

**STRATEGIC AREA 2: INCREASING THE USE OF WELSH IN RCT
&
STRATEGIC AREA 3: CREATING FAVOURABLE CONDITIONS**

PRIORITY AREA: USE OF WELSH SOCIALLY / IN THE COMMUNITY

AIM

With our partners:

(i) increase the use of Welsh socially and within communities

(ii) support ways of embedding positive language use practices

(iii) increase opportunities for people to learn and practice the language within their communities.

This will also embed the following thematic aims:

Ensure that the Welsh language is safeguarded as an integral part of our contemporary culture.

Ensure that the Welsh language is an integral part of our efforts to welcome and integrate those who move to Wales and RCT.

Ensure the Council plays its part in ensuring the language is at the heart of technological innovation to enable the use of Welsh in all digital contexts.

ACTIONS	RESPONSIBILITY	ANNUAL UPDATE
Provide informal opportunities and encourage the use of the Welsh language in Community Resilience Hubs (CRH) and Community Venues.	RCT Together – Community Development Team (CDT)	<p>RCT Together CDT are all L1 qualified and use Welsh informally and throughout the working day within the 7 identified Community Resilience Hubs and community venues.</p> <p>There is a library in all 7 of the Hubs and it is through working with the libraries that informal opportunities and encouragement to use Welsh is promoted.</p>

		<p>Within the Libraries and One4All Service update below you will find examples of activities.</p> <p>RCT Together CDT are capturing language preferences of public and third sector partners.</p>
Promote opportunities for Welsh language community groups to access community resources and funding.	RCT Together – Community Development Team (CDT)	<p>There is a mandatory assessment criteria section for the RCTCBC CDT Community Grant which requests that a commitment is made to the use of Welsh Language in community settings, and a further commitment to produce bilingual information and speak Welsh.</p> <p>Since 1 April 2022 to end March 2024 over 400 applications for grants of between £1,000 to £200,000 to have been received.</p> <p>Eight projects specifically targeting Welsh Language use opportunities have been approved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eisteddfod Genedlaethol • Menter Iaith RhCT • Siop Fach Zero • Cylch Meithrin Penderyn • Sioe Gerdd Performing Arts Association • Cylch Meithrin Cilfynydd a Phont Sion Norton • Artis Cymuned • Clwb y Bont
Develop opportunities to promote the Welsh language to newcomers, highlighting the fact that this is a language that belongs to all here in RCT.	RCT Together – Community Development Team (CDT)	<p>Arrivals at both Rhondda Cynon Taf Welcome Centres, established for Ukrainian Refugees, were made aware of the Welsh Language and Welsh culture via regular introduction and ongoing resident meetings.</p>

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<p>At Neighbourhood Network/ward level draw in partners from other services (cultural, sport, Welsh language etc) and external Welsh language partners to assist the community in achieving their aspirations.</p>	<p>RCT Together – Community Development Team (CDT)</p>	<p>As of Q4 2023-2024, Neighbourhood Networks include a cumulative membership of 568 internal and external partners.</p> <p>There is partner representation from other services, including Arts, Libraries and Sport, across all Neighbourhood Networks. There is also community based Welsh Language representation including: YMa and Artis Community; Spectacle Theatre; Trac Cymru; Eisteddfod Genedlaethol; and Menter Iaith RhCT.</p> <p>Activities related to the Neighbourhood Networks include: promotion of the 2024 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol; a new Steering Group established in Pontypridd with a focus on tracking and developing Welsh Language activities; weekly Bore Coffi at Pontypridd Museum; and one Neighbourhood Network held at the Welsh-language café in Porth - Yr Hen Lyfrgell.</p>
<p>As part of the review of the Arts Service (Resetting the Dial), hold creative conversations with community groups, analysing available data to map out needs and identify gaps in Welsh language provision. Put plans in place to expand Welsh medium provision in line with the findings.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>During 2022-2023, the Graduate Community Engagement Officer undertook a series of creative community conversations, including open conversations at the Park and Dare Theatre and creative projects within community settings, such as the Time Capsule Exhibition and the Fun Palace event. The officer secured new employment during 2023 which has limited capacity within the Arts Service to engage in this way with the community.</p> <p>The Arts Service is working with community groups to understand needs and support provision of events delivered in Welsh. Examples include, Eisteddfod y Rhondda and Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Appeal Committees across RCT.</p>

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<p>Consider how to expand the Welsh language offer within various programmes such as Take pART and Communities 4 Work+, bringing the arts closer to different Welsh language community groups.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>Continuing to provide participatory arts activities through the medium of Welsh, particularly at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre, whilst encouraging freelance Workshop Leaders to introduce Welsh within their activities.</p> <p>Writing Squad sessions at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre are bilingual. Participants are encouraged to write in the medium of Welsh and when this option is taken we employ additional staff to read and provide notes.</p> <p>Working with the Council’s Employment Skills programmes to promote the creative industries, including the commissioning of the campaign ‘Change Your Focus’ and CABAN RCT, both providing Welsh language opportunities.</p>
<p>Work with partners to support and promote Welsh language creative and artistic events and projects (e.g. Parti Ponty, Community Artists)</p> <p>Explore opportunities to collaborate with partners to offer a wider range of opportunities to use Welsh through community activities.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>Welsh language cinema screenings were programmed at the Park and Dare Theatre as part of Love Treorchy’s Christmas Parade event.</p> <p>Welsh language performers formed part of the programme for the Arts Service-led Gen Z Festival in Treorchy town centre.</p> <p>Opportunities to engage in Welsh language activities were provided at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre’s Summer and Christmas fayres, jointly organised with the Council’s Adult Community Learning Service.</p>
<p>Develop and produce Welsh language theatre to tour across the region and nationally, in discussion with regional partners to look at the benefits and opportunities to share resources.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>The Arts Service are exploring the possibility of producing and touring a Welsh language production across the region following its presentation at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in August 2024. The production and tour of ‘Cysgu ‘Da Mickey’ – a translation of Rhondda-born playwright Frank Vickery’s ‘Sleeping with Mickey’ – beyond its presentation at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, will be subject to securing additional Arts Council of Wales funding.</p>

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<p>Draw up a cultural programme leading up to the Eisteddfod that will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with communities and raise awareness of the language and associated opportunities • Offer artistic projects to different community groups <p>Consider how these activities can be sustained within communities beyond 2024</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>The Arts Service has worked with Local Appeal Committees to support a programme of Welsh language events at the Park and Dare Theatre, Coliseum Theatre and Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre.</p> <p>A Welsh language programme is being developed as part of the legacy of the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol,</p> <p>Following the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, the Arts Service plans to tour its production of ‘Cysgu ‘da Mickey’ by Frank Vickery, translated by Ieuan Rhys, across the region in Spring 2025. The service also aims to use its Arts Council Wales grant funding to increase the number of Welsh Language events within the programme. The Arts Service has also encouraged Keiron Bailey to translate some of the songs from the new musical production ‘Turning the Wheel’ into Welsh for presentation at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol in August 2024.</p>
<p>As part of the wider work of reviewing the Council’s Welsh language provision, ensure a variety of Welsh language/bilingual opportunities as part of this programme, and include Welsh language partners to help with the promotion of this to communities.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>There have been limited opportunities to develop the Go See programme due to staffing capacity and availability of suitable product.</p>
<p>Promote the Arts Council of Wales Night Out Scheme amongst young people via YEPS and the Welsh language Youth forum / aelwyd Rhondda / sixth forms in schools to</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>The Arts Service plan to improve links with community venues utilising the Arts Council of Wales Night Out scheme and encourage its use by others.</p>

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<p>encourage them to take advantage of this scheme.</p>		
<p>Use Welsh speaking facilitators and assistants during arts events held in Welsh or English (e.g. Families First; Take pArt activities) to provide Welsh language engagement around the event.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>Welsh speaking facilitators were used during the CABAN RCT event celebrating the work of the creative sector in RCT.</p> <p>Welsh speaking tutors delivered activities as part of the Families First funded Youth Arts and SONIG Youth Music Industry programmes, and the Arts Council of Wales funded Take pART programme.</p> <p>This year our Welsh language provision on the SONIG Youth Music Industry and Multiply funded Fortitude programme was provided by a Welsh speaking tutor.</p> <p>TakepART provision of Clwb Drama takes place weekly at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre. As part of the development and community engagement offer of the new musical production, 'Turning the Wheel' by Keiron Bailey, bi-lingual workshops were organised for schools.</p>
<p>Explore how new technology could facilitate Welsh language/bilingual provision (such as the Theatr Genedlaethol's Sibrwd System for interpretation at events).</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>Technology has been used extensively within co-productions including 'Road' with Taking Flight Theatre, and 'My MixED Up Tape' with local artist Katie Payne, to provide subtitling of the spoken Welsh and British Sign Language performances.</p>
<p>Work with the Canolfan Gartholwg community committee to plan a programme to increase opportunities to use and practice Welsh informally and to improve confidence.</p>	<p>Arts Service</p>	<p>There is no longer a Community Committee for Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre, with staff now attending RCT Together Community Development Team Neighbourhood Network meetings to engage with the community.</p> <p>Staff at Gartholwg Lifelong Learning Centre have worked with Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Appeal Committees to support a programme aimed at increasing opportunities to use and practice the Welsh language.</p>

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<p>Develop opportunities to increase Welsh language engagement, promotion and activities within local communities. For example: increase Welsh language provision in Storytelling and Crafts events and exhibitions (including online).</p>	<p>Libraries and One4All Service</p>	<p>Library and One4All Service staff are encouraged to make connections with community groups and organisations to raise awareness of the facilities available within the libraries to offer activities in Welsh. This can lead to a range of activities throughout the year. Currently, the following Welsh language activities are offered in some libraries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Baby and Toddler Group • Welsh Learner Classes • Bore Coffi • Cymraeg i Blant • Stori Cymru • Babis Bach <p>Since employing two Welsh speaking staff within our Children’s Library service, we are able to provide opportunities to ensure some Welsh language content in our in-house led stories and craft sessions. Our Schools Library Service now offers bilingual class visits, and Welsh speaking staff have engaged with schools during library visits from Welsh Language Primary schools.</p> <p>Welsh speaking staff are identified to service users by the lanyards that they wear, and all other staff are encouraged to use common phrases such as a ‘Bore Da’ and ‘Croeso’ upon welcoming service users to our libraries.</p> <p>All exhibitions or displays produced by the service are bilingual.</p>
<p>National Eisteddfod 2024: in collaboration with partners both within the Council and externally, explore opportunities to promote archive resources, developing Welsh language engagement activities and exhibitions, ensuring sustainable and enduring Welsh language</p>	<p>Libraries and One4All Service</p>	<p>As part of the Council’s preparations for the 2024 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol, the service is represented at the Council’s internal Eisteddfod 2024 Community Workstream Group.</p> <p>Pontypridd Library will play a key part in the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol’s visit to RCT as the location of the Eisteddfod-led box office and Welcome Centre.</p>

<p>opportunities within local communities.</p>		<p>Pontypridd Library will also be displaying the 2024 Eisteddfod Genedlaethol Chair and Crown, as well as using materials from our local history collection to produce a bilingual display looking at the history of the Eisteddfod in RCT.</p> <p>Our Children’s Library service has developed a bilingual A-Z book of RCT aimed at children aged 5-10 years old. The intended customers being:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local primary schools who could use it as a starting point for project work into Cynefin, which will help them fulfil the requirements of the new curriculum; • families who want to find out more about where they live; • families with relatives who may have moved from the area; • visitors to RCT who may want to take something away as a reminder of their visit. <p>Copies of the book will be sold at libraries and promoted online through the libraries’ Facebook page. We will also approach the Rhondda Heritage Park to stock it in their shop, and it will be on sale at the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. We have requested 20 free copies for use in libraries throughout the authority.</p> <p>The cost of the book is yet to be decided, but it is estimated that this will be between £8.00 and £10.00 depending upon how many copies are published as unit prices decrease with increased numbers published. All proceeds will go to the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol.</p> <p>The library service produces an annual anthology containing work by local authors and poets and this year, in partnership with the National Heritage Lottery funded RCTCBC Altered Images project, the anthology will be themed around the Eisteddfod Genedlaethol. Whilst not restricted to Welsh language entries, these are encouraged and have formed part of the anthology since its inception.</p>
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<p>Develop a social media campaign to promote the wide variety of Welsh language resources available within the service.</p>	<p>Libraries and One4All Service</p>	<p>The service regularly makes use of its Facebook page to promote the resources available in the libraries, including Welsh Language resources. During the period leading up to the Eisteddfod and during the Eisteddfod we will be concentrating on the promotion of Welsh language resources using in-house promotional materials and Welsh Language promotional materials provided by some of our external suppliers.</p>