will also give parents/carers purchasing homes on the development the option of choosing a Welsh medium education for their children.</p>	<p>Cabinet approval to extend Dolau Primary School with the longer term goal to create two separate Welsh medium and English medium provisions was granted in April 2019. Thus doubling the Welsh medium learner provision.</p> <p>Planning for this extension has been submitted and RCTCBC will continue to work with its delivery partners to deliver this project as soon as possible.</p> <p>In May 2019 a report was presented to RCTCBC's Cabinet which outlined plans to provide a new Welsh medium primary school for the Taf Ely area should a number of housing development sites come to fruition. This will be developed in more detail should planning consent be secured. We will continue to</p>	<p>An update on this project is above.</p> <p>This work is continuous and is undertaken as part of RCTCBC's statutory school planning duties. Education Officers work closely with Planning Officers to ensure that the increase for demand for Welsh medium education that arises from housing developments are appropriately managed and financial interventions are covered under the developers planning obligations.</p> <p>Funding opportunities are being constantly reviewed as part of the 21st Century Schools and Colleges Programme to support and enhance financial contributions from housing developers.</p> <p>This work is ongoing.</p>

			work with the land owners to ensure that the educational needs of Welsh medium learners are met.	
	<p>Increase the number of parents/carers choosing Welsh medium provision for their children by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing annual training for front-line staff on the benefits of being bilingual and positive messaging for parents/carers. • Building on the 'Being Bilingual' booklet, to promote the advantages of Welsh medium education and the benefits of bilingualism. <p>Improve language progression from Flying Start settings to Welsh medium primary education to 90.0% by 2021 by providing training and fostering closer links between provisions and neighbouring Welsh medium primary schools.</p> <p>Increasing opportunities for</p>	<p>'Being Bilingual' booklet is circulated within all Flying Start commissioned and RCTCBC childcare settings for staff to share with parents/carers. This to be part of an awareness raising campaign.</p> <p>Commissioned Welsh medium Flying Start childcare places have increased over the last 18 months and continue to grow through the approved supplier scheme. Flying Start Welsh medium childcare places are now 25.0% of the commissioned placements.</p>	<p>Rhondda South Delivery area, delivered awareness session for parents in Ysgol Gynradd Gymraeg Llwyncelyn.</p> <p>Twenty Flying Start practitioners have completed 'Croesi'r Bont' Courses.</p> <p>Twelve Flying Start practitioners have enrolled to start training from September 2019 in Open Learning Welsh and Cymraeg Babi courses at the University of South Wales.</p> <p>Mudiad Meithrin have delivered Croesi'r Bont course within Ynishir and Wattstown setting.</p>	<p>Flying Start and Children and Family Centres distribute over 200 'Being Bilingual' booklets annually.</p> <p>The eight Flying Start commissioned providers (bilingual) accessed the Clebran workshop delivered by Mudiad Meithrin.</p>

	<p>parents/carers to choose Welsh medium education for their children by increasing the number of Flying Start Welsh medium places.</p>			
	<p>Increase use of Welsh language in service delivery</p> <p>Flying Start:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include the 'Being Bilingual' booklet in Flying Start birth registration packs. <p>Childcare:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase childcare practitioner use and promotion of the Welsh language within all Flying Start commissioned child care settings through training and bespoke packages. • Use Flying Start Childcare Observational Assessment Monitoring Tool to gain baseline of Welsh medium provision. (Baseline 71.0% on use and promotion of Welsh 	<p>Funding secured to provide Welsh language training in the Autumn Term. Intend to extend to commissioned Flying Start childcare settings.</p> <p>Re-administration of assessment suggests increase of 7.0% to 78.0%.</p>	<p>Flying Start and Children and Family Centres distribute over 200 'Being Bilingual' booklets annually.</p> <p>Percentage of Flying Start places delivered through the medium of Welsh increased from 12.0% in 2016/2017 to 24.0% in 2018/2019.</p> <p>Six Flying Start settings – 36 practitioners, have undertaken the relevant training provided by our in-house Welsh language tutor over a six week period.</p>	<p>Flying Start and Children and Family Centres distribute over 200 'Being Bilingual' booklets annually.</p> <p>The percentage of Flying Start places delivered through the medium of Welsh has increased from 12.0% in 2016/2017 to 24.0% in 2019/2020. This is a 100.0% increase between 2016/2017 and 2019/2020.</p> <p>The eight Flying Start commissioned providers (bilingual) accessed the Clebran workshop delivered by Mudiad Meithrin.</p>

	<p>language – aim for 10.0% increase).</p> <p>Parent and Family Support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Include Welsh language awareness and taster sessions as part of parent/carer workshops. 			
	<p>Talk and Play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase use of basic Welsh phrases in Talk and Play Playgroups. • Increase use of Welsh reading books and songs. • Explore use of Welsh version of the 'WellComm' Assessment. <p>Children's Centres:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage Welsh language course providers to deliver from Children's Centres. • Deliver themed family open days and Welsh language taster sessions. <p>Increase number of Welsh medium Flying Start</p>	<p>Enhanced use and introduction of phrase of the week. Bilingual story books now used and these are loaned to parents/carers. Weekly singing of Welsh songs and nursery rhymes. Assessment offered in Welsh but literature is not in Welsh</p> <p>Free usage of facilities provided to encourage course delivery. Taster sessions held and included clog dancing, silent Welsh disco, Welsh for beginners. 200 attendees over three days. In addition, Welsh themed singing and dancing Teddy Bears Picnic (3,500 in attendance).</p>	<p>Welsh Language Services have provided RCTCBC's Communications and Public Relations Team with a number of resources and content to promote via our social media channels, including the Welsh Government's Cymraeg i Blant videos.</p>	<p>The percentage of Flying Start places delivered through the medium of Welsh has increased from 12.0% in 2016/2017 to 24.0% in 2019/2020. This is a 100.0% increase between 2016/2017 and 2019/2020.</p> <p>As the nearest commissioned Welsh medium Flying Start provider may be some distance from a family, Welsh medium approved suppliers (spot purchasers) are used to provide Welsh medium nursery provision to families in their locality. This process is being reviewed in preparation for the next round of tendering of Flying Start places, to ensure a</p>

	<p>placements by 10.0% (total 25.0% Welsh medium placements).</p> <p>Increase spot purchasing of childcare contracts to include an additional three Welsh medium providers.</p>	<p>25.0% of Flying Start placements are now Welsh medium.</p>		<p>more proactive offer of Welsh medium nursery places.</p>
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Youth Engagement and Participation Service and Partners

<p>Outcome 3:</p> <p>More 14 to 16 year old learners studying qualifications through the Welsh medium.</p>	<p>Research and create an information tool for young people stating the benefits and options of Welsh medium further education and employment. This will need to be produced with young people.</p>	<p>Following further research it was clear there are not enough Welsh medium further education opportunities to create a tool.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith are unable to progress the information tool due to lack of Welsh language further education opportunities.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith are unable to progress the information tool due to lack of Welsh language further education opportunities.</p>
<p>Outcome 4:</p> <p>More 16 to 19 year old learners studying through the Welsh medium in schools, colleges or work based learning.</p>	<p>Complete a summary report evidencing the research findings highlighting the appropriate tool to use to share this information with young people.</p> <p>Promote the information tool to young people.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith are now researching the creation of a video promoting the Welsh language.</p> <p>Information tool will not be viable.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith have not been able to complete the promotion video.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith have not been able to complete the promotion video. The Youth Engagement and Participation Service (YEPS) have supported Careers Wales in creating an educational video for learners at Welsh and English medium secondary schools to promote the career benefits of bilingualism.</p>
	<p>Identify partners/organisations that could deliver bespoke language awareness</p>	<p>Menter Iaith and the Urdd have completed these sessions.</p>	<p>The Urdd have delivered raising awareness sessions at the following schools:</p>	<p>Youth Workers from the Urdd have been furloughed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, therefore raising</p>

	<p>sessions for young people highlighting the value of having Welsh language as a skill.</p>	<p>The Urdd delivered raising awareness sessions to 350 young people at Tonypanyd Community College, Aberdare Community School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John's the Baptist Church in Wales High. • Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. • Aberdare Community School. • Ysgol Nant Gwyn. • Pontypridd High. • Treorchy Comprehensive. 	<p>awareness sessions have not taken place.</p>
	<p>Coordinate and monitor the delivery of these sessions in schools/colleges and community settings.</p>	<p>Aberdare Community School, Mountain Ash Comprehensive School, Pontypridd High and Ysgol Nant Gwyn have been successful with their application for 2019.</p>	<p>The Urdd have delivered raising awareness sessions at the following schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John's the Baptist Church in Wales High. • Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. • Aberdare Community School. • Ysgol Nant Gwyn. • Pontypridd High. • Treorchy Comprehensive. 	<p>Youth Workers from the Urdd have been furloughed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, therefore raising awareness sessions have not taken place.</p>
	<p>Evaluate the effectiveness of these sessions through questionnaires/surveys and generate a report.</p>	<p>Applications for 2019 will be sent to RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services Senior Management Team and Welsh departments in schools.</p>	<p>Sessions are still on-going, but will be evaluated when finished.</p>	<p>Youth Workers from Urdd have been furloughed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, therefore raising awareness sessions have not taken place.</p>

	<p>Coordinate a timetable of events to target Sixth Form and college learners to meet and use the Welsh language by providing social opportunities for them.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith and the Urdd offer provision for post-16 young people by organising concerts and other events including senior Youth Clubs at Treorchy Comprehensive and Pontypridd High for 30+ young people.</p> <p>Menter Iaith support Welsh speaking young people to present a weekly radio show on GTFM every Sunday (with over 1,000 listeners).</p> <p>The Urdd offer Sixth Form learners volunteering opportunities at various events including sports competitions and residential weekends.</p>	<p>The Urdd and Menter Iaith hold Youth Forums at Ysgol Llanhari, Ysgol Gyfun Rhydywaun and Ysgol Garth Olwg. These Youth Forums arrange social opportunities for young people to have further opportunities to socialise through the Welsh language.</p> <p>The Urdd have 70 Volunteers aged between 16 and 25 who support and promote Welsh language provision.</p>	<p>The Youth Forums at all four Welsh medium secondary schools did not meet between March and September due to the Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>Menter Iaith are promoting the Youth Forums with the YEPS support at all four Welsh medium secondary schools, to the new cohort of Year Twelve learners.</p>
	<p>Promote the events.</p> <p>Record the number of young people attending and evaluate through questionnaires and surveys.</p>	<p>Events promoted through the schools/colleges, Wicid website, the YEPS and social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Menter Iaith – 25+ young people. • Urdd – 40+ young people. • The YEPS – Volunteering opportunities only offered from September 2018. 	<p>Events promoted through the schools/colleges, Wicid website, the YEPS and social media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urdd – 70 volunteers. • The YEPS – 6 volunteers. 	<p>Physical activities have not been arranged due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>The YEPS have developed a partnership to make Welsh medium music and drama more accessible to young people in the County Borough of RCT, young performers from across</p>

				Wales are promoted through the WICID website.
<p>Deliver 'Cymraeg Bob Dydd' to encourage young people studying Welsh as a second language to take on further study to encourage the use of the language outside of school.</p> <p>Record the number of young people attending and evaluate through questionnaires and surveys.</p>	<p>The Urdd delivered awareness raising sessions to 350 young people at Tonypandy Community College, Aberdare Community School and Mountain Ash Comprehensive School.</p> <p>The secondary schools have liaised with the Urdd Youth Worker on utilising the offer of £500 to promote the Welsh language, e.g. Tafwyl, Eisteddfod and bringing in external tutors to promote cultural activities.</p> <p>Applications for 2018/2019 will be sent to RCTCBC's Directorate of Education and Inclusion Services Senior Management Team and Welsh departments in schools.</p>	<p>The Urdd have delivered language awareness raising sessions at the following schools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St John's the Baptist Church in Wales High. • Mountain Ash Comprehensive School. • Aberdare Community School. • Ysgol Nant Gwyn. • Pontypridd High. • Treorchy Comprehensive. 	<p>Youth Workers from Urdd have been furloughed due to the current Covid-19 restrictions, therefore language awareness sessions have not taken place.</p> <p>The YEPS have supported Career Wales in creating an educational video for learners at Welsh and English medium secondary schools to promote the career benefits of bilingualism.</p>	
<p>Deliver social Welsh medium events and activities for young people including residential opportunities,</p>	<p>The YEPS Welsh medium after school clubs offered at all four Welsh medium secondary schools during term times.</p>	<p>The Urdd have 350 members between 16 and 25. These members participate in a range of activities including</p>	<p>Prior to Covid-19 restrictions on average 40 young people, attend a weekly open access Youth Club on at Garth Olwg Youth Centre these young</p>	

	<p>eisteddfodau, sport and accreditation.</p>	<p>Summer holiday activities offered through the medium of Welsh for both Welsh and English medium schools, included gorge walking, rafting and team building. In total, 241 activities were offered through the medium of Welsh, with 269 participants and 41.0% of these were identified as being vulnerable young people.</p> <p>Accredited courses (Work Related Education and PSE) were delivered to 45 young people at three Welsh medium secondary schools.</p>	<p>sport and culture, residential trips and accredited learning.</p> <p>The YEPS Welsh medium after school clubs offered at all four Welsh medium secondary schools during term times.</p> <p>Summer holiday activities offered through the medium of Welsh for both Welsh and English medium schools, included gorge walking, rafting and team building. In total, 666 sessions were offered through the medium of Welsh, with over 1000 participants and 44.0% of these were identified as vulnerable young people.</p>	<p>people have been offered the opportunity to engage in virtual provision due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.</p> <p>After school activities and holiday provision is offered for the learner's at all four Welsh medium secondary schools.</p> <p>Meter laith support young people to deliver weekly Welsh language radio sessions.</p> <p>Menter laith plan, film and edit videos for young people through the medium of Welsh.</p>
	<p>Map out the current provision offered by Local Authorities and community organisations through the medium of Welsh, identifying gaps and highlight areas of need.</p> <p>Ensure that the provision that is offered is advertised on Dewis.</p>	<p>A Working Group share information on current provision and have identified evening provision and post-16 provision as significant gaps. The YEPS now offer a Welsh medium Youth Club at Ysgol Garth Olwg with 25+ attending and at Penderyn with 15+ attending. The Urdd, Menter laith and the</p>	<p>The YEPS now offer Welsh medium Youth Clubs at Garth Olwg with 35+ attending and Penderyn with 15+ attending. The club at Talbot Green was not well attended and therefore did not continue.</p> <p>The Urdd and Menter laith hold Youth Forums at</p>	<p>Due to current Covid-19 restrictions all provision is now virtual.</p> <p>Provision is promoted through Wicid website and the YEPS and Menter laith social media platforms.</p>

		<p>YEPS offer evening provision at Talbot Green. These clubs are also open to Welsh learners.</p> <p>Menter Iaith and the Urdd offer post 16 provision at Treorchy and Pontypridd following the mapping exercise.</p> <p>The YEPS have updated information on Dewis and the Wicid website. The Working Group have identified that promoting the provisions to young people would also be effective using social media, therefore Twitter, Snapchat, Facebook and Instagram have been utilised.</p>	<p>Llanahri, Rhydywaun and Garth Olwg. These Youth Forums arrange social opportunities for young people to have further opportunities to socialise through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The Urdd have 70 Volunteers aged between 16 and 25 who support.</p> <p>Information is shared by partners at the Youth Support Services Strategy Working Group, to ensure a comprehensive provision is offered to young people and a sufficient opportunity to participate through the Welsh language is provided. This will be promoted on the YEPS website and social media platforms.</p>	
	<p>Establish links with the RCTCBC Youth Forum and other Youth Forums regarding the promotion of Welsh language provision.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith support Youth Forums at all four Welsh medium secondary schools. Individuals from these Youth Forums attend the YEPS Youth Forum that is held quarterly.</p>	<p>Menter Iaith support Youth Forums at all four Welsh medium secondary schools. The young people from these Youth Forums organise provision for other learners to</p>	<p>The Youth Forums did not meet between March and September this year due to Covid-19 restrictions. The YEPS are now meeting monthly and Menter Iaith are promoting their Forum at all</p>

			socialise through the medium of Welsh.	four Welsh medium secondary schools. Once the Menter Iaith support for Youth Forums is re-established, they will participate in the YEPS Youth Forum.
Work in partnership to coordinate and deliver Holiday Programmes through the medium of Welsh.	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS Programme. The YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media platforms along the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people.	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS Programme. The YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media platforms along with the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people. Information is shared by partners at the Youth Support Services Strategy Working Group to ensure a comprehensive provision is offered to young people with a sufficient opportunity to participate through the medium of Welsh.		This year all holiday provision has been virtual. The demand for Welsh medium virtual provision has been far less than physical provision. Some virtual activities have been offered through the medium of Welsh or bilingually, including Garth Olwg Virtual Youth Club.
Promote activities delivered through the medium of Welsh through websites and social media platforms.	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS Programme. The YEPS, the Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media	This is developed each term, in line with the YEPS Programme. The YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith utilise each other's social media		All provision has been promoted to young people through the YEPS, Urdd and Menter Iaith's social media

		<p>platforms along with the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people.</p>	<p>platforms along with the Wicid website to promote opportunities to young people.</p> <p>Over 100 young people participated in the YEPS activities through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>The Urdd and Menter Iaith hold annual events for young people.</p>	<p>platforms along with the Wicid website.</p>
	<p>Identify champions (both young people and adults) that can attend community events to engage with the public and promote activities on offer through the medium Welsh in the County Borough of RCT.</p>	<p>The Welsh Language Working Group has focused on promoting provision through the medium of Welsh.</p> <p>Young people from the Menter Iaith Youth Forums promote opportunities in the County Borough of RCT for young people at their schools.</p> <p>The YEPS staff attended several community events during the summer to promote opportunities for young people, including Welsh medium provision.</p>	<p>Young people from the Menter Iaith Youth Forums promote opportunities in the County Borough of RCT for young people at their Schools.</p> <p>The YEPS staff attended several community events during the summer to promote opportunities for young people, including Welsh medium provision.</p>	<p>The YEPS and Menter Iaith have not attended any community events this year due to the current Covid-19 restrictions.</p>

<p>Outcome 5:</p> <p>More Learners with higher skills in Welsh.</p>	<p>Establish a Welsh Language Working Group that will develop a joint Strategy by September 2017 that enables Welsh to become the language of social and leisure activities.</p> <p>Welsh Language Working Group meetings to take place quarterly, with set agenda and minutes.</p> <p>Complete an Action Plan alongside the Strategy to be updated quarterly in line with the Strategy.</p>	<p>The Welsh Language Working Group was established with Youth Workers from the YEPS, the Urdd and Menter Iaith. As part of the Action Plan the Welsh Language Working Group have worked in partnership to offer several social opportunities for young people in the County Borough of RCT to participate in sport, leisure and cultural opportunities through the medium of Welsh. This includes after school activities in all four Welsh medium secondary schools, holiday provision and two Welsh medium Youth Clubs (Talbot Green and Garth Olwg), offering evening provision for Welsh speaking young people and Welsh learners.</p> <p>The Urdd and the YEPS supported Menter Iaith at Parti Ponty, which was an event held in Pontypridd to promote the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The Welsh Language Working Group has not met, however, the Urdd and Menter Iaith will be part of a Sport, Leisure, Arts and Culture Group, as part of the Youth Support Services Strategy. This will ensure that the Welsh language is considered across all provisions. These meeting will take place termly.</p> <p>An Action Plan will be created following the meeting to hold different organisations accountable for the Welsh provision they offer.</p> <p>The Urdd and the YEPS supported Menter Iaith at Parti Ponty, which was an event held in Pontypridd to promote the Welsh language.</p>	<p>The Sport, Leisure, Arts and Culture Group has continued to meet, however, the Urdd have not been able to attend due staff being furloughed.</p> <p>Co-ordinated Welsh language community provision has not been arranged for this year due to the current Covid-19 restrictions. Virtual support and provision has been offered to young people, including virtual youth club.</p>
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