



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

27 November 2019

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**Report by:** Alwyn Jones, GwE Assistant Director

**Subject:** Welsh in Education - Developing Welsh in Education across the North Wales region

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To present '*Developing Welsh in Education across the North Wales region*' strategy to the Joint Committee for approval.

### 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This strategy was designed to set a direction for the development of the Welsh language in education in the North Wales region over the next three years, in line with the vision set out in [Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers \(2017\)](#), [Education in Wales: Our national mission, Action Plan 2017-21 \(2017\)](#) and [Welsh in education: Action plan 2017-21 \(2017\)](#).

This document supports the Welsh Government's aims and objectives in the above policies, which are to take the necessary steps to increase the number of people who can speak Welsh and to increase the number of people who speak the language on a daily basis.

### 3. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Planning a strategy for the North Wales region presents a considerable challenge, as a significant variation exists within the region in terms of using the Welsh language as a daily medium of learning and communication in schools and their communities. There is a diverse and interesting mix of language and culture in the region, which encompasses Welsh
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speakers, Welsh learners and a migrant population. This strategy is intended for all pupils, parents and carers in the region, whatever their background, and it sets an ambitious aim of making the Welsh language a central part of every pupil's life in the region.

This document addresses the new challenge set by the Welsh Government for the education and training system in Wales. The strategy sets out the region's intentions in relation to providing practical support and guidance for pupils, teachers, schools and local authorities along with other partners in education and training.

The expected role of every school will be to:

- develop a clear vision for the Welsh language and promote the development of whole school plans in order to improve the learning experiences and outcomes for all learners, in response to the Welsh Government's strategy *Cymraeg 2050: A million Welsh speakers*
- ensure that they have the appropriate support to produce suitable and robust plans for developing their provision in Welsh
- ensure that there is purposeful planning to provide appropriate opportunities for pupils to develop their Welsh language skills in both formal and informal situations within the four purposes of the new curriculum and the Siarter Iaith Framework
- increase awareness of the requirements of the new Siarter Iaith Framework
- collaborate, learn and exchange information with others through networks and/or school collaboration systems in relation to the Welsh language
- draw up a programme of professional learning to ensure that practitioners are able to continually develop their Welsh language skills, in line with professional expectations

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the '*Developing Welsh in Education across the North Wales region*' document.

#### **5.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **6.0 EQUALITY IMPACT**

- 6.1 There are no new equalities implications arising from this report.

#### **7.0 PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There are no new personnel implications arising from this report.

#### **8.0 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN**

- 8.1 GwE Management Board.

Also, a series of consultation and planning meetings were held with:

- education sector stakeholders and partners within the region's six local authorities (councillors and LA officers, primary and secondary headteachers, *Mudiad Meithrin*, *Yr Urdd*, *Mentrau Iaith*, Governors, language centres, further education colleges and the North Wales Economic Ambition Board).
- the GwE Welsh Language Strategic Board
- GwE senior officers
- further education colleges and *Coleg Cymraeg Cenedlaethol*.

We are also grateful to the *Urdd* for facilitating input from young people across the region, in first language and second language clubs and forums.

## 9.0 APPENDICES

### 9.1 Appendix 1 – *Developing Welsh in Education across the North Wales region*

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#### IEWS OF THE STATUTORY OFFICERS

**Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

With part 5.1 of the above report confirming that there are no financial implications arising from the item, I have nothing to add to the report in terms of financial propriety.