



## REPORT TO THE JOINT COMMITTEE

15 FEBRUARY 2023

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**Report by:** Arwyn Thomas - GwE Managing Director

**Subject:** Ein Llais Ni

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### 1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To share information with members of the Joint Committee on the success of the Ein Llais Ni project and the plans for further expansion of the work.

### 2.0 Background

2.1 The purpose of Ein Llais Ni is to highlight the importance of oracy in the school curriculum in the context of the Welsh language (across the entire age range) and to suggest ideas for strategies that schools/teachers can develop in order to encourage and promote the speaking and listening skills of learners.

2.2 The work has been developed in collaboration with schools across the north Wales region and Bangor University, with Professor Enlli Thomas (Deputy Assistant Vice Chancellor – Welsh Language) who is an international expert on promoting oracy skills and bilingual teaching strategies, leading the practical research.

2.3 The aim of the project is:

- To develop pedagogy and suggest ideas for strategies that schools/teachers can develop to encourage and promote the speaking and listening skills of learners, including the use of digital technology for enrichment.
  - To provide a Professional Learning Resource which provides guidance on planning and a reference to resources for teachers so that they can try out various strategies according to the needs of their learners.
  - To provide guidance to oracy leaders on the practical steps that could be taken strategically, as well as supporting resources to realise them.
  - To provide access to effective research and practice.
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### 3.0 Matters for consideration

3.1 Part 1 success – outlined below are the key developments for part 1 of the project, from September 2021 to November 2022:

- 80+ teachers submitted case studies highlighting the impact on teaching and learning covering a range of themes.
- Bangor University conducted interviews with the teachers involved in the more intensive research to evaluate the effectiveness of what was delivered to schools throughout the year.
- A Professional Learning Resource was designed in the form of a website [www.einllaisni.cymru](http://www.einllaisni.cymru) (currently in Welsh only) in order to collate the resources. This resource will be a provision that will be available nationally and to all schools.
- A research report was completed by Bangor University to evaluate the effectiveness of the project, with a view to identifying specific challenges faced within schools in terms of how best to get children to use their Welsh and the Skills associated with its use.
- A Bangor University student has worked closely with Professor Enlli Môn Thomas and researched the field. This has led to the production of a booklet for practitioners which is a quick reference for teachers on developing children and young people's oracy skills – '*O Enau Plant*'. Initial feedback on the resource is very positive.
- An event entitled: '*Ein Llais Ni: Datblygu Siaradwyr y Dyfodol*' was held on 22 November 2022. A valuable contribution was made by the schools that had been involved in the work, representation from Welsh Government, Ein Llais Ni Management Board, Bangor University – lecturers and students, Local Authority Officers, teachers from the schools currently involved in the project and others with an interest. Positive feedback was received after the day.
- It is intended to extend the work further by continuing to develop the website, promoting the work with the SIA and raising awareness of the content of the Professional Learning resource nationally.

3.2 The Project Team has highlighted the next steps following an evaluation of the work in part 1, and has been successful following the submission of an application for funding from the Welsh Government to further develop and expand the work, namely part 2 of the project.

3.3 The purpose of the additional resource is to intensify the work with the existing schools and expand to more Welsh medium and bilingual schools as well as to develop equivalent provision for English medium schools, to collaborate on provision for schools nationally as well as to strengthen the link with the University and ITE students.

3.4 The main objectives will be:

- to nurture the self-confidence and wellbeing of learners, and develop them as confident bilingual communicators
- to experiment with strategies (including the use of digital tools) to promote oracy skills in Welsh
- to develop teachers as active researchers – reflecting on contemporary research, modelling strategies in practice and evaluating success by submission of case studies
- to support teachers to plan more purposefully in order to support and develop learners' speaking and listening skills in Welsh in the context of the Curriculum for Wales
- to offer authentic experiences for learners to use their Welsh in various situations in their daily lives by collaborating with partners (agencies/organisations/individuals).

3.5 With regard to the planning and implementation of part 2 of the project (January 2023 – June 2024), it is intended to do the following:

- Appoint a project officer to promote the project and website, as well as to develop teaching materials, co-ordinate and run training for teachers, on-line and face to face. He/she will liaise with schools, be a member of Ein Llais Ni project team and work closely with the research team from Bangor University. It will be a core role within the project team to ensure that we meet all targets on time and to a high standard. He/she will use their teaching expertise to support teachers on the practical steps to develop oracy through the implementation of Ein Llais Ni.
- Appoint a part-time University research officer to evaluate the work and support schools to self-evaluate their research.
- Develop the design and content of the Professional Learning website as a national resource.

3.6 For the next period also, we will develop the following projects:

**Project 1:** Extend the support to develop speaking and listening skills in Welsh Medium and two language Schools by intensifying the work with the existing schools and expanding into other Welsh medium schools regionally and nationally.

- Develop a Professional Learning resource and content for schools – plan and develop further resources to enrich the content of the website and provide guidance in the form of digital and face-to-face sessions for teachers implementing Ein Llais Ni.

**Project 2:** Support to develop speaking and listening skills in English Medium Schools.

- Pilot Ein Llais Ni in a cross-section of English medium schools (primary and secondary).
- Adapt the Professional Learning resource produced in part 1 to complement the pedagogy of introducing the Welsh language in English medium settings.
- Work with partnerships (authorities and regions) to develop the work.
- Work with Bangor University's research team to evaluate the work and make recommendations.
- Introduce an equivalent Professional Learning resource to that developed in part 1 in order to support the development of oracy in English medium settings.

- **Project 3:** Develop the pedagogy of prospective teachers by strengthening the link with SIA: Partnership with the University/GwE. Implement the Professional Learning package.

#### 4.0 Recommendations

4.1 The Joint Committee is asked to approve the content of the report and the plans to develop the project in accordance with the targets set by the Welsh Government.

#### 5.0 Financial implications

5.1 An additional allocation of up to £272,000 was received from the Welsh Government following the submission of a bid for funding to further develop and expand the work.

5.2 The funding will be used specifically to develop 'Project 1: extend the support to develop speaking and listening skills in Welsh medium and two language schools' and 'Project 2: support to develop speaking and listening skills in English medium schools'.

**6.0 Equality impacts**

6.1 There are no new equality 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 Consultation with GwE Management Board.

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**STATUTORY OFFICERS' VIEWS**

**Monitoring Officer:**

Nothing to add from a propriety perspective.

**Statutory Finance Officer:**

I confirm that we have received an offer letter of £272,000 as noted in part 5 of the report, and we will work with GwE to ensure it operates within the allocation.