

				<p>The Childcare Scheme has a positive impact on families by providing access to 12.5 hours of free childcare, helping to reduce the cost of living.</p> <p>There is also a positive impact on children, through access to quality care and activities that support their development alongside their peers.</p> <p>Childcare providers benefit from the Scheme through financial investment in resources and professional support from the Early Years Advisory Teacher and the wider childcare team.</p>
<p>Education Department:</p> <p>Modernise buildings and the learning environment</p>	<p>Despite significant investment over the last decade, several of the county's school buildings are old and need modernisation. We will continue to make improvements to schools across the county, specifically in the Bangor and Cricieth areas, and we will take every opportunity to apply for grant assistance to enable us to modernise existing buildings and develop new buildings.</p>	<p>Hirael Commencement of construction work on the site.</p> <p>Our Lady's School Complete the construction work and open the new school in Easter 2026.</p> <p>Tryfan</p> <p>i) Compile and submit a business case (Outline Business Case)</p> <p>ii) Agree on an outline design</p> <p>Bontnewydd</p> <p>i) Submit the full business case (Full Business Case)</p> <p>ii) Complete the construction of the temporary school</p>	<p>No</p> <p>Partially</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>Hirael Design work has taken place in 2025/26.</p> <p>Our Lady's School The construction is progressing and it is expected that the project will be completed during the summer term with the school opening at the beginning of the autumn term 2026.</p> <p>Tryfan During summer 2025, plans for the school were developed noting the need to increase the budget. The Cabinet has subsequently approved a recommendation to increase the project budget from £18m to £23.6m. The design team continues to work on developing a plan that achieves net zero requirements, preparing for the submission of the Outline Business Case in the summer 2026 term.</p> <p>Bontnewydd Construction of the temporary school was completed during the 2025 summer term, and since September 2025, the school and community centre have operated from the temporary building. The full business case was</p>

		iii) Demolish the existing building	Partially	<p>submitted in March 2026, following a detailed process of value engineering.</p> <p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Better education facilities – More children benefit from schools with modern learning environments that enhance the educational experience of Gwynedd's learners. • Economic opportunities – Capital developments create jobs and community benefits and consequently strengthen the local economy. • Net zero buildings – Proposed projects are sustainable, which will reduce the carbon footprint of our schools. • Improved use of facilities – More children, groups and community organisations benefiting from access to modern, multi-use facilities that will be open to the wider community.
<p>Education Department:</p> <p>Promote the well-being of children and young people and reduce the cost of sending children to school</p>	<p>With the increasing costs of daily items such as school uniform, food, transport and stationery, we will revisit the costs associated with sending children to school, with the intention of reducing these costs, whilst protecting the education and valuable experiences that our children have during and after school hours.</p> <p>We will also deal with well-being issues including emotional and psychological challenges, and support wider issues that affect children and young people, for example building confidence,</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compile and distribute a 'Cost of attending school' audit for each school to evaluate existing arrangements. • Analyse the findings of the audit. • Share findings with schools in the form of an individual action plan for each school. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A 'Cost of attending school' audit was compiled and distributed to each school in Gwynedd. • All responses were analysed and key areas of costs and challenges were identified. • Each school that responded was given an individual action plan, based on the responses, to discuss with the governors. <p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce the financial pressure on families by helping schools reduce unnecessary costs and ensure a suitable advance notice for a request for money.

	equality, mental health, transport issues, and securing work experience and job opportunities.			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More opportunities for children and young people to take part in activities, regardless of the family's financial situation. • Schools are mindful of financial challenges when planning events and asking for contributions. • Dedicated cost reduction provisions and support are planned and provided by schools.
<p>Education Department and HE YGC</p> <p>Extend opportunities for play and socialising for the county's children and young people</p>	<p>We will look at how the new provision for Youth is working across the county and what outcomes this delivers for young people</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage with Town and Community Councils with a view to increasing the number of community clubs across the county. • Align the local authority's strategy with the Welsh Government's five-year plans. • Identify ways of engaging more broadly with young people and, in particular, specific groups of young people. • Develop a memorandum of understanding with secondary schools to ensure planning, presenting and reviewing cohesive youth provisions within a school context, contributing to the well-being and positive behaviour of young people aged 11-18. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes (continues in 2026/27)</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>The Youth Service delivers 34 community projects and clubs on a weekly basis across Gwynedd, with 16 based in Arfon, 10 in Meirionnydd and 8 in Dwyfor, ensuring a wide geographical spread and fair access for young people across the county. The provision includes 12 clubs funded by local councils, 3 Friendly Clubs in partnership with Derwen, 18 mobile community clubs that respond flexibly to local needs, and 1 specialist Neuro club. During the 2025/26 year, 5 new community clubs were opened in priority areas, in Trawsfynydd, Bala, Llandwrog, Tywyn and Mynytho.</p> <p>The Youth Service co-funds the Urdd Youth Worker post which runs four branches across the county as well as a number of after-school clubs.</p> <p>Youth forums have been set up across the county, with plans to launch the Council's full young people's voice forum. This will enable direct input from young people into the leadership of the Council, with a new Engagement and Communications Coordinator supporting participation, particularly from the hardest to reach.</p> <p>The Youth Service has developed plans jointly with Secondary schools to ensure clear, purposeful and effective provision.</p> <p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <p>The provision of clubs and projects across the county ensures fair access to safe and supportive activities,</p>

				<p>helping to improve young people's well-being, confidence and social skills, as well as reducing feelings of loneliness in rural communities.</p> <p>By expanding provision to priority areas and offering flexible models such as mobile clubs and specialist provision, more young people are able to access relevant services that meet their needs.</p> <p>The partnership work with organisations such as the Urdd and schools strengthens the support around young people, ensuring a more coherent approach to working and better educational and social outcomes.</p> <p>The development of young people's forums and plans to strengthen their voice means that the young people of Gwynedd have more influence on decisions that affect them, fostering a sense of ownership and active citizenship.</p> <p>In the long term, the development of a five-year Strategy will help to ensure a more sustainable service, designed around the needs of the county's young people.</p>
<p>Education Department</p> <p>Formulate and implement a 10-year strategic direction for education in Gwynedd</p>	<p>Formulate a 10-year Education Strategy for Gwynedd engaging with key stakeholders on the priorities to ensure a resilient education system, together with world-class educational provision and experiences for children and young people in the county</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on the draft Strategy. • Present the Education Strategy to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee. • Submit the final Education Strategy to the Cabinet with the Strategy becoming operational. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>The Schools Strategy sets out a clear vision for education in Gwynedd over the next 10 years. It was developed through engagement with a wide range of stakeholders, including headteachers of primary, secondary and special schools, the Gwynedd Governors' Forum and the County Children and Young People's Forum, as well as an electronic survey which was open for eight weeks. This ensured that the Strategy was informed by professional perspectives and learner voices.</p> <p>The draft Strategy was submitted to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 11/12/25.</p> <p>The Strategy was submitted to the Cabinet on 10/02/26</p>

			<p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <p>The new Schools Strategy has a positive and long-term impact on the people of Gwynedd by setting a clear direction for the development of education over the next decade.</p> <p>For learners, it means more consistent and high-quality education provision, informed by their needs. By including the voice of young people in the process, the Strategy is more relevant and reflects real experiences in the schools.</p> <p>The aim of the Strategy is to build an inclusive, fair and high-quality education system. It will support better standards of education through better school organisation in response to demographic changes, more effective use of resources, and strengthening school leadership and workforce development. This is expected to lead to more consistent learning experiences and better opportunities for children and young people to reach their potential.</p> <p>For schools and staff, it provides clarity on priorities and expectations, supporting better planning and collaboration across the county.</p> <p>The Strategy also supports a more sustainable school network to strengthen schools and communities, and promotes the daily use of Welsh among children and young people, contributing to increasing the number of Welsh speakers.</p> <p>The wide-ranging engagement process has strengthened trust and ownership among stakeholders, laying a solid foundation for more effective educational decision-making in Gwynedd in the years to come.</p>
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<p>Education Department</p> <p>Review and improve the range of inclusion provisions in Gwynedd.</p>	<p>The range of inclusion provisions available to learners with emotional, behavioural and social needs needs to be reviewed and improved. The needs of these learners have increased, with the impact of the pandemic seen clearly and long term.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consult, restructure, and appoint staff. • Register the provision as a Portfolio Pupil Referral Unit. • Form a Management Committee for the PRU. • Induct and train staff. • Launch an Inclusion Strategy. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>The restructuring and appointment of staff has been completed, and the provision is now officially registered. A Management Committee has also been established, with its first meeting held in November 2025.</p> <p>Induction sessions were held for staff, along with training on relevant systems and strategies to ensure full readiness.</p> <p>The Pupil Referral Unit ‘Camu I’r Copa’, which is located on the site of the former Ysgol Felinwnda in Llanwnda, is now operational as a registered provision and has begun to support learners. The centre is an important resource for young people in the area who require tailored educational support, offering a safe and supportive environment that responds to their individual needs.</p> <p>In addition, the Inclusion Strategy was presented in the Strategic Groups with the headteachers in October 2025.</p> <p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <p>As a Pupil Referral Unit (PRU), Canolfan Felinwnda - known as ‘Camu i’r Copa’ - offers a specialist provision for pupils who may be experiencing difficulties in mainstream education. The Centre offers small classrooms, personalised learning plans, and comprehensive emotional, social and behavioural support.</p> <p>Our mission is to restore pupils' confidence, build their resilience and equip them with the tools that they need to reintegrate into mainstream education where possible, or to make a positive transition to further education or vocational pathways. By offering a broad curriculum, therapeutic support, and with a dedicated team of staff, our aim is to ensure that all pupils reach</p>
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				<p>their potential and improve their well-being alongside their academic attainment.</p> <p>Located in the heart of the community of Felinwnda, the centre also underpins our commitment to inclusion. By delivering a local provision, we are reducing barriers in terms of access and ensuring that young people do not have to travel far for specialist support.</p> <p>This aligns with Cyngor Gwynedd's wider vision for modernising education.</p>
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A Welsh Gwynedd: Ensuring that our residents can continue to live in a naturally Welsh speaking community

Department and Project	Overview	What we want to achieve during the third year 2025-26 (milestones):	Has the milestone been completed	What has been achieved during the year and the impact (or likely impact) on the people of Gwynedd?
<p>Education Department</p> <p>Modernising and extending the immersion provision to teach Welsh to children</p>	<p>It is essential that learners who are latecomers are afforded opportunities to learn Welsh as soon as possible, through a first-rate modern provision that is spread across Wales. It is essential that learners who are less confident in their Welsh language also have an opportunity to gain confidence and to improve their Welsh with the support of the Immersion Education System. We also wish to see our language immersion methods extended to support the Welsh language in schools that serve communities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the organisation in relation to the provision for newcomers to Welsh-medium education is communicated in a clear and effective manner with parents and carers. Prepare new resources and presentations for parents outlining the benefits of bilingualism. • Establish a WESP Outcome 5 Project Board to ensure collaboration and communication with relevant stakeholders with a view to mapping the activities offered by partnerships within the county and be able to deliver them to parents and families. • Equip the Foundation Phase workforce in terms of the principles of immersion education. Conduct regular training for Foundation Phase 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>The new website has been launched, with weekly blogs (including historical ones) included, and resources have been provided to schools through HWB, along with additional resources on request.</p> <p>A Youth Sub-Committee has been established and meetings have been held, but it has not met the need to share information about Outcome 5; this is planned to be addressed through the Welsh Language Programme Board from April 2026.</p> <p>Training for prospective teachers at Bangor University took place in October 2025, and some have taken advantage of an invitation to the centres to observe the work of the immersion teachers.</p> <p>Immersion staff have met staff from Anglesey, Denbighshire, Conwy, Flintshire and Wrexham Authorities to share resources.</p>

	<p>where opportunities to use Welsh in the home and outside school are limited. This project in cooperation with the Immersion System and our schools will give all our learners the best opportunity to become confident Welsh speakers who can use the language in all aspects of life.</p>	<p>staff to share the principles of successful immersion. Ensure that they have access to pre-prepared, standard immersion resources on a user-friendly digital platform.</p>		<p>A member of staff from the Immersion System is working with two secondary schools on a scheme that will meet the need for immersion resources for older learners. The resource has been discussed with Agored Cymru.</p> <p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <p>The above has a positive impact on the people of Gwynedd, especially children and young people, by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improving access to Welsh learning information, resources and materials and strengthening immersion provision, enabling learners – including older ones – to build confidence and ability in Welsh. • developing the skills and expertise of education staff. • taking advantage of regional collaboration opportunities to strengthen provision for the benefit of Gwynedd learners. • including the voice of young people with the intention of further strengthening their role to improve the process of information-sharing and their influence
<p>Education Department</p> <p>Review Gwynedd's Education Language Policy and conduct an evaluation of the Immersion System to ensure that all the education</p>	<p>Review Gwynedd's Education Language Policy along with undertaking an evaluation of the Immersion System to ensure that all education policies and services provided in Gwynedd set a firm foundation for the Welsh language, contribute to Welsh 2050, and reflect the most recent changes in the field by the Welsh Government.</p>	<p>1. Language Policy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engagement on the draft Language Policy. • Present the model Language Policy to the Cabinet. 	<p>Yes</p> <p>Yes</p>	<p>What has been achieved:</p> <p>A draft of Gwynedd's Model Education Language Policy was submitted to the Cabinet on 16/12/25, and it was agreed to use it for public consultation.</p> <p>The consultation took place between 7 January and 25 February 2026 to gather responses to inform a revised version of the policy.</p> <p>It is intended to report back to the Cabinet in June 2026 to decide whether to adopt the policy.</p>

policies and services provided to children and young people in Gwynedd set a firm foundation for the Welsh language

2. Immersion System:

- Complete the Report on the Evaluation of the Immersion Education System by Bangor University (Bangor University Research Team was commissioned to evaluate the Immersion Education System in Gwynedd in 2024/25).
- Submit the Report to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16 October 2025.
- Respond to the findings of the Bangor University Report – Evaluation of the Gwynedd Immersion System by reviewing the practical arrangements of the 10-

Yes

Yes

Yes

If approved, school governing bodies will consult with their communities before implementing it from September 2026.

Impact on the people of Gwynedd:

The above steps have a positive impact on the people of Gwynedd by giving parents, learners and the wider community the opportunity to contribute to the formulation of an Education Language Policy. The process of consultation and reporting back to Cabinet ensures that decisions are made in an open and accountable manner. The aim of the Policy is to support the development of the Welsh language in education. By developing and implementing a clear language policy, it is expected to strengthen Welsh language provision in schools and improve learners' language outcomes. The aim of the policy is to ensure consistency across schools and to assist in ensuring a more consistent approach across schools in Gwynedd.

What has been achieved:

- Bangor University submitted a report on an evaluation of the Immersion System to the Education and Economy Scrutiny Committee on 16/10/25.
- The report was accepted by the Committee.
- At present, the current structure cannot be changed without significant investment from the Welsh Government. While communication between the Cabinet Member for Education and the Welsh Government has taken place, there has been no response regarding additional funding.
- Nevertheless, a number of improvements and adaptations are already being made within the current structure, in line with the Scrutiny Committee's comments. These are included in the System's Development Plan and associated work programme.

		<p>week course and strengthening the after-care provision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respond to the findings of the March 2025 Estyn report – continue to provide accessible after-care resources on a digital platform and strengthen the System's self-appraisal processes. 	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Impact on the people of Gwynedd:</p> <p>Continuous improvements and adaptations to the Immersion System ensure that learners continue to receive effective support to develop their Welsh. Consideration of the findings of the evaluation and stakeholder views also helps to refine the provision for the benefit of children and young people.</p> <p>Although no significant changes are possible, the ongoing work contributes to maintaining and improving language standards.</p>
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