



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

WESP annual review report feedback

Outcomes	Feedback	Action for LA
Outcome 1	<p>The increase in Welsh-medium Flying Start providers (from 14 – 21) during 2022-23 is positive and has enabled you to increase the number of Welsh-medium places as part of your phase 2 expansion. Hopefully your efforts in reviewing your information for parents/carers, collaboration with Mudiad Meithrin and others will lead to those places, and Cylchoedd Meithrin places more broadly, being filled.</p> <p>Whilst there are fewer children accessing Welsh-medium nursery that you projected, there are fewer children across both sectors overall. Nevertheless, it's clear that you recognise this as one of your key priority areas during this initial period of WESP delivery and it's encouraging to see how many of the actions set out in your 5-year action plan you've implemented and/or progressing.</p> <p>We are currently working with our childcare and capital funding colleagues with regard to your Cylch Meithin Beddau proposal. You will receive an update very shortly.</p> <p>We've received confirmation that we'll be able to share annual Mudiad Meithrin data for 2022/23 with you by the end of the week.</p>	Discussion with WG.
Outcome 2	As with Outcome 1 data, the number of 5-year old learners accessing Welsh-medium education during 2022-23 is less that projected. We recognise the	

	<p>potential impact the fall in birthrates may have and will be monitoring the situation to identify future trends.</p> <p>We're pleased to hear your Ysgol Llwyn y Forwyn and Ysgol Awel Taf developments are progressing well.</p> <p>It's reassuring to hear time has been invested in reviewing the information available to parents/carers on your website. We know that this has been achieved by working closely with your sub-group stakeholders and is an excellent example of partnership working.</p> <p>We're pleased you've been able to appoint your late immersion lead during 2022-23 and are already supporting learners transferring to Welsh-medium schools. Do you see there is an opportunity to attract learners from the English-medium stream of Ysgol Heol y Celyn with the establishment of Ysgol Awel Taf?</p>	Discussion with WG.
Outcome 3	<p>Your transition rates have always been consistently strong, particularly between foundation phase to reception and year 6 to year 7. With regard to key stage 4 to 5 transition, which is much lower, it's good to have the comparative data with the English-medium sector to give perspective. The increase in secondary school surplus places (from 21% in 2020-21 to 27% in 2022-23) will need monitoring.</p> <p>We'd be interested to hear over the coming year what impact the changes implemented this year with regard to in-year transfers is/may be having on reducing the number of learners leaving the Welsh-medium sector.</p>	Discussion with WG.
Outcome 4	<p>Progress made between CSCJES, Gyda'n Gilydd Partnership and the WJEC in developing vocational courses sounds very positive. The lack of available Welsh language vocational courses has been raised by your Welsh-medium Secondary Heads over several years and is obviously impacting learner decisions with regard to their post-16 education.</p>	Discussion with WG.

	Is the work undertaken by Coleg y Cymoedd to develop its bilingual offer welcomed by Welsh-medium schools or are there tensions?	
Outcome 5	<p>It's great to hear that your Welsh-medium and English-medium schools continue to engage in the Siarter Iaith and Cymraeg Campus Programme. Its particularly encouraging to hear that your special schools and units will also soon be included.</p> <p>Evidence provided of progress made against the actions in your action plan and good evidence of an effective partnership with the Urdd and Menter Iaith in preparation to the Eisteddfod coming to the area in 2024.</p>	Discussion with WG.
Outcome 6	<p>Whereas just under half of local authorities across Wales continue to review their provision for learners with additional needs, its pleasing to hear that you've concluded your review and can now proceed to act on its findings. Evidence provided is comprehensive.</p> <p>The lack of specialist staff to support the early years sector has been highlighted in other areas too and the ALN team have been updated. A task and finish group focusing on ALN, and the Welsh language was established by the Welsh Government before the end of the Summer term and a representative from Mudiad Meithrin is a member. Research is being commissioned to identify, review, and bring consistency to the data available on Welsh-language ALN provision. This will commence in January, and we'll keep you updated of its progress.</p>	Discussion with WG.
Outcome 7	<p>Evidence is provided of the extensive work carried out during 2022-23 to collate and test a number of workforce datasets including SWAC, PLASC and internal data collections.</p> <p>There are no quick wins as we know, however, the in-depth analysis undertaken by yourselves during this past reporting year has provided valuable insights into</p>	Discussion with WG.

teacher recruitment, retention, and promotional trends. With your permission, we'd like to use your approach to Outcome 7 as an example of good practice to present to the External Workforce Board, established last year to implement the Welsh Government's 10-year workforce plan.

Revised SWAC guidelines were introduced during the summer term to encourage better use of the census by schools and local authorities as a tool for planning and analysing local education workforce needs. The SWAC reporting period will open soon and we are keen to hear about your experience of using it and where it needs to be further strengthened.